

Approved Minutes

Approved April 8, 2015

Faculty Senate Meeting

March 25, 2015

Science Annex Building, Room 329 - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: 3:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Derkas, Erica (Social & Behavioral Sciences); Dominguez, Joseph (Student Senate – Graduate); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Izaguirre, Ariadna (Student Senate – Undergraduate); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Karaba, Robert (School of Education); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Ratzlaff, Elizabeth (Staff Senate); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Walker, Diane (School of Education); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Excused: Main, Douglas (School of Education/Counseling & Guidance); Williams, Susan (Nursing); Thompson, Wally (School of Education, Curriculum & Instruction)

Absent: Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business)

Also Present: President Fries, Dr. Fidel Trujillo

3. Approval of Agenda: - approved

4. Approval of Minutes: – minutes from February 25th were approved

5. Communication from the Administration

- a. Dr. Fries gave a summary of the legislative session.
 - i. Received increase of .66% I&G funding. None of the other bills of interest to Highlands passed. NMHU's Oil & Gas program received funding of \$100,000. Athletic programs received decreased funding. Capital improvement funding did not pass. Endowment fund approved, with a 50% match required. This funding can be used for faculty positions, STEM, economic development, etc., but a proposal is required. SARA passed in both houses and is currently waiting for governor's approval.

- ii. Enrollment: ahead on admitted applications, but behind on total applications. Scholarship awards were sent out earlier which will hopefully increase enrollment. College cost letters sent out. Looking at reorganizing recruitment, revamping the website. Appreciate faculty working with recruitment.
 - iii. Looking at requiring Freshmen to live on campus.
 - iv. Western & NMHU have been invited to be part of the Lone Star Conference, but no decision has been made.
- b. Dr. Aguilar's Report
- i. Dean Searches moving forward and currently reviewing applications. Faculty Searches are slow moving. Held-up in HR.
 - ii. Behind on the CTE position.
 - iii. Strategic Planning – collecting data and public sessions have been useful.
 - iv. Provost Diversity Council began meeting.

6. Communication from the Chair

- a. See attached

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

- a. Nominations for Emeritus Faculty are due before April BOR meeting.
- b. Football practice is scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. next year.
- c. AAC would like to meet during finals week instead of the Senate meeting. That will depend on how much business the senate will have.
- d. Media Arts program review is turned in and waiting on others.
- e. Restructured Media arts program and the Gifted Education program were approved
- f. Reinstated MSW in Leadership and Administration program on main campus

8. Communication from the Student Senate

- a. Still have funding available, and clubs and students can now ask multiple times for funding. They need to work with a senator.
- b. They support the Class Attendance Policy proposal.
- c. They passed a resolution to prevent cyber bullying.
- d. They passed a resolution that any re-usable materials, supplies and equipment purchased with NMHU graduate student funds will be property of the department.

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

- a. Staff is participating on various committees.
- b. Training opportunities being discussed, with possibility of some joint training during Faculty Development Week.
- c. Looking at creating administration evaluations based on the faculty's administration evaluations.

10. Old Business

- a. Voting Faculty – tabled until brought forward by the Executive Committee. Only heard back from 1 non-voting faculty
- b. Revision of evaluation of administrators – tabled until brought forward by the Executive Committee.
- c. NMHU Class Attendance Policy
 - i. Dr. Fidel Trujillo put into the policy what has been happening in practice, as well as integrating policies from other institutions.
 - ii. Discussion regarding wording, definitions and procedures.
 - iii. Send any other comments to Dr. Trujillo who will revise and take it to the April BOR meeting.
- d. Relationship of Graduate Council to the Senate
 - i. It is currently an advisory committee to Dr. LaGrange’s office. Should they be evaluating graduate programs or is it an AAC purview? They do more than academic issues, so perhaps it should be a separate Senate committee. If under the Senate, faculty are limited to 2 committees, but could provide exception to that rule. Could list it as a “council” rather than committee.
 - ii. Motion made that the Faculty Senate Support the Graduate Council being under the Faculty Senate and will be in the Faculty Handbook. (Kempner/Christensen) Motion approved unanimously.
- e. Distance Learning Manual – new version - tabled
- f. Creation of online/program assessment – part of Distance Learning Manual, so remove from agenda.
- g. Right to Petition for Retroactive Withdrawal/Drops and Petition Procedures – AAC
 - i. Approved by AAC.
 - ii. Motion made that the Faculty Senate support the Right to Petition for Retroactive Withdrawal/Drops and Petition Procedures. (Kempner/Jenkins) Motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business:

- a. 2nd Bachelor’s Degree / 2nd Majors – AAC
 - i. Approved by AAC.
 - ii. There are still questions about this policy, so it was tabled until Michael Raine could be invited to discuss his proposal.
- b. Request from the Graduate Council to the Senate to charge the Academic Affairs Committee to examine the Graduate Handbook and bring it in line with other academic policies.
 - i. The Graduate Council has already been charged with examining the handbook, and then determining where each issue should be sent.
- c. Residency requirement for Freshmen
 - i. Suggestions included: add legal guardian, make a reference to distance from Las Vegas, include full-time student and add married or partnered.

12. Committee Reports and Announcements

13. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Faculty Senate Meeting Chair's Report, March 25, 2015

1. Presidential search

The committee met on Monday, March 23rd, and is on track for on-campus interviews for late April.

2. Department Chair selections

Social and Behavioral Sciences – Dr. Tom Ward

Computer and Mathematical Sciences – Dr. Gil Gallegos

Media Arts and Technology – Kerry Loewen

English and Philosophy – Dr. Donna Woodford-Gormley

Counseling and Guidance – Dr. Geri Glover

Educational Leadership – Dr. Patricia Cruz

Special Education – Dr. James Alarid

Business Administration – still in progress

3. Enrollment Management Consultants

Two representatives from the enrollment management consulting firm of Noel Levitz were on campus on March 4th meeting with various groups, including faculty. They will be writing a report which can then be used in developing a strategic plan for enrollment management.

4. Ad hoc committees

1. The Student Evaluation Committee, which is revising the student evaluations of courses which is on Banner, will be meeting to address the issues brought up by the Senate

2. The Faculty Research Day Committee has sent out a call for proposals for research day to be held on April 24, 2015. The student research day is being held on April 10th.

5. The Senate Executive committee met with members of the Instructional Technology Committee to discuss the implementation of their recommendations for distance learning, SARA and the HLC visit. There were some suggested changes in wording and the Senate EC will be working with the committee and the instructional design specialists (three positions associated with grants currently being advertised) to determine the best way to make the implementations.

6. Update from the President – 147 new freshmen have accepted a scholarship for this fall, an additional 153 scholarship award letters have been sent out. Of the 147, 116 are students with a 3.0+ high school GPA and 21 fall in the 2.5 GPA range, leaving only 10 with a College Incentive Grant for a 2.0 to 2.49 GPA. The total acceptances to date are already comparable to last year's numbers at the start of the fall semester.

7. Pino endowment update: 2 awards were given and three new faculty volunteered to be on the committee

8. Faculty Activities update: Fall should be going up on the web soon, and a call will go out for Spring activities.

9. NMHU Identity Forum update: will reschedule the canceled recruitment forum.

10. The Faculty Development Week Committee will be meeting soon and will send out a request for proposals for sessions for the week.