

**Faculty Senate Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**November 28, 2018**  
**Approved December 12, 2018**

**Sininger Hall 100 and via ZOOM, 3:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order: 3:03 p.m.**

**2. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Bustos, Leon (Psychology); Coggins, Kip (School of Social Work); Ensor, Kevin (Counseling & Guidance); Gardner, Sandra (Nursing); Jeffries, John (Computer Science & Math); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sports Sciences); Karaba, Robert (Education; Education Leadership); Kent, April (Library); Jennifer Lindline (Natural Resources Management); Meron, Angela (Media Arts & Technology); Moreno, Yvonne (Education; Special Education/Gifted); Rodriguez, Elaine (History & Political Science); Romine, Maureen (Biology); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Tamir, Orit (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Valenzuela, Norma (Languages and Culture); Villarreal, Ben (English & Philosophy)

**Also Present:** Gonzales, Roxanne (VPAA/Provost)

**Excused:** Garcia-Nuthmann, André (Visual & Performing Arts); Meckes, Shirley (Education; Teacher Education); Yerende, Eva (Education; Curriculum & Instruction)

**Absent:** Ortiz, Luis (School of Business);

3. **Approval of Agenda.** MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda with one addition – to consider the Academic Affairs Committee’s response to the Fall 2018 Faculty Senate charge to prepare a study that explores the possibility of offering course work masters from a university-wide perspective. Motion passed with 1 opposition.
4. **Approval of Minutes from 11/14/2018.** MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the minutes with one correction (E. Rodriguez in roll call).
5. **Communication from the Administration (R. Gonzales).** None provided; will be speaking to General Faculty at 4:00 meeting.
6. **Communication from the Chair (D. Sammeth).**
  - Announced that Academic Affairs activities regarding recertification of NMHU core curriculum classes is progressing timely.
  - Shared that had good meetings with Farmington and Rio Rancho Centers.
7. **Communication from Academic Affairs (E. Rodriguez).** None at this time.
8. **Communication from the Student Senate (A. Samora).**
  - Shared that the Student Senate considering grading policy (whole letters versus +/- system) and has concluded that GPA grades have been impacted by the +/-

scale. Students whose faculty give whole grades have higher GPAs. Considering a resolution that all professors return to whole grade systems.

9. **Communication from the Staff Senate.** None at this time.

10. **Old Business.**

a) **Alternative Teaching Certificate (Ann Wolf, Special Education and Teacher Education Department Chair).**

- Shared that ATC was created b/c large deficit of teachers in New Mexico. There already are some community colleges doing alternative licensure, so NMHU thought good to have traditional and alternative pathways to licensure. Looking to teach pre- or in-service teachers how to be teachers. Does not focus on content area; just teaching proficiency.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Alternative Teaching Certificate. Question-Answer session followed, including:

- *What are the admissions requirement?* There is a rigorous application process. Open to people not having a current classroom; they could be entered into the program with right credentials. Consider if their dispositions are appropriate to being teachers.
- *What are the implications for NMHU's passing rate for the NES exam if program students do not take their basic skills test from NMHU? Do they take their tests before they are admitted to the program? If students are coming into program from external university, how will the fact that they learned their core curriculum at another institution impact their passing of the basic skills test? How protect NMHU's SOE from any (-) passing rate scores.* Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree to enter program; there is no way to evaluate the rigor of their core curriculum. However, applicants will have to pass the Basic Skills test before admission into the program. The pedagogy and ability to be teachers is what this program focuses upon and is a rigorous one. Want to be able to coach and supervisor from NMHU, as well as a mentor in the school system.
- *Any concerns about resources related to implementing this program?* The student numbers will not be large during initial implementation of program. Will be able to use current and contingent faculty as needed. Program faculty have written a grant and applied for funding to HED to bring in money to help launch program. Not concerned initially; does have money to support the program.
- *Has the unit done a market analysis about student cohort, program viability?* Have polled outside education bodies who shared that there is a market, a population of individuals who need this preparation program. Anticipates getting 25, 30, maybe up to 40 people during first run of the program.

- *Have there been any concerns within the School of Education that the FS should be made aware of?* No, the department and SOE has been very supportive. Was approved unanimously at the SOE level.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b) **Outcomes Assessment Initiative.** Faculty Senators shared feedback from their units, including:
- \$1500 for an initiative did not seem sustainable.
  - The proposed funds are far too little for what should be educational goals at NMHU.
  - The notion of awarding funds to departments and/or disciplines proposing best teaching practices implies that this is something above and beyond the normal expectations of NMHU teaching faculty.
  - Outcomes Assessment is something that everyone should be doing and doing well. Don't want to see a competition for funds to conduct activities that should already be funded in our department budgets.
  - Equity issues; small versus large departments eligible for same amount \$1500.
  - Creating competition is not worthwhile. We're all supposed to be innovative, engaged, and High Impact Practice (HIP) practitioners. Give us all the money; put it back in the budget(!).
  - Two Faculty Senators indicated their department faculty supported having opportunity to gain additional funds to implement HIPs.
  - Two FS would like to hear Outcomes Assessment Committee's other ideas.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to not endorse the proposal and to invite the OAC to come to next meeting to share other ideas for using the \$20k to improve student learning outcomes and information they learned about software research. Motion passed with 2 abstentions and no opposition.

- c) **SEM implementation Plan.** Concerns that proposal still lacks an implementation plan is still lacking. For many of the items listed under "Persistence and Completion" on website, there lacks a "how". MOTION MADE to table the SEM proposal until. D. Sammeth has time to speak with E. Martinez about Faculty Senate's implementation concerns. Motion passed unanimously.
- d) **Response from Academic Affairs Committee to charge: Prepare a study that explores the possibility of offering course work masters from a university-wide perspective.**

Discussion ensued. Faculty Senator asked, *is this the direction that the university wants to go?* Don't want to question work from Academic Affairs; they reviewed and supported one such proposal (Biology one-year M.S. degree). What kind of information did you learn, research, come to understand about the competitiveness and quality of such programs? E. Rodriguez noted that the AAC looked at this

proposal for some time. AA explored all of that, questioned program professors. Does FS want a summary of these discussions? Some Senators responded “yes.” J. Snow, Assistant Professor of Biology, said the proposal already passed Academic Affairs and meets existing requirements in graduate catalog (32 credit hours). One Senator offered that doesn’t want to deny the Biology proposal, but wants to put it in the best light, best title, best structure. We are putting the cart before the horse. *Do faculty want programs like this at NMHU?* This is a change to how we have historically defined our graduate programs. Another Senator questioned the appropriateness of having 2 degree tracks in same program with same name with vastly different requirements. He didn’t think that is a good way to move forward. M. Romine asked how does the current proposal fit into this discussion.

Faculty Senator made point of order. Noted that the FS charged the AAC to give us this information. If we are going to radically change the degree requirements of one program and be markedly out of alignment with other graduate programs, we need to set a university policy. R. Gonzales offered that the new HED process for approving academic affairs programs wants any one-year graduate degree in a STEM field to be an M.S., not M.A. They also are rejecting STEM field professional masters without a thesis or some type of capstone culminating activity.

MOTION tabled.

- e) **New Business. Postponed until next meeting.**
  - a) One-Year Biology Master’s Degree Proposal
  - b) Auditing Policy
  - c) Undergraduate Directed Study Policy
  - d) Course Substitution Policy
- f) **Executive Session.**
- g) **Public Action as Necessary on Other Closed Session Discussions.**
- h) **Adjournment at 4:00.**