

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2020
Approved October 28, 2020

ZOOM - <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/91283810526>; **3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll Call.

Arshad, Ali (Business Administration); Buchanan-Farmer, Melanie (Education-Teacher Education); Chadborn, Daniel (Psychology); Fox-Hausman, Mariah (Media Arts and Technology); Garcia, Justine (Biology); Gardner, Sandra (Nursing); Jeffries, John (Computer & Mathematical Sciences); Hayward, William (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Karaba, Robert (Education-Education Leadership); Kent, April (Library); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources Management); Massaro, Beth (Social Work); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Tamir, Orit (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Valenzuela, Norma (Languages and Culture); Villarreal, Ben (English & Philosophy); Williams, Steven (History & Political Science)

Absent: Ensor, Kevin (Education-Counseling & Guidance); Education-Curriculum & Instruction Representative Forestry Representative; Garcia-Nuthmann, André (Visual & Performing Arts); Education-Curriculum & Instruction Representative

Also in Attendance: N. Arfai, K. Bogda, C. Duran, J. Flood, G. Gadsden, D. Gallegos, S. Gurunam, B. Kempner, V. Parboteeah, H. Romero, A.J. Warwell, R. Walker-Gonzales, P. Wilson

3. Approval of Agenda.

- Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda with amendments to New Business item (c) Student Academic Calendar 2019-2024. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2020 (attachment),

- Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communication from the President (S. Minner). None provided.

6. Communication from the Administration (R. Gonzales).

- Encouraged people to read Article 10.
- Encouraged people to read the Spring 2021 MOA with Faculty Association and know/understand working operations.
- Shared that sitting on a council ... Speech Language Pathology from Eastern. NNMC developing program in Science Project Management and UNM developing
- Transdisciplinary cybersecurity M.S. and Ph.D. degrees.
- BV curious if students are aware of Spring 2021 delivery. RG responded that admin is working to put news out all at once.

7. Communication from the Chair (O. Tamir).

- FS EC met with HLC; had productive discussion.

- A marathon BOR meeting. Many items had to be tabled. Regents see need to build trust between admin-faculty based on 2019-20 Evaluation of Administration Results. They also question the validity of the evaluation as it stands.
- RK noted that he (as Acting FS Chair last year) asked for input from the BOR on the evaluation. OT responded, with all due respect, that it was not their responsibility to develop the questions.
- DS shared that the BOR and other admins are asked to share their goals at the beginning of the AY that guide the Faculty Senate evaluations. Is the BOR aware of that? OT concurred with this important note and is not sure if that is a BOR understanding.
- OT noted that the BOR commented that there are few to no faculty in attendance at BOR meetings. She shared her opinion that it is not possible to know if faculty is in attendance given the webinar format.
- DS asked if it is procedurally correct to have a webinar format, rather than a true “open meeting.” Is this in violation of the “Open Meeting Act”?
- RG said that admin did check with attorneys to see if the webinar format complies with public meeting requirements and it is not ideal but is in compliance.

8. Communication from Academic Affairs (A. Kent).

- Noted that so far, no student appeals. Of concern b/c not sure if lack of motions is because things are going smoothly or because students are not aware of or having problems with the process.
- Spring Calendar Martin Luther King Day. Reviewed and discussed. Did pass. One of the big changes was starting on Mondays rather than Wednesdays excepting the Spring Term (MLK Monday) requires a Tuesday start date.
- Advertising and marketing lively discussion with Sean Weaver.
- Items were tabled. General Engineering Program Review was put on hold.

9. Communication from the Undergraduate Student Senate (C. Ulibarri). None provided.

10. Communication from the Staff Senate (I. Crespin/D. Gallegos).

- HLC Liaison A. Kent and K. Tucker met with Staff Senate ahead of HLC meeting to review Strategic Plan and to assure that new policies align with HLC mandates.
- Staff Appreciation and Recognition celebration in the planning.
- Staff Senate focusing on a number of items, including anti bias and active shooter response.
- Align mission and budget with HLC Strategic Plan.

11. New Business.

- a. 2020 Amendments-Users Guide to Purchasing and Accounts Payable Manual (attachments). (A. Bustos)
 - AB asked for questions. JG asked about the statement regarding 10% line. AB responded that any vouchers exceeding 10% of approved PR, would get routed to VP of Finance and appropriate budget approvers.

- JG asked why the VP of Finance for the entire university scrutinizing receipts? AB responded part of process evolution, partly historical reasoning.
- AB went through some of the language changes in the guide, many to align Chrome River terms with paperwork. Shared that lowering 10-day routing for out-of-travel to 3-day. Also lowering the in-state travel to same-day as long as all of the signature approvals can be obtained.
- BV asked if it would be possible to take back to departments for consideration.
- OT asked AB what plans were to take to BOR. AB responded that Purchasing Office is shooting for end-of-the-year.
- OT encouraged Faculty Senators to, per BV's request, please take the 2020 Amendments-Users Guide to Purchasing and Accounts Payable Manual to departments for consideration.

b. Proposed changes in the Spring 2021 academic calendar (attachment).

- RG shared that President Minner asked faculty to consider eliminating Spring Break and giving faculty more time to grade and wrap up the semester. Commencement dates would remain the same.
- OT asked for rationale. RG responded that given the rationale was the uncertainty in the pandemic, could work through the semester with no off-campus travel concerns.
- HR noted that Final Exam week, if the wish of the faculty, would move up as week (from May 10 to May 3).
- BV expressed concern about burn-out by students (and faculty!) and if there is a way to compress the semester while still meeting contact hours.
- RG responded with understanding concerns and having conversations.
- DC shared that the rationale for proposed elimination of Spring Break is to limit travel off campus and uncertain return to campus.
- DS concurred that these are good questions, good issues and reminded to maintain contact hours. Asked how soon do we need a decision on this?
- RG shared that the next special session BOR meeting is October 26th, so need information by October 19th. Doesn't see problem with Senators taking proposal back to departments for consideration.
- RK liked idea of taking back to department and shared would like student input. Asked how many students are we talking about? RG responded that there are ~300 students on campus which is about half of typical 700 resident students.
- JG suggested "sprinkling" the 5 Spring Break days throughout the term to give students and faculty time away from computer. Several faculty members concurred with need to break away from computer and maintain self health.
- DS supported previous notions and offered that faculty should serve as role models in maintaining boundaries and exemplifying balance.
- OT encouraged Faculty Senators to take the Spring 2021 academic calendar proposed changes back to the departments.

c. Student Academic Calendar 2019-2024.

- HR shared that the Registrar’s Office is looking for approval for Fall 2021-Summer 2024 Academic Calendar. Changes include:
 - Start of term will return to a Monday (rather than a Wednesday).
 - Mid-term examinations will return to beginning on a Monday, rather than a Wednesday.
 - Contact hours are maintained.
 - 8-week courses were considered.
 - DS appreciated calendar issues that Registrar Office has to juggle, but expressed additional issue with one-week between Thanksgiving Break-Finals Week. Many students do not return to campus and to classes. HR responded that Registrar’s Office kept many things, including faculty contract dates, in mind and in alignment during planning 5-year calendar.
 - Motion made and seconded to approve the academic calendar as submitted. 16 supported; 0 opposed; 1 abstained.
- d. **Center for Teacher Excellence Director Search (attachment).**
- OT gave some background about history for CTE Director. Currently 50% in budget to hire someone half-time. Senate previously voted for a full-time position.
 - RG shared that the Academic Affairs Office will be putting a full-time CTE Director line into its Strategic Budget for consideration.
 - GG asked (in Chat) what happened to the \$70K we had for a full-time director already? RG responded that those monies went to Veronica Black’s position (CTE Coordinator) (plus fringe). The AAO only had one budget line to support CTE; all went to the Coordinator position.
- e. **NMHU Webpage – Library and other unit concerns (attachment).**
- OT gave floor to S. Williams, Library Committee Chair.
 - SW shared that the Faculty Library Committee raised concerns about web page headers and finding paths on web page. University Relations response was shared in attachment. Then asked faculty in attendance, “*What is the role of a web page?*” 30 minute discussion ensued.
 - Several faculty members expressed frustrations with errors, omissions, and lack of academic programs on NMHU web pages.
 - MFH noted (in chat) that EVERYTHING except advertorial content seems somewhat hard to find.
 - OT asked what does the faculty body want as next step?
 - SW provided a reminder that the web page is not designed for faculty; according to University Relations, it is designed for prospective students to read on their cell phones.
 - OT asked what does the faculty body want as next step?
 - DS suggested asking for UR representative to share the reasoning behind the current web page setup and for data to suggest it is working/not working.
 - MFH shared (in chat) that our grad enrollment is trending well so it should be addressed how we attract new grads...

- Several faculty members suggested having focused questions for UR. Motion made and seconded to invite University Relations to come and present the reasonings being the current web page design and data about whether it is working/not working. Motion passed unanimously.
- AK suggested that the Executive Committee cull comments from faculty about website concerns.

12. Executive Session.

13. Public Action as Necessary on Other Closed Session Discussions.

14. Adjournment at 4:43 (a record!).