

MINUTES OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
*of the*  
NMSU FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
Domenici Hall, Room 109  
April 02, 2015 4:00 p.m.

SENATORS PRESENT: Chair Munson-McGee, Vice-Chair Blank, Parliamentarian Erickson, Abbott, Acharya, Amatya, Andersen, Bawazir, Berning, Billings, Bishop, Bronstein, Brown, Campbell, Christensen, Corran, Creamer, Dawe, Dean, Fisher, Gutierrez, Jimenez, Kelly, Keys, Leon, Mandabach, McAteer, McCormick, Miller, Mora, Morandi, Morgan, Oesterreich, Querty, Rayson, Reinhardt, Rice, Roark-Diehl, Sassenfeld, Schirmer, Simon, Spencer, Turner, Vasiliev, Vazquez, Villa, Wear, Zhang (45)

SENATORS ABSENT: Baker, Barney, Bock, Butler, Cai, Goehring, Huang, Huhmann, Sohn, Walker, Van Winkle (12)

EX-OFFICIO: Dr. Dan Howard, NMSU Executive Vice President and Provost; Karen Reid, Employee Council Liaison

GUESTS: Monica F. Torres DACC, VP Academic Affairs, Lisa Warren, Associate UGC

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Chair Munson-McGee at 4:00 p.m.

2. Recognition of Guests

Provost Howard: Budget Issues

NMSU is looking at a \$7.4 million dollar cut across the system for the main campus.

Administration is planning on asking the Regents for a blended 2.4% percent increase in tuition and fees for next year. Regardless of whether or not we get a tuition increase, NMSU is still devoted to meeting the Mercer adjustment commitment. The cost to NMSU is expected to be \$2.2 million; this is one of the reasons NMSU is looking at making cuts. Studies of the University indicate that, compared to peer institutions, NMSU does not have an abundance of faculty. However, with regard to our student body, and compared to our peers, NMSU does have more staff than it should. NMSU will try to trim staff by normal attrition. Some trimming will be accomplished by moving people from areas that are overstaffed to areas that are understaffed. Cuts in administrative units will be the first areas to be examined. Vice Chair Blank asked if positions can be refilled if staff person leaves. Provost Howard explained that new searches for faculty will be looked at on a case by case basis. Ongoing / failed searches that have been approved will still go through, although failed searches will still need to file a waiver, as will colleges wanting to fill a new faculty position. High priority will be given to those who can teach courses that need to be filled. Faculty searches will have relatively high priority. It was pointed out there are some areas where positions are desperately needed (for example: General Council and Compliance). Those areas will not be cut back.

3. Approval of Agenda

Move to approve agenda made and seconded; no opposition or abstention.

Agenda approved as submitted.

4. Approval of Minutes of March 05, 2015 meeting

Minutes will be amended to reflect Senator Deb McCormick's attendance.

Move to approve amended minutes made and seconded; no opposition or abstention.

Amended minutes unanimously approved.

5. Reports of Officers

a. FS Chair, Stuart Munson-McGee

There is an RFP out to conduct a staffing study at NMSU. The purpose is to identify areas where we have an excess of, or too little, staff.

b. FS Vice Chair, Larry Blank

Vice Chair Blank took the opportunity to thank the provost and administration in their efforts to try to work to keep campus post office open. The Vice Chair has also filed comments in support of keeping the NMSU Post Office branch open.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

Faculty Affairs: James Rice

Faculty Affairs reviewed Proposition 22- 14/15. Committee approved the proposition and voted "Due pass as amended" by a vote of 9 - 1

*Discussion:* The negative vote was from a disagreement as to whether or not we are making this too easy for students to have a retroactive withdraw which could result in people trying to gain the system. Also, the petition for retroactive withdraw can be made by the student or a representative for the student.

Language wasn't clearly defined as to who the person petitioning could be.

*Move to accept report made and seconded. Senate votes all in favor; none opposed.*

Senator Rice also took the opportunity to inform the senate that the faculty survey is out, and will be out until April 10th. OIA is working to resolve issues that have occurred in the past couple of days.

Long Range Planning: Ram Acharya

Long Range Planning reviewed Proposition 21-14/15. Committee approved the proposition and unanimously voted "due pass".

*Move to accept report made and seconded. Senate votes all in favor; none opposed.*

Long Range Planning also reviewed Proposition 18-14/15. This was the committee's second time reviewing the proposition; both meetings resulted in long discussions. The committee was unable to come to a decision and opted to send the legislation to full senate for consideration.

*Move to accept report made and seconded. Chair called for a division of the house.*

*Senate voted: 18 for, 22 against. Report not accepted; memorial is not approved.*

University Affairs: Liz Schirmer

University Affairs reviewed Proposition 25- 14/15. Committee approved the proposition and unanimously voted "due pass".

*Move to accept report made and seconded. Senate votes all in favor; none opposed.*

Scholastic Affairs: Deb McCormick

Scholastic Affairs reviewed Proposition 23-14/15. Committee approved the proposition and unanimously voted "due pass as amended".

*Discussion:* Amendments to verbiage are to include "early performance" into the title and body of the proposition, as well as adding the grade option "u" as unsatisfactory, and clarification that early performance grades shall only be used for student retention efforts.

ADAC's only concern was whether due date for the grades was early enough to catch poorly performing students

*Move to accept report made and seconded. Senate votes all in favor; none opposed.*

Government Affairs: Larry Blank

University Affairs reviewed Proposition 24- 14/15. Committee approved the proposition and unanimously voted "due pass".

*Move to accept report made and seconded. Senate votes all in favor; none opposed.*

7. New Business

**Proposition 26-14/15:** A proposition to change Article III, Section A of the Faculty Senate Constitution for more equitable representation of the Community College Faculty (Sam Christensen (CACC); Becky Corran (DACC); Deb McCormick (DACC); Keith Mandabach (ACES); Gary Rayson (A&S); Kathy Roark-Diehl (ALCC); Stuart Munson-McGee (ACES) Liz Miller (Library); Del Jimenez (Co-op Extension); Eric Morgan (Communication); Heather Oesterrich (Education))

**Assigned to Faculty Affairs (J. Rice) meeting Tuesday, 04/14/2015.**

8. Unfinished Business

**Proposition 18-14/15:** Senate Memorial to Encourage a Campus-Wide Increase in Student Effort/Class Preparation (Jamie Bronstein (A&S))

**No discussion. Committee report not accepted.**

**Proposition 21-14/15:** A Proposition to Change the Undergraduate Catalog and Other Documents to Reduce the Minimum Number of Required Credits for a Bachelor's Degree from 128 to 120 (S. H. Munson-McGee (ACES), Gary Rayson (A&S))

Motion to approve made and seconded.

**Senate voted: 43 in favor; none opposed; 2 abstentions. Proposition passes.**

**Proposition 22-14/15:** A Proposition to Revise Policy 6.92 on Retroactive Course Withdrawals (Larry Blank (Business))

Motion to pass made and seconded.

Discussion:

Two amendments were made to the proposition by the committee. 1.) Petitions from the student will now require documentation. 2.) The statement "The course department head and, if available, the course faculty shall be informed that a petition should be submitted." This was added in order to be certain faculty would be informed this was going on, so faculty would have an opportunity to provide input as to why the student received the grade given.

Motion made to amend to include in the language "instruction should be informed and should be with their concurrence." Motion seconded.

Discussion: Temporary faculty may be involved; this is why committee recommended the department head be informed. The motivation of the proposed amendment is to avoid possible abuse by any department head in the future.

Vice Chair Blank explained the faculty will be informed and, if they feel administration was incorrect in their decision, it may be grievable for the faculty.

The idea of proposition is to stop abuse and have an actual policy in place as opposed to the general form NMSU had earlier.

**Vote on amendment: Ayes have the vote.**

Motion made to adopt. **Senate vote: all in favor, proposition passes.**

**Proposition 23-14/15:** A proposition modifying section 6.70 Grade Reports of the policy manual to require that students in 100-level and 200-level courses be notified of their grade seven weeks into each semester reflecting all their work up to that point in the semester. (Larry Blank (Business), D. J. Howard (Ex-officio))

Motion to pass moved and seconded.

Discussion: Amendment should be made to move deadline to the 6<sup>th</sup> Friday instead of the 7<sup>th</sup> Friday.

Motion to amend made and seconded.

**Vote on amendment: 43 in favor, 1 opposed; 1 abstention. Amendment passes.**

Motion made to adopt. **Senate vote: 42 in favor, 1 opposed; 2 abstentions. Proposition passes.**

**Proposition 24-14/15:** A Memorial in Support of the Revised Freedom of Expression, Policy 3.63. (Stuart Munson-McGee (ACES); Christopher Brown (A&S))

Move to pass made and seconded. **Senate voted all in favor; none opposed. Proposition passes unanimously.**

**Proposition 25-14/15:** A proposition to restructure academic programs and units at Doña Ana Community College (Becky Corran (Doña Ana Community College), Deborah McCormick (Doña Ana Community College))

Move to pass made and seconded. **Senate voted all in favor; none opposed. Proposition passes unanimously.**

#### 9. Other Business

- a. Community Engagement Council – E. Morgan  
NMSU received the Carnegie Foundation endorsement in accordance with Vision 20/20 goal for vision planning. Dr. Boberg would like to solicit a volunteer to sit on the council in order to give faculty a voice. Dr. Morgan will coordinate the effort. Please email him at emorgan@nmsu.edu if interested.

#### 10. Remarks and Announcements

- a. FS Chair
  1. The Chair has visited 3 of NMSU's community colleges. He has plans to visit DACC on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
  2. The new senator elections within colleges should be done shortly. All new senators need to be in attendance at the May meeting in order to elect committee chairs.
- b. FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair
  1. Met with Louie Reyes and Graduate School representatives to address concerns over the grad school website. A detailed template was laid out. The goal is to revise the website to be more user friendly. A review of the website should be done by the end of June. The site is expected to be active by July.
  2. Faculty Senate needs a non-tenure track faculty member from one of the community colleges to be nominated, or self nominate, in order to have election to replace Senator McCormick. If you know of any who would be willing, please contact Larry.

#### 11. Adjournment

This meeting adjourned by Chair Munson-McGee at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Britney Stout  
Faculty Senate Recording Secretary