

NNMC Faculty Association Meeting
September 1st, 2023, 1:00- 3:00
Minutes

In attendance: Scott Braley, Melanie Colgan, Ken Armstrong, Joan Hodge, Brenda Linnell, David Lindblom, Ivan Lopez, Simon Vaz, Rhiannon West, Ashis Nandy, Theresa Beaty, J.B. Moore, Hector Balderas, Rachel Meiklejohn, Margaret Zak, Charles Knight, Daniel Falsafi, Robert Beshara, Robert Tierney, Steve Cox, Sneha Chakradhar, Tim Crone, Steph Z., Lorraine Bowman

Meeting called to order at 1pm.

Motion to approve meeting agenda – Scott Cox

2nd motion to approve meeting agenda – Ashis Nandy

All approve – Motion passes

President Report

- Enrollment growth increase 13%.
- President Balderas commends the community and faculty senate for the 30% increase in graduation rates over the past 5 years.
- Audit process has begun for this year. This is an early start. CHESS is still an issue.
- President Balderas is working to grow the NNMC budget. He has met with the Speaker of the NM House of Representatives and the Chair of the NM House Appropriations Committee. President Balderas is asking for more money on the front end of the budget

process. This money request includes \$12 million to modernize classrooms and money for our underfunded athletic department.

- President Balderas mentioned several areas of strategic focus.
 - o Infrastructure development – A five-year facility plan is being developed. A member of the faculty senate is needed to serve on this committee.
 - o Funds needed to keep programs competitive
 - o Increased salaries – the President has asked the governor for this
 - o In kind donations
 - o Wrap around services including the food pantry and farm

Provost Report

- There is enough funding for one sabbatical leave for this year.
- Northern has put together the most aggressive and proactive budget request ever.
- RPSP requests have been submitted for wrap-around student services, Center for Excellence in Cyber Security, technical trades, teacher education, the Native American Center, and the farm.
- The Provost asked the Academic Standards committee to develop AI guidelines for NNMC.
- Scott Braley asked if NNMC is getting back to organizing and revising policies. The Provost responded that this is a very high priority for the President.
- David Lindblom asked if someone could show him how Chat GPT works. The Provost offered to do this.

- Teresa Beaty stated that the Academic Standards committee has already started to discuss AI and guidelines for its use. It will be difficult to find a balance between appropriate and inappropriate use.

Tim Crone – Union Rep. Report

- Happy Labor Day!

Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 2023

- Rhiannon West motions for approval. Ashis Nandy seconds the motion. All members vote in favor. The motion passes.

New Faculty Senators were announced by Scott Braley.

- Anthony Ballas and Charles Knight are new adjunct faculty senators.
- Steve Cox and Margaret Zak are new full-time faculty senators.

Vote for Vice President

- Ken Armstrong and David Lindblom were both nominated for Vice President. Scott Braley explained that a roll call vote of Senators will be taken, as required by our bylaws. Both candidates gave short explains as to why they would like to be the Faculty Senate VP. The vote went as follows:

BCES – Armstrong

Engineering – Lindblom

Math and Physical Sciences – Armstrong

Nursing – Armstrong

Arts and Human Sciences – Lindblom

Language and Letters – Lindblom

Business – Lindblom

Education – Lindblom

Adjunct Faculty Senators

Charles Knight – Lindblom

Anthony Ballas – Lindblom

David Lindblom wins. Congratulations David!

Faculty Senate Constitution Revision

- Scott Braley recommends the formation of an ad hoc committee to review and revise the constitution and bylaws. He suggests that the committee has at least three people.
- Rhiannon West makes a motion to create the ad hoc committee. Rachel Meiklejohn seconds the motion. All members are in favor. The motion passes.
- Scott Braley and Teresa Beaty volunteer to be on the committee. Scott asks anyone else who would like to be on the committee to contact him.

Reactivating the President's Faculty Advisory Committee

- Per the current bylaws, this committee will include three members of the Faculty Senate. Scott Braley envisions a monthly meeting with the President and the Provost.
- David Lindblom thinks that this can be a very powerful committee.
- Margaret Zak asked what the difference is between this committee and the Shared Governance group.
- Teresa Beaty replied that the Shared Governance group is open to everyone and off the record.
- Charles Knight asked if the President and Provost know about this committee. Scott Braley replied, "No".

- Margaret Zak asked if this was open to any faculty or only senators. Scott Braley replied, “Only senators”.
- Margaret Zak motioned that the senators on the committee be appointed to staggered terms. Steve Cox seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passes.
- Scott Braley will send out an email asking for nominations. There will be a vote at the next meeting.
- Margaret Zak asked if adjuncts can serve on the committee.
- Rhiannon West worries that adjuncts will not be compensated for their work on the committee.

Strategic Plan – Mission and Vision Statements

- Scott Braley asked for opinions on how administration handled feedback in regards to the strategic plan. Does the Faculty Senate want to ask the administration to do more or not?
- David Lindblom gave a summary of the discussion within the Asi Es committee. This summary was emailed to all Faculty Senate members. David wishes the faculty were given more time to respond. David suggests that the Faculty Senate should send a letter expressing disappointment in the administration.
- Joan Hodge also expressed disappointment that most of this discussion took place over the summer when faculty is away. She states that the faculty needs more of a voice.
- Charles Knight states that the mission and vision statements need to be more inclusive.
- Simon Vaz states that the Faculty Senate should send a letter asking for more time.

- Scott Braley suggests that he and David Lindblom draft a letter that Senate members will approve.
- Brenda Linnell suggests that in the letter, the Faculty Senate asks why the mission and vision statements need to change.
- Rhiannon West asks for an official vote.
- Rhiannon West motions that the Faculty Senate sends a letter to administration to asking for more time to discuss the draft mission and vision statements as a body, before approval of the said statements. Teresa Beaty seconds the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. All vote in favor. The motion passes.

Committee Reports

- Academic Standards – Brenda Linnell
 - o The revisions to the grade appeal policy were reviewed.
 - o Rhiannon West motioned to approve the revisions. Ashis Nandy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. All vote in favor. The motion passes.
- Asi Es – David Lindblom
 - o The committee met to discuss the draft mission and vision statements.
 - o David reminded us of the resources on Academic Impressions.
- Education Policy
 - o No report.
- General Education
 - o Will be contacting members for a meeting soon.
- Honors
 - o No report

- Personnel – Melanie Colgan
 - o There is funding for one sabbatical next year. If interested, please submit your letter of application to the committee by October 1st.
- Tenure – Ashis Nandy
 - o The Tenure Council has formed. Department chairs have been emailed a tenure timeline.
- Undergraduate Curriculum – Robert Tierney
 - o No report.

Committee Reports

- ¡ Asi Es ! – Dr. X.
 - o Dr. X gave an overview on diversity training the NNMC nursing department completed. The training was given by ACUE.
 - o Rhiannon West mentioned a recent article in the Santa Fe New Mexican about the hiring of NNMC’s new general counsel, Matt Baca. In the article, President Balderas made some inappropriate remarks. Ms. West asked if the committee should speak out about this. Dr. X. and David Lindblom volunteered to meet with President Balderas to discuss his comments.
- Academic Standards – Brenda Linnell
 - o The Provost and Dean of Student Affairs want a few changes to the Faculty Senate approved grade appeal policy. The Academic Standards committee

worked on this most of this academic year and the Faculty Senate approved it at the April 2023 meeting.

- Joaquin Gallegos expressed frustration with administration rejecting the policy and suggested that in the future policies should be reviewed by administration and legal counsel before presentation to the Faculty Senate. Joaquin stated that he will discuss this matter with President Balderas and the Provost.
 - Teresa Beaty asked if the Provost expects the Academic Standards committee to work in the summer. Brenda Linnell stated that only those under contract would be asked to work, if needed for a grade appeal.
 - J.B. Moore asked how many students have had grade appeals over the summer. Brenda Linnell stated that she can only recall 3 such cases since she has been on the committee.
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- Asi Es! – David Lindblom
 - David Lindblom asked for faculty to send him feedback about the committee.
 - Educational Policy – Rhiannon West
 - Four volunteers will help with NNMC program review process next academic year
 - General Education – Lori Franklin

- Nothing to report at this time
- Honors – Ana Vasilic
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- Personnel – Melanie Colgan
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- Tenure – David Torres
 - The committee is developing standards for electronic dossiers.
 - The committee is discussing the possibility of Full Professorship.
- Undergraduate Curriculum – Joaquin Gallegos
 - Nothing to report at this time.

Announcements

- Simon Vaz announced that the NNMC cafeteria will not open next week. When it does open, it will initially be for coffee and drinks only.

Rhiannon West motions to adjourn. Ashis Nandy seconds the motion. All in favor. The motion passes.