

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
3:30 p.m. MSEC 101
Minutes

1. Call to order

Dr. Brian Borchers called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. with a call for approval of the November 7, 2023 minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Iain Crump moved to approve the minutes seconded by Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman
The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Report of Standing Committees

a. Budget and Research Committee-Dr. Ashok Ghosh & Richard Cervantes, VP for Administration & Finance.

Dr. Ghosh went over the Fall 2023 Issues. VP Cervantes presented slides to the Faculty regarding the Capital Outlay of NMT. VP Cervantes spoke about the special appropriation requests for the 2024 Legislative Session. RPSP requests were made and have initially received varying levels of support. There were three recommendations that HED recommends that were listed in the presentation. The Council of University Presidents (CUP) all the universities, community colleges, independent colleges, and institutions came together and sent in a unified request. The first hearing will be next week. A review was also provided for the CUP's Non-Recurring Funding request for Higher Education.

Discussion was held. Dr. Simpson asked if funds were going towards the key locks access control and if there was still an issue. VP Cervantes' understanding is that we received some money but it wasn't enough. It was cut and a request for more funding needs to be re-submitted.

Dr. Romero reminded everyone these are recommendations and not appropriations, as we still have to go through the legislative process. The end result depends on what happens at the Legislative session and how hard we work.

VP Cervantes stated that this report has been presented to our representatives. Dr. Liebrock asked if the report had been sent out to the faculty. Dr. Borchers indicated that we had just received it today and we would send it out immediately.

b. Curriculum Committee Dr. Isabel Morris

The Committee had eight Curriculum Proposals. They were addressed as follows:

1. 056 AY 2024-2025

Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. 0062 AY 2024-2025

Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

3. 0063 AY 2024-2025

Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

4. 0066 AY 2024-2025
Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

5. 0070 AY 2024-2025
Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

6. 0071 AY 2024-2025
Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

7. 00072 AY 2024-2025
Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

8. 0074 AY 2024-2025
Discussion was held.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously

c. Retention Committee-Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman

There are ten recommendations continued from the November 7, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting. They were addressed as follows:

Section 4. Mental Health and Student Access Services Data

D. The committee made the motion. **The motion passed.**

E. The committee made the motion.

Discussion was held. **The motion passed.**

Section 5. Financial Aid Data

F. The committee made the motion.

Discussion was held. **The motion passed.**

Section 6. Housing Data

G. An amendment to the motion was made by Dr. Mike Hargather to add the phrase “and examine housing costs” to the proposed recommendation. Seconded by Dr. Lorie Liebrock. This amendment was discussed but was not passed. The faculty went back into discussion. Dr. Stone made a motion to send it back to the committee after Dr. Becci Spruill suggested adding an amendment about food costs as well. Dr. Lorie Liebrock seconded to send the recommendation back to the committee. **Dr. Stone’s motion passed.**

Section 7. Admissions Data

H. The committee made the motion.

Discussion was held. **The motion passed.**

I. The committee made the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

J. The committee made the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

K. The committee made the motion.

Discussion was held. **The motion passed.**

L. The committee made the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

M. The committee made the motion. After a lengthy discussion, no amendments were passed. Dr. Simpson suggested a friendly edit to the last sentence of M, making it an “Institutional requirement” not a “General Education requirement”.

The motion passed.

N. The committee made the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Grad Council Report-Dr. Aly El-Osery

a. Minutes of the November 14 Grad Council Meeting. (Minutes were provided)

- Please review all Grad Apps that are pending in the Slate for spring 2024. Reminds departments to make all spring 2024 admission decisions.
- Admins will have access to Slate. A training will be held for all admins.
- Offer letter for summer 2024 should factor in a 6% increase for RA's.

5. Council of Chairs-Dr. Michael Jackson

IVP Jackson thanked everyone for their work during the semester and wished them the best of luck with grading. He also asked faculty to thank staff in their departments and those they worked with during the semester.

- The report outlining the Quality Improvement Initiative that will be submitted to the HLC was discussed. Our initiative focused on retention efforts of first-time, full-time students from their first- to their second year.
 - The areas that were focused on were: New Student Orientation+, Early Intervention, Financial Aid and University Processes, Co-Curricular Activities, and Faculty and staff Engagement.
 - While there is a lot of work still left to do, the report highlights a number of accomplishments. The report is being submitted next week. There were no further comments from the Council of Chairs. A motion was made by Dr. Michael Hargather and seconded by Dr. Simpson for the Faculty Senate to endorse the report. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Overview of Council of Chairs November 21 Meeting (**draft minutes attached in the Senate Agenda**)
 - Updates were provided on assessment reports (1/3 have been submitted) and other major campus initiatives such as the strategic plan (draft action plan should be sent out to the campus in January for endorsement at the February Faculty Senate meeting), quality improvement initiative, accreditation task force, and program review.
 - *Syllabi* – the following programs and departments were reminded about the need to update syllabi for the Fall 2023 semester: CLASS, Community Education, E&ES, MENG, PENG, PHYS, MST.
 - The proposed change to the degree conferral process was approved by the Board of Regents. The registrar will review when faculty need to submit final grades for students, including graduating students, in the Spring semester. Going forward, the Registrar will work with the scheduling committee to build in study days and other programming (e.g., in-service day) in future academic calendars.
 - With the search for a new President (hopefully) coming to a close, departments and programs were recommended to develop a brief (two-page) document that summarizes their activities (personnel, degree programs, student numbers, key accomplishments, goals, and opportunities). An example was shared at the Council of Chairs.

- Student Research Symposium (SRS) dates will be April 16 - 19, 2024 with registration starting on January 16 and ending on March 15 (and it is a deadline).
 - Please encourage your students to attend the SRS – it is a good experience for everyone, even those not presenting. They can see what other students have done, and perhaps what they can do! Faculty, particularly new faculty, have the opportunity to serve as a reviewer/judge.
 - As a reminder, there are three ways students can present: the 3-minute speech competition, the Oral Presentation, and the Poster Presentation. While most students register for poster presentations, these other opportunities exist and students/faculty are encouraged to think about these options as well.
 - In line with their "Communicate to Educate" motto, the Library will be offering workshops for all presentation categories to help students prepare and feel confident on their presentations.
 - Questions? Please contact Aga Gabor da Silva over in the OSL. Her contact information is: aga.gabor@nmt.edu or osl@nmt.edu or srs@nmt.edu; Office 103, Skeen Library; Phone: (575) 835-5241.
- Important Dates
 - NMT Day at the Roundhouse, Monday, February 5, 2024. More information is forthcoming.
 - Research at Tech Day, Monday, February 19.
 - Proposed Summer Orientation Dates: Thursday/Friday:
 - June 20 and 21;
 - July 11 and 12.
 - Please have course textbook adoptions in for so that the bookstore can have things stocked during the Orientation Dates. Faculty can also consider whether any textbooks could be adopted from OpenStax
- AA has asked the President to sign Interim policies on the Complaint Resolution Policy and Disciplinary Policy. Both are for faculty and are similar to the prior interim policies. Draft versions that will appear in the employee handbook have been given to the Faculty Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee for review. Not having a policy in place represents a gap for a significant population of NMT employees.
- Updates have been made to the Dean's Research Scholars – some clarification on eligibility was made along with adding an outline for how to apply and what information will be needed.
- The Goldwater Scholarship program is looking for reviewers from Engineering and Computer Science. Reviews are typically done in February and individuals review about 40 proposals. At this time, reviews are done remotely. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, this year or in the future, please contact michael.jackson@nmt.edu.

6. Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on pay raises-Dr. Taffeta Elliott

A survey was distributed to the faculty. The committee would like the faculty's input on how AA should distribute any future pool of unrestricted/discretionary money the state legislature gives as an addition to faculty salaries. The committee will use the survey to generate recommendations for AA. The committee would like the Faculty Senate to vote on their recommendations at the February 2024 meeting. The survey can be done online as well. The link will be sent out.

7. Old Business-None

8. New Business- None

9. Announcements-None

10. Adjournment

The motion was made by Dr. Iain Crump at 5:05 p.m. to adjourn. Seconded by Dr. Todd Welford.