

Assembly Meeting – Faculty Consortium
Minutes – January 23, 2015

The meeting began at 12:10 AM.

I. Present were:

- ★ Rob Klinger (A), Bill Lockhart (A), Kim Lopez-Gallagher (A), Gloria Villaverde (A), Wanda Wakkinen, Erin O’Neill Armindarez (A), Colleen Bond, Sherrell Wheeler, Jim Gallagher, Cathy Aguilar-Morgan, Sarah Cerra, John Haley, Kathy Roark-Diehl (A), Tanya Allred, Connie Breeding, Pete Eidenbach (A), and Wayne McGowan. [A = Assembly Member]

- ★ Minutes from the December 5, 2014, meeting were accepted with one minor change.

II. Academic Council and APAC Reports

- ★ Rob sent his report via e-mail. He added that the ADAC meeting discussed creating a requirement that all students must take math and English classes during their first year.

III. Faculty Senate Report

- ★ Kathy was sick during the meeting but reported that there was nothing exciting to pass on.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- ★ The Adjunct Faculty Compensation Committee plans to work on the handbook during this semester. They are having trouble finding out how long each adjunct has been here. Because Las Cruces Human Relations has stated that free classes for adjuncts cannot be instated, the committee is looking at other forms of compensation – including, of course, higher pay.

V. New Items

- ★ Erin O’Neil-Arindariz has resigned as Director of Assessment, although she will finish this semester in that position before returning to teaching. She will return to teaching. The job description may be changing, so replacement is unclear.

VI. Additional Items

- ★ We discussed a student who is in financial difficulty because she moved here from El Paso and must pay out-of-state tuition. We have an articulation agreement that Texas students may take some classes at in-state rates if they live within 135 miles of the institution. However, that only applies to the Las Cruces campus – not *any* of the branches, including the Doña Ana branch. We motioned to have Rob take this issue to Academic Council to change this system to allow such students to attend the branches. The motion passes unanimously.
- ★ One member reported that we have a default rate for financial aid that is over 29%. We are in danger of losing all federal financial aid if we go over 30%. We will discuss this in more detail during the next meeting.
- ★ The faculty is concerned over the predicted NMSUA \$600,000 shortfall for the next semester. If this occurs, we will have to dip into the reserve – which we can afford one more time. However, we will be in trouble if this continues.
- ★ Part of what concerns us is the creation of new administrative positions that are filled by faculty members. What percent of the budget is spent on administration? We decided to explore having an AAUP member research this question as well as the budget for student services. Faculty removed to semi-administrative positions are often paid by grant, but the faculty member still holds the teaching position – which is then filled by adjunct faculty. We will look into an AAUP study.
- ★ We discussed whether to reinstate the Celebrating Scholarship Poster session this semester, with a possible change to a night venue. One possibility was to do the session in conjunction with the Student Art Show. The faculty supports continuing to have the session.
- ★ We discussed ADH differences in different divisions. ADH is a nine-month position, but holders of the position may work through the summer via release time for summer classes or summer teaching. As the discussion progressed, we were told that policy states that faculty may teach up to nine credit hours in the summer, but faculty in some divisions have been restricted to seven hours – possibly because of budget restraints. Much discussion ensued.

VII. Other Items

- ★ In planning for the Spring Semester, we unanimously passed a motion to address the attendance/financial aid situation/rate as our top priority – with student reading preparedness as our second priority.

The next meeting will follow the faculty meeting on February 20, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Minutes approved:

Rob Klinger, Chair

Bill Lockhart, Secretary