

Assembly Meeting – Faculty Consortium

Minutes – February 20, 2015

The meeting began at 11:02 AM.

I. Present were:

- i Rob Klinger (A), Bill Lockhart (A), Kim Lopez-Gallagher (A), Gloria Villaverde (A), Wanda Wakkinen, Erin O’Neill Armendarez (A), Colleen Bond, Sherrell Wheeler, Jim Gallagher, John Haley, Kathy Roark-Diehl (A), Tanya Allred, Pete Eidenbach (A), Wayne McGowan, Beth Grundhoffer, Noel Romero (A), Christine Trapp, Karen Reid, Tammy Dodson (A), Sonja de Vargas, and Laurie Joslin. [A = Assembly Member]

- i Minutes from the January 23, 2015, meeting were accepted.

II. Academic Council and APAC Reports

- i 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. New Items

- i It was reported that Dr. Garcia has misused Quick Connect. There seems to be some confusion about the line between Dr. Garcia and the faculty. Most of the members felt that Dr. Garcia has been encroaching on faculty prerogatives. Student Success is intended to *support* faculty; its head is not in a position to supervise faculty. No other campus has the same restrictive instructions for using Quick Connect. It is important to note that the webpage is *not* policy, and the Quick Connect instructions do not follow any written policy. We are concerned that this lack of respect for faculty is becoming an administrative style at this institution. As a group, the faculty is upset because the administration (specifically Dr. Garcia) is interfering in academic issues. In addition, faculty are being presented with independent studies from Dr. Garcia and being told we must do them. There is no policy stating that requirement. We unanimously passed a motion to draft a letter to the Provost, Faculty Senate, NMSUA President, VPAA, and VPSS that the faculty has concerns with the interference with written policy by the Vice President of Student Success. All members present agreed to sign the letter and ask all Assembly members to sign.

- i We were informed that NMSUA needs to curb expenses. As a result, we will suspend the four faculty searches currently in process (sociology, communications, science, and math). Pending a study of our financial options, one may be reinstated. Several members were incensed that this was not sent to all faculty members and discussed at the faculty meeting. As a result, we motioned to request that Dr. Carstens reserve 30 minutes of each faculty meeting to discuss faculty issues – unanimously passed. Much discussion ensued.

- i There was much discussion that originally centered on presidential search. It was noted that the presidential search committee needs more representation from this campus. We discussed saving money by leaving the position open and concluded that it needs to be filled. Cutting faculty will not increase enrollment.

- i We motioned that the faculty emphatically states that hiring quality faculty to fill the current vacancies is essential to the welfare of this institution. Measures to alleviate the current financial difficulties must be found that will not affect faculty and students. The motion passed unanimously. A second motion – passes unanimously – was for Rob and/or Kim to request that the results of the faculty satisfaction survey be presented on this campus.

IV. Formerly Tabled Items

- i We briefly discussed student printing. Students continue to complain about the current printing system. Two possible solutions were to place printers in classrooms and to suggest to students that they buy printers as a normal part of college costs.

- i Attendance Policy: Currently, there is no policy. This remains a faculty prerogative. The proposed change would create an attendance policy for the Alamogordo campus. To do so would be a breach of academic freedom. We motioned that the Faculty Assembly inform the administration that we strenuously object to a campus-wide attendance policy as a violation of academic freedom. The motion passed unanimously.

- i We briefly discussed administrative withdrawal of students. Currently, the VPAA makes the decision. This needs more discussion.

V. Updates from Subcommittees

- i The Adjunct Faculty Compensation Committee passed out a handout on mentorship along with surveys to be filled out by mentors and mentees. Both adjunct instructors and full-time faculty members can fill either position.

The next meeting will follow the faculty meeting on March 13, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Minutes approved:

Rob Klinger, Chair

Bill Lockhart, Secretary