

Assembly Meeting – Faculty Consortium

Minutes – August 29, 2014

The meeting began at 11:10 AM.

I. Present were:

- ★ Wayne McGowan (A), Rob Klinger (A), Erin O’Neill-Armendarez (A), Bill Lockhart (A), Noel Romero (A), Tammy Dodson, (A), Steve Holmes (A), Kim Lopez-Gallagher (A), Jeffrey Bacon, John Adams (A), Sherrell Wheeler (A), Gloria Villaverde (A), Claire Forsman, James Gallagher, and Pete Eidenbach (A). [A = Assembly Member]

- ★ Minutes from the May 2, 2014, meeting were accepted.

II. Academic Council and APAC Reports

- ★ Rob has been e-mailing regular Academic Council and APAC reports to faculty throughout the summer. He added that the ADA office has been working on a new form with Dr. Carstens. This form is for extended testing time for face to face classes. Instructors would need to complete one of these forms and have the student sign them for each face to face exam or quiz at the testing center.

III. Faculty Senate Report

- ★ Kathy was at another meeting, but the Faculty Senate had not met yet. However, the admissions standards have passed the Senate.

IV. Prioritizing Business Items

- ★ Rob suggested that the Assembly look at the list of items that we had amassed from last semester and to prioritize those we wanted most to address. In addition to the four priorities listed below, we discussed the problem that faculty members have been having with bandwidth on Canvas. We passed a motion to tell Academic Council that we need more bandwidth in order to function.

- ★ Priority No. 1 – Adjunct Faculty Compensation. The Alamogordo campus has repeatedly attempted to increase compensation to adjunct faculty in various ways (e.g., free classes, recognition, etc.) but has been unable to comply due to denials from Las Cruces.

However, the adoption of Quality Matters (QM) by NMSU has created a new problem. Because QM is difficult and time consuming to pass, adjuncts are increasingly unwilling to teach online. QM requires a great deal of work, and adjuncts are not compensated for their time. We need to look into ways to create both monetary and non-monetary compensation for adjuncts. We passed a motion to create a subcommittee to address this issue.

- ★ Priority No. 2 – Hiring Freeze. President Jimeno announced a hiring freeze due to financial conditions. However, enrollment cannot increase if we do not have the faculty to teach the classes. In addition, the faculty committee load is increasing as faculty are not being replaced. We feel a need to invest in our future. We unanimously passed a motion to create a subcommittee to address this issue.
- ★ Priority No. 3 – Communication. For some time, faculty members have expressed dissatisfaction with campus communications, especially from administration. The new VPAA has been making a shift in the structure of the campus, and faculty members need to know the changes. We unanimously motioned to create a subcommittee to gather information on this issue and for Rob to formally ask administration to let us know in a timely manner when formal decisions are made.
- ★ Priority No. 4 – Division Head (DH)/Assistant Division Head (ADH) Evaluations. Since Ryan has asked for faculty input into questions for DH and ADH evaluations, we formed another subcommittee to look into the situation.

We decided to table all other business until the next meeting which will follow the faculty meeting on September 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM.

Minutes approved:

Rob Klinger, Chair

Bill Lockhart, Secretary