

October 29, 2008

NMSU Faculty Senate
Vice Chair's Report
October, 2008
Chris Erickson

It was an eventful October and below is a summary of the important issues.

ADAC: ADAC meet twice. Prop 06-08/09 and Prop 07-08/09 were approved at the Oct 13 meeting. At the Oct 27 meeting, implementation of the new VWW policy was discussed. Particularly controversial was credit for overseas experience. It was decided that a 3 hour course taught at a foreign university, or a formally approved foreign experience of at least 4 weeks would be automatically counted as 3 hours toward satisfying the VWW, with pre-approval. It was recognized that lots of exceptions to this general rule were likely.

FACULTY SENATE SALARY TASK FORCE: The Faculty Senate Faculty Salary Task Force met three times in October. We have developed an outline plan which calls for a salary pool to be allocated by rank and discipline so as to bring faculty half way toward the median of peers this year, half way again next year, and to peer salaries in the third year. Funding of this proposal is a major issue. If we get formula funding as promised, the proposal is doable. The outline solution recommends that 80% in year one and 75% in year 2 and 3 be allocated based on the difference between the NMSU base salary and the peer median and the remainder be allocated at the discretion of the department head. Note: The allocation is based on discipline and rank.

PROVOST MERCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: I was appointed chair of the Provost Mercer Advisory Committee. The committee met three times. This committee was charged with allocating \$1.8 million in salary savings that will be used to finance pay raises in January. The committee has recommended that \$1.5 million be allocated based on the difference between current NMSU base salary and the peer median. The sum is sufficient to eliminate approximately 25 % of the salary gap. The remaining \$300k would be allocated at the Deans' discretion. Note: The allocation is to individual faculty, so almost all faculty below the median of their peers will receive a pay raise.

COC: The COC meeting on Oct 28 was the first FS meeting to successfully use our new video conferencing system. Thanks to Chair Pfeiffer for his good work.

ELECTIONS: The election members of the Faculty Salary Increase/Performance Evaluation Review Board have been completed. Gary Rayson was elected a member and Kathy Landers as alternative.

The election for University Appeals Board was also completed. Elected as regular members were Dana Christman and Gary Rayson. Pamela Schultz was elected as alternative.

The Constitutional Amendment to allow representation on Faculty Senate passed. I will organize elections for Spring with newly elected members taking office next Fall.

Respectfully,

Chris Erickson
Faculty Senate Vice Chair
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