

MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE NMSU FACULTY SENATE
FACULTY SENATE CHAMBERS, GARCIA ANNEX
February 5, 2009

Members Present: Pfeiffer (Chair), Erickson (Vice Chair), Alexander, Amato, Anderson, Bailey, Bejarano, Bloomquist, Bosman, Bronstein, Brown, Buckholz, Bugbee, Cramer, Erben, Fitzpatrick, Fortin, Hardee, Hubbell, Kelly, Knight, Lakey, McNeel, Montañez, Munson-McGee, Ni, R. Oliver, Rayson, Rosencrans, Schultz, Simon, Storm, M. Torres, P. Torres, Winn.

Members Absent: Andersen, Blair, Buckingham, Christman, de Boyrie, González, Hampton, Huttlinger, Idriss, Mathis, Nishiguchi, K. Oliver, Prentice, Ranade, Reyes, Teich, Wojahn.

Ex Officio Members Present: Moulton, Titus, Chappell.

Guests: Bobbie Derlin, DE/CEL for Gonzales; Ricardo Rel, Assistant Vice President, Government Relations (by speaker phone); Paul Gutierrez, Vice President, Outreach and Engagement.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Pfeiffer at 4:00 pm. He called for an acting parliamentarian in the absence of Senator/Parliamentarian de Boyrie; Senator Winn volunteered to serve.

2. Ricardo Rel, Assistant Vice President, Government Relations

Ricardo Rel, reporting by speaker phone from Santa Fe, updated the FS on legislation affecting NMSU. The last 19 days focused on the current budget situation. In December 2008 a budget shortfall of \$450 million was predicted for 2009, \$293million for 2010. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) has developed a 4-prong approach to reduce the current deficit by increasing revenues, decreasing some operating costs, eliminating unspent capital outlay funds and transfers from the general reserve fund. HB 10 and SB 79 and 80 have passed and are awaiting the governor's signature; approval of HB 9 is expected today. The 2% compensation increase will be decreased by 2.5% but NMSU will find funding to make up the difference; no reduction in paychecks is expected. He sees very little impact on NMSU for these reductions. He expects the new revenue estimates due around 2/15 will show a much larger deficit for the coming year, as much as \$200 - \$300 million. Illustrating how the oil and gas revenues are affected by changes, he said a \$1 change in the price of oil PPB = \$400 million in revenue; a 10¢ change in gas is even bigger: \$10-\$12 million. Workload (recruiting, retention, etc.) is very important; we will be getting additional workload funds for our efforts. Check the NMSU homepage often for the legislative updates on bills which impact higher ed and NMSU. He feels we are in a better financial situation than many other NM institutions and those in other states.

3. Interim Provost Robert Moulton

Provost Moulton noted some of the things other universities are doing in this current financial crisis: limiting travel, eliminating construction, encouraging early retirements, putting people on furlough, raising tuition and setting enrollment caps, eliminating summer sessions, hiring more part-time faculty, increasing class sizes and reducing faculty. There is no reason to panic now as we are in very good standing compared to many other schools. We are developing austerity plans should we need to use them. Our successful efforts to increase growth have put us close (2.9%) to the next plateau (3%)

which would result in another \$7 - \$8 million funding increase. But we have only until the end of this semester to reach that next plateau. Our only chance is mid-semester courses, March 10 to May 8; these can be taught on-line or Web CT as well as in classrooms; upper division and grad classes are even better. We will find the \$ to pay adjuncts, part-time faculty, grad assistants, whatever it takes to offer these mid-semester courses. He is working with the deans to complete the details. He pointed out that UNM's president's salary is almost 3 times as much as ours: at NMSU we are all working to improve fiscal responsibility.

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

5. Minutes of January 15, 2009, Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the January 15, 2009, Faculty Senate meeting were approved as submitted.

6. Reports of Officers

A. Chair's Report

Chair Pfeiffer reviewed his February 2009 report which was distributed earlier. He noted that legislation to be considered this year must be presented to the COC no later than their March 31 meeting. (Appendix A)

Provost Moulton was asked if senators could contact regents directly; he said he would look into this and get back to the FS.

B. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Erickson reviewed his February 2009 report which was distributed earlier. He noted that he has received reports that the fact that NMSU's administrative salaries are lower than UNM's and others is one of the reasons NMSU is in relatively good standing with the legislature. (Appendix B)

7. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Faculty Affairs: Christopher Brown, Chair

Chair Brown reported that no legislation was assigned to his committee so they did not meet.

B. Long Range Planning: Kathleen Huttlinger, Chair

No legislation was assigned to this committee so they did not meet.

C. Scholastic Affairs: William Storm, Chair

Chair Storm reported that no legislation was assigned to this committee so they did not meet.

D. University Affairs: Lynn Kelly, Chair

Chair Kelly reported that the committee studied Proposition 09-08/09 and unanimously recommended “Do Pass as Amended”. The motion to accept her report was approved.

8. Other Reports

A. Report on Progress of Approved Legislation

Chair Pfeiffer reported that there is no approved legislation as Proposition 06-08/09 has not gone to the president’s office.

9. New Business

A. New Business

A. Proposition 10-08/09: Proposal to Amend Course Catalog Provision for Graduations With Honors (Teich, COB; Lakey, A & S) was introduced by Co-sponsor Lakey. These measures were requested by Registrar Zimmerman to allow recognition of all graduates who earn these honors. Assigned to the Scholastic Affairs Committee which will meet 2/17/09. (Appendix C)

10. Unfinished Business

A. Proposition 09-08/09 Amended: Memorial in Support of the NMSU Year of Sustainability (Brown, Rayson, A & S; Rosencrans, ACES; Huttlinger, Schultz, CHSS; Kelly, Engineering; P. Torres, CES) was presented and discussed by Co-sponsor Brown. The motion to approve this bill carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

11. Other Business

A. Faculty Senate Representatives to Other Organizations

a. Student Fee Review Board

Senator Rayson, who has served on this board for several years, has agreed to continue.

b. ASNMSU

c. Corbett Center Student Union Board

No volunteers for either of these positions.

B. Nominations for Faculty Senate Chair 2009-2010

Chair Pfeiffer called for nominations for Faculty Senate Chair 2009-2010

Senator Chris Erickson was nominated by Senator Brown. Senator Mark Andersen was nominated by Senator Amato. Both nominees accepted, and Chair Pfeiffer thanked them for their willingness to serve as FS Chair.

12. Announcements

Senator Brown, noting that this has been a quiet year for the FS, asked for more legislation to be brought forward which would help our administration lead NMSU.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Meek
Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Joseph J. Pfeiffer, Jr., Faculty Senate Chair

Date