

NMSU Interfaith Council

May 6, 2010

Welcome

Opening Prayer- Jan Archey (Wesley Center)

Breakfast

Special Guest: President Barbara Couture (introduced by Rabbi Kane)

Special concern at the moment is the budget constraints and how that affects our students and our community, and there was an increase in cost of tuition for the fall. She acknowledges they need spiritual support from this group. Unpredictability is always hard on people and they will do their best to make things as predictable as possible. NMSU needs budget cuts from the whole campus (4% is the affect of the overall cuts with the increase in tuition and other measures, but she's asking for 6%, 8%, and 10% cut scenarios from each area of the campus). She expects that there will be tough decision-making ahead. She waited to cut the academic sections until she could get the faculty all together and get as much input from everyone as possible. She promises that any money they save will go back into this university. She wants to be able to reward good teaching among acknowledging accomplishments of the students. There are outstanding achievements here in NMSU with students here being nominated for prestigious scholarships, which is a sign that we are competitive with the finest of institutions. She looks forward to a new aerospace Ph.D. program for the fall. She wants to make sure that we continue to focus on research and collaboration between professors and students to ensure that the students also have practical experience that will benefit them in the job market.

Five Areas of focus:

- 1) Legislative session- she didn't get everything she wants but knows that we will survive it.
- 2) Academic programs are "job one"
- 3) Wants to make sure that this is a good environment for research
- 4) We need to connect better with community colleges and work on seamless transitions between them and the main campus and increase partnerships in general so that we can be stronger together
- 5) Work with the foundation to complete "Doing What Counts" project. They are raising money to build a Fine Arts Center and are well on the way to breaking ground.

Students need what this Council does. They need to be cared for by the community within a fabric that is meaningful to them. She wants to be supportive to this Council and wants to hear from the Council about what is happening among students. Pres. Couture encouraged the Council to bring concerns to her. She answered questions from the IFC.

Old Business

Approval of minutes from April's Meeting- Moved by Jerry Kane approval, seconded by Sid Druen. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report and Collection of Dues- \$1265.55 balance currently. Took up dues and still accepting dues. In March minutes GLBTQ \$500? This was changed to \$50 and Jan needs to know where that is sent. Jill Grammar moved that \$250 be given to Peace Camp and seconded by Sarah Heartsong. Discussion: \$100 wasn't used for granola bars we have enough money to do this without a problem. Motion passed to give \$250 to Peace Camp. Dues also need to be turned in by end of June at the latest. (PO Box 4184, Las Cruces, NM 88003)

New Business

Report from Susan Waldo- Time to renew the affiliate coordinator. If not done by June 30th you need to start over. Please get this in before then. Muchas Gracias to Susan from IFC!

Member Announcement Updates- Jan Archey gave some words of encouragement.

New Officers- introduced to the IFC. (Brandon Pelton- Pres., Jill Grammar- VP/Pres Elect, Sarah Heartsong- Secretary, Jim Lehman- Treasurer)

Goodbyes to three IFC Members- David Richman (Friends), Nancy Anderson (UUCLC), Jan Archey (Wesley)

Next Meeting 9/2/10 with orientation. There will be communication in early August getting us prepared for the fall.

Closing Prayer- David Richman

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Heartsong, Secretary