



Faculty Senate Business Council

Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2014

3:00pm to 4:00pm

Education Tech Building, Room 220

Attendees: (taken from sign-in sheet)

Mary Kaven

Robert Otto Valdez

Lee Brown

Dennis Dunn

Meeting called to order – 3:00pm by Mary Kaven, Chair

Quorum was not met. Meeting was informal.

Items Discussed:

- This was the first time in two years that the Faculty Senate Business Council has met. Within the Faculty Senate Business Council there are three active committees--Budget Committee, Campus Development Advisory Committee, and Governmental Relations. Sharing information across committees more often would be beneficial. There also might be some joint goals and activities among the 3 committees. There was some discussion about how the other FS Councils were operating, and interest in knowing what feedback the FS had received about this relatively new committee/council structure.
- Questions were raised about the overall structure of decision-making and administrative structure of the university, particularly with regards to the Main campus and the Health Sciences Center. Does faculty governance differ? Does the HSC Council function effectively as a FS for the HSC? Are there separate policies for HSC faculty that are not in the Faculty Handbook? What is driving the strategic planning and goals (all together or separately for Main campus and HSC?) How are decisions made regarding the budget? Should the Faculty Senate summarize and circulate how faculty members can participate in the budget process—who they should talk to with their ideas, when they should bring them up, what meetings they should attend, where they can find results of the process? Many individuals undoubtedly are familiar with these processes, but increased transparency to more individuals would be worthwhile.
- In the context of budgetary issues, there was some discussion about whether legislators understood or were aware of the activities and goals of UNM. Several of those present were not aware that the FS Government Relations Committee had organized a few forums with legislators and representatives of the UNM community, to discuss the Role of the Public University. Likely such meetings between legislators and faculty should continue outside the legislative session.



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- The main issue this year for the Governmental Relations Committee will be exploring whether and how to address the “ERB tax” on the alternative retirement plan. Many faculty who have chosen this retirement plan feel that their contribution to the ERB is not equitable, and it may provide a barrier to recruitment and retention of faculty. Mary Kaven will be meeting with Marc Saavedra (Office of Government Relations) next week to discuss information she has on the Alternative Retirement Plan at UNM, as well as the budget. It was suggested that Mary (FS Government Relations Committee) meet with Fran Wilkinson and Hans Barsun, from the Faculty Staff Benefits Committee, to collaborate on this issue.

ACTION: Dennis Dunn (*Office of the University Secretary*) will send copies of any recent meeting minutes for the Budget Committee, Campus Development Advisory Committee, and Governmental Relations Committee, to all members of the Business Council. This will inform the council what has been going on within the other committees.

ACTION: Mary will ask the members of the Business Council what they would like to see on the agenda for the Business Council and to schedule meetings once a month. Due to all the budget activity the next meeting will be held on Friday March 21, 2014, from 4:00pm – 5:00pm.

Adjourned: 3:55pm