

Faculty Senate Update for UAC (October 9th, 2012)

Faculty senate election update

In early September, in a manner consistent with our Faculty Senate Constitution, the Senate Committee on Committees (COC) selected a Chair of that Committee who will also assume the role of Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate.

I am happy to announce that the COC selected Dr. Soum Sanogo, from the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Sanogo's research is on the etiology, epidemiology, and management of fungal and oomycete soilborne diseases of crops, and fungal composition of dusts and rainwater for air quality monitoring.

Dr. Sanogo has been in the Phillipines this week attending to a previous research commitment that he made before his election as Vice Chair. However, Dr. Sanogo has been in constant email contact with myself and the COC throughout this past week.

Current Senate Policy Activity

The senate met at its regular monthly meeting on October 4th and passed the following legislation:

- A. **Proposition 02-12/13:** Proposal to Change the Name of "Athletic Training Education" program to "Athletic Training" We now need to get that to the next level in the food chain as this is a time sensitive matter dealing with accreditation...
- B. **Proposition 03-12/13:** A Proposal to add a PhD degree program in Kinesiology

The senate also introduced the following legislation that was assigned to committee:

- A. **Proposition 04-12/13:** A Proposal to create a Bachelor of Science Major in Counseling Educational Psychology
- B. **Proposition 05-12/13:** A Memorial to Recognize the New University Teaching Council and to Support the Plans and Goals of the University Teaching Council

Finally, the following proposition was introduced as emergency legislation

- A. **Proposition 06-12/13:** A Memorial calling for a University Wide Faculty Forums on Compensation.

Description—The Senate COC has been tasked with determining the logistics of these forums, the proposed format is a formal presentation by the FS Working group on compensation, regarding their "Fact Sheet" followed by an opportunity for faculty questions, comments and feedback

Other Senate Activities

- A. A formal presentation to the Full Senate by the Faculty Senate Working Group on Compensation
Introductory remarks (Tim Ketelaar)
Brief History of Compensation at NMSU (Chris Erickson)
Where are we now? (William Boecklen)
Q & A/Discussion

Information regarding this forum will be posted shortly to the Faculty Senate website, copies of these documents have already been sent to VP Woods Office.

Finally, at our regular Monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate on October 4th, I gave the Full senate an update on the current situation regarding the President's Leave of absence and Resignation. Throughout these events, I have been consulting constantly with the members of the Senate Leadership Team the COC, and with six former senate chairs. I have also been providing updates to the faculty senate, but those updates have been fewer in number due to the lack of information available to the faculty senate.

A typical full senate meeting lasts approximately one hour. This past Thursday's meeting lasted nearly two hours and began with a full senate discussion of the Board of Regents handling of the recent set of events surrounding President Couture's Leave of absence and Resignation. I asked the full senate if they wished to provide the BOR with feedback regarding the BOR's handling of these events and the response was overwhelmingly clear, the FS did wish to provide that feedback.

A motion was made on the floor of the senate and passed unanimously to direct the Faculty Senate leadership team known as the COC to draft a confidential letter based upon the senates feedback discussed in the full senate meeting. The motion also directed the Senate chair to make the letter available to the members of the senate and to conduct an up or down vote on the question of whether to transmit the letter to the Board of Regents, The motion directed the COC to handle the details of how to conduct the vote and transmit the letter if the vote was YES.

On Monday October 8th at 8 AM the COC convened an emergency meeting to draft the letter, and on late Monday afternoon the letter was approved unanimously by the members of the COC and sent electronically to the entire Faculty senate for an up or down vote regarding whether to transmit the letter to the BOR through Regent Cheney.

Yesterday I informed all non-tenured members of the Senate COC that at the direction of the Faculty Senate Chair they would not be allowed to sign the letter regardless of their disposition towards its contents, but that they would be allowed to participate in the COC discussion and they would be allowed to vote anonymously as members of the senate on the question of whether to transmit the letter to the Regents.

That vote is ongoing and senators have until 5 PM this evening to cast their vote anonymously with the Senate recording secretary, who will inform me of the results shortly after 5 PM this evening.