

**Proposition 17-09/10**

**Sponsors:** Brown (A&S); Bloomquist (ACES); Oliver (Business); Bosman, Thompson, (Library)

**Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs 4/13/10**

**Title: A Memorial Concerning the Inclusion of the Chair of Faculty Senate in Executive Sessions and Subcommittees of the Board of Regents**

WHEREAS communication between the Board of Regents and faculty is important for creating an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS a survey of faculty found considerable concern among faculty in the manner by which this communication is advanced by the Board of Regents;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS a high degree of trust and confidence is necessary during a period of budget retrenchment; and

WHEREAS the faculty is the key resource of the university, being critical to the execution of the core functions of the University of teaching, research, service and outreach; and

WHEREAS the students are already represented on the Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS many faculty have dedicated their professional careers to NMSU and have accumulated years of experience in the operations of the University; and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate represents the views, needs, and interests of the faculty of New Mexico State University;<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS the Chair of Faculty Senate is the only member of Faculty Senate who is elected system wide, representing a constituency that includes regular college, tenure track and tenured faculty from all five NMSU campuses;

THEREFORE, the Faculty Senate of New Mexico State University requests that the Chair of Faculty Senate be included, as appropriate, in executive sessions of the Board of Regents and in meetings of subcommittees, including but not limited to the Budget subcommittee.

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<sup>1</sup> “Shared Governance: Its Role At New Mexico State University,” document prepared by the ALP 2008-2009 Class for the NMSU Provost Office. (See [http://www.advance.nmsu.edu/Documents/PDF/Provost\\_Project\\_08-09.pdf](http://www.advance.nmsu.edu/Documents/PDF/Provost_Project_08-09.pdf).)

<sup>2</sup>From the Faculty Senate Mission (see <http://www.nmsu.edu/~fsenate/index.shtml>).

**Discussion:** In the last year, three major issues have unfolded in which having a Faculty Senate Chair in the Board of Regent executive sessions would have been helpful:

- 1) The replacement of Dr. Cruzado as interim president;
- 2) The tabling of Proposition 11-08/09A Remove Prohibition of Interims [in NMSU Policy Manual] From Competing for Academic Administrative Positions; and
- 3) I & G funding of Athletics.

In the first two cases, it would have helped the Board if they had known faculty sentiment. In the third case, it would have helped if Faculty Senate had known BOR sentiment. In making the decision to replace Dr. Cruzado, there appears to have been no input from faculty, yet this decision had a major adverse affect on faculty morale.

In contrast to the above situations, we also have seen an example in which the Faculty Senate was meaningfully consulted in the Board of Regent's decision making, this being the decision to hire Dr. Couture as president. The negative impact on morale from the decision concerning Dr. Cruzado vs. the positive effect on morale of the manner by which the decision to hire Dr. Couture was made illustrates how faculty input can result in better outcomes.

In making this request, the Faculty Senate is well aware of the authority given the Board of Regents by the New Mexico constitution. We are asking for participation in Board of Regents executive sessions and subcommittees appropriate to a representative of the Faculty, which is to serve as a conduit for communication between the faculty and the Board. The purpose of this proposal is to increase two way communications, with the outcomes being better and more informed decisions by the Regents and by Faculty Senate, and a more positive relationship between the Regents and the faculty at NMSU.