

Proposition: 07-20/21

Title: Memorial to Request the Restoration of the Practices of Shared Governance

Date Submitted: October 20, 2020

Sponsor(s): Harris (Carlsbad), Al-Nouman (Carlsbad), Abdaljalil, (Carlsbad), Villaverde (Alamogordo), Cavalcante (Alamogordo)

NMSU Carlsbad Faculty Council: Lacy Davis, Zane Biebelle, Jon Strahan, Pam Titus, Samantha Villa

Proposed Committee:

Assigned Committee: Scholastic Affairs

Prior Approvals: N/A, this is a memorial.

Proposal Type (please check one):

Memorial

Rationale:

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated multiple crises, some of which pose considerable risk to NMSU in carrying out its mission of Teaching, Research & Creative Activity, Service, and Outreach. In addition, the State of New Mexico Legislature has reduced funds to support the core mission of NMSU by approximately \$11M.

In an attempt to meet these challenges, NMSU Central Administration has made the unilateral decision to eliminate the campus president positions at NMSU-Alamogordo, NMSU-Carlsbad, and NMSU-Grants. The presidents' roles as connections between their colleges, the business communities, and local industries assured that the many-faceted needs of each individual community were being served in an efficient and productive manner. With the elimination of these campus president positions, the resultant void is detrimental to the well-being of these institutions, and therefore each aforementioned college's administration, faculty & staff, students, and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the lack of transparency in making the decision left the colleges without explanation to accrediting bodies, financial institutions, and local school districts for a decision in which they had no part.

The charge to manage this budget crisis lies with NMSU Central Administration; however, the principles of Shared Governance should be used as a guiding principle for the culture, policies, and procedures of the NMSU System. According to Regents Policy Manual (RPM) 1.70, A. Shared Governance: *Shared governance refers to the governance of the university in which responsibility is shared among the Board of Regents, the faculty and the administration.... Shared governance shall remain a central tenet of academic decision making at New Mexico State University.* The merits of Shared Governance are vital to the interest of the entire NMSU System, its administrations, faculties, staffs, students, and other stakeholders.

Discussions among faculty and the Central Administration are most productive and effective when they occur in a mutually respectful manner. However, recently made major structural changes to meet current budgetary challenges without adequate faculty input have been counterproductive and contrary

to RPM 1.70 A.,2.: *Consistent with the principles of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the faculty, represented through the Faculty Senate and other faculty representatives, shall be involved in personnel decisions, selection of administration, preparation of budget, and determination of educational policies. Additionally, the NMSU Faculty Senate has legislative jurisdiction over policies affecting the university's academic mission in regard to education, research, and service, including the definitions of purpose and objectives (RPM 1.70 B).*

Moreover, the NMSU System includes the Main Campus and its branches, and all NMSU campuses should be treated as such. The recent prohibition of allowing Main Campus students to register for courses at any campus in the system has been detrimental to enrollment at the community colleges. Community college courses should not be considered as competition to Main Campus courses; NMSU is one system.

In Summary:

Whereas, the history, culture, policies, and procedures of the NMSU System reflect the principles of Shared Governance, and

Whereas, the merits of Shared Governance are vital to the interests of the NMSU system, its faculties and entire college communities and stakeholders, and

Whereas, recent unilateral decisions by NMSU central administrators regarding, but not limited to, the restructuring of the NMSU System, its budget, and course presentation do not reflect the principles of Shared Governance,

Therefore, on _____, 2020, the NMSU Faculty Senate issues this resolution calling on NMSU's Central Administration to restore the practices of shared governance to ensure that substantive and meaningful faculty input is included in all system structure, budgetary and academic discussions and decisions that will affect the two-year branches within the NMSU system.