THE NMSU EMPLOYEE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 12, 2011
Milton Hall, Room 85

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Beavers, Ellen Bosman, Patricia Hartell, Allan Kaplan, Cherri Lambeth, Jay Lillywhite, Steven Loring, Robert Nosbisch, Anthony Parra

EX-OFFICIO: Rene Yoder

ALTERNATES PRESENT: 

GUESTS: Kelly Brooks, D’Anne Stuart

CALL TO ORDER: There was not a quorum. Therefore, these minutes are for informational purposes only.

Steve reported that Provost Wilkins had to re-schedule attending a meeting of this group until July 14th. One of the items she will be discussing is the re-organization of the Provost’s office.

Steve announced that the Employee Council Executive Team met with President Couture. She is excited about our suggestion regarding an employee picnic and/or other employee activities. The tentative date is October 19, from 11-1 at the Horseshoe. This would coincide with other Presidential activities planned.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Council – Ellen Bosman shared copies of information from the March and April meetings of Faculty Council. Stuart Munson-McGee is the newly elected Chair. There are issues with the number of senators from each college. The Faculty Senate is looking for ways to improve communication with faculty. Another issue being discussed is fractional grading. Steve stated that he believes this issue has been approved by the Board of Regents and would begin in the Fall of 2014. [CORRECTION: Fractional grading has not been approved by the Board of Regents; a decision on this issue has been deferred.] Faculty Council is planning celebration of the anniversary of the Morrill Act.

Building the Vision Committee – Bob Nosbisch and Patricia Hartell are serving on this committee. The committee is assigned to 7 working groups as part of the President’s Building the Vision plan.

Sustainability Committee – Steve stated that a new chilling tower will be built on the corner near the natatorium. There will be a disruption to traffic on Stewart and Jordan Streets. Construction will begin next week and plans are to complete to project during the summer. University Communications will be making an announcement regarding the traffic disruption.
NEW BUSINESS

Messages from staff on NMSU Employee Council e-mail: There were none.

Communication with campus community: Steve shared a poster designed by Roseanne Bensley to advertise the Employee Council.

Update re: Fringe Benefits and Benefits Advisory committees: Ben Woods has asked the question that if the President is asking for information regarding employee fringe benefits, is she getting information for all employees? Cheri stated that there are people on the Employee Benefits Committee and Insurance Committee. They have been asked that their chair also serve on the Benefits Advisory committee.

Report from the Chair:

Administrative Cabinet: There will be a change regarding the myNMSU portal that will require that people update their password. Microsoft Office will be available through the web and there will be more storage. There will be no changes to Outlook.

Board of Regents: Nothing to report.

Steve also reported that Bob is stepping down as Chair-Elect of this committee. Our constitution does not address how to replace an opening in this office. Steve stated that he will solicit nominations from the Council. He will send out a ballot and voting will begin in June. Steve expressed his appreciation of Bob’s continued service to this committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kelly was approached by an exempt NMSU employee with .75 FT asking if he is represented on this council. Steve stated that this council is here to represent all employees of NMSU, even though they cannot serve on this committee. This council represents the general interest of all NMSU employees. [Update: The wording of Employee Council by-laws will need revision to clarify that regular employees, not just full-time employees, are represented by the Employee Council.]

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 3:00 pm.