

NMSU Employee Council

Employee Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2017

Milton Hall Rm. 85 at 2:30PM

Members Present: Kim Allbright, Shawna Arroyo, Stephanie Carter, Adam Cavotta, Julie Correa, Monica Dunivan, Gina Franks, Sonia White, Tim Darden

Alternates Present:

Members Online: Thaddieus Conner

Alternates Online:

Ex-Officio: Rene Yoder, Cherri Lambeth

1. Call to order
 - a. Adam Cavotta called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm.
2. Welcome to members and guests
3. Approval of March minutes
 - a. Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes.
 - b. No April minutes due to the forum
4. Lab and Pharmacy Benefits at Aggie Health and Wellness Center (f.k.a. Campus Health Center)
 - a. There have been questions from employees about the benefits that faculty and staff used to receive before the changes in the health center. Not asking for restoration of what we had, but possible restoration for at least use of lab and pharmacy. Adam would like to see this go to committee and get a thorough examination of the issue. Rene says the question will be asked: "How many employees actually want this to happen?", if taken to the Fringe Committee.
- Discussion: Question about whether or not the health center would have to become a "provider" for insurance purposes or would these be out-of-pocket expenses (wouldn't need to be a provider). Would need clarification as to how and/or if that could happen. More information is needed.
 - b. Motion made and passed to table the matter until Dr. Silva can comment on it and invite Lori McKee.
5. Employee Council History Committee
 - a. Through Adam's research there is not much historical information about EC. (Cannot find date it was actually started.) Would like to start a committee about putting together a history and is looking for any interest in doing this. Gina is going to see if we can get a tour of the university from Chief Lopez.

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6. Executive Committee Meeting with Chancellor
 - a. Founder's Day: Chancellor pleased with the outcome. We are thankful to NMDA and Chile Pepper Institute and their participation. We had 2200 plates served. Next year, focus on the history of Athletics or the history of discovery (things like Pluto.) Wants to try and get more faculty at these events. There are a lot of staff, but few faculty. Hoping a research theme might help as well as messaging so that they will know that they are included.
 - b. Budget: LC Sun News solicited documents from university regarding the budget process. By law must release all information, including random notes and thoughts that are written down. There were documents that have been seen at the forum, but there were other documents that would explain the process for different budget situations. No plans are made but there are deliberations and discussions but nothing has been decided because we still have no budget information from the state (still waiting on Special Session.) Plans range for what we expect to what "could" happen. There are discussions about departments and programs being cut (nothing is certain), the thought is that it doesn't help for that information to go out until there is an actual decision.
 - c. Shared student polling data from ASNMSU 35% of students believe there should be a tuition increase. There are mixed views but there is not 100% in either direction.
 - d. Board of Regents will not be voting on the tuition increase tomorrow.

7. June and July Employee Council Meetings
 - a. Meetings will be held this summer. Adam wants to use this time to update the bylaws. Discussion: Suggested to do a Doodle to see which of the entire membership is available and which meetings will be practical to hold. Asked that a reminder also go out that voting members need to make sure that they send an alternate if they are not going to be in attendance. Current meeting has missing members and not alternates (there is some concern.)

8. Announcements

Moved and passed to have Rene go before announcements.

 - a. Adam involved in strategic planning committee and will be reporting to BOR, plan.nmsu.edu has a draft of new strategic plan, there is a place to contribute comments. They would like comments from everyone.
 - b. transforming.nmsu.edu is a link for the site for Team Six. The Site has updates for what they are doing. Listening to deans about the current statuses of their colleges and what their plans are in the event they need to combine programs, etc..

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- c. Update on Adams trip: Had great conversations with all CC Presidents. There are ways for us to engage the CCs and we could take advantage of. One of those being the CC Roundup because they all attend and would like to have EC representation there. All of the campuses also have their own staff organizations that we would work with.
 - d. Green Dot Training: July 31st – Aug 4th. Training that Laurie Millot talked to us about. Would like someone from EC to attend the training. Anyone interested should contact Adam ASAP so that we can get involved.
9. Rene Yoder – Benefits updates
- a. Cobra?? Did not have to go out to bid this year so current vendors have been kept with current rates for the next four years.
 - b. 1% increase for medical and dental starting in July. Getting ready for open enrollment in the fall.
10. Committee Reports
- Send by Friday, May 12th
11. Adjournment
- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2017.