

NMSU-Grants Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, January 10, 2008

PRESENT:

NMSU-Grants Advisory Board Members:

Members Present: Dion Sandoval, President, Mark Thompson, Vice-President, Sharon MacKendrick, Member, and Earl Chavez, Member. Absent: William Estevan.

Guests: Gloria Chavez, Grants/Cibola Schools Associate Superintendent.

NMSU-Grants Staff:

Felicia Casados, Campus President; Ida Chavez, Campus Finance Officer; Dan Christmann, Facilities Manager, Joshua Sanchez, NMSU/ASG Representative, Irene Lutz, Campus Student Services Officer, Joanna Torrez, Administrative Assistant, and Dr. Harry Sheski, Campus Academic Officer (arrived at 7:25 p.m.).

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Dion Sandoval at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of last formal meeting of October 30, 2007 were reviewed. Motion to approve by Mark Thompson and seconded by Earl Chavez.

3. Introduction and Welcome – Felicia Casados, Campus President.

4. NMSU-Grants Accreditation Overview/Process – Felicia Casados, Campus President.

Felicia Casados discussed the NMSU ten-year cycle accreditation process. She explained that we (NMSU Grants) are under the PEAQ (every ten years accreditation review process) under as part of the overall NMSU Campus accreditation process. After this cycle, we are hoping within a year or two to seek independent accreditation status such as Dona Ana Community College is pursuing this year as they split off from the NMSU process. NMSU Carlsbad and NMSU Alamogordo have in previous years initiated and were approved for independent accreditation apart from NMSU. She also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the PEAQ process versus the AQUIP process. She also stated that each campus of NMSU has a unique mission and focus and different needs which is one reason that it is more relevant for our campus to initiate its own accreditation process apart from NMSU. She explained that the purpose of the accreditation process is to have “a seal of approval” by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, our accrediting body. A campus cannot operate or provide federal financial aid to students without being accredited. President Casados explained that the Grants campus will have a site visit by 2 of the site team members and they will want to meet independent of her with the Advisory Board. At our next quarterly meeting in April, Ms. Casados will let the Advisory Board know the exact date/time scheduled for the accreditation visit and timeframe for them to meet with the Advisory Board.

5. NMSU-Grants Information Updates

- a. Joshua Sanchez, ASG Representative said that various workshops are periodically presented to the students. Some of them are Plagiarism, Service Learning and Campus Safety.
- b. Felicia Casados and Dr. Harry Sheski, Campus Academic Officer discussed dual enrollment and its growth to date.
- c. Dr. Sheski explained that we have three new faculty positions that will be advertised soon that include Criminal Justice, full-time/tenure track; Social Science, half-time; and Computer Technology/Creative Media, half-time. These will be advertised in March for a hire date of fall semester, August 2008.
- d. Irene Lutz, Campus Student Services Officer discussed the return of processing of Financial Aid to our campus and expected timeline. She stated that she and her Student Services staff have been attending training in Las Cruces to be prepared for bringing this function back to our campus to better serve our students.
- e. Ida Chavez gave a brief overview of next year's budget. Basically our campus will get \$40,000 in new money; it will be a flat year. We are also asking the legislature for and additional \$1,000,000.00 for renovations through General Obligation funding.
- f. Dan Christmann discusses the renovations. The McClure building is near completion but we do not have an exact date yet for accepting it. The Fidel Activities Center will take a little longer since we are awaiting the elevators arrival and installation. We do not have an exact date.
- g. Cecilia Stafford, Director of Library Services discussed the upcoming library renovations that are planned as Phase I & II by Fall 2008 with sufficient funding for those combined phases and final Phase III will need to wait until more funding is obtained through the GO Bond cycle.
- h. Felicia Casados informed everyone that Sandee Kosmo, Public Information Officer/Community Services Coordinator has resigned to take a teaching position in Rio Rancho. Her plans are to wait for a year or two to re-hire that position in order to utilize salary savings to build faculty positions. Faculty positions build revenue with student enrollment growth.
- i. There were no action items taken at this Advisory Board meeting.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.