

**New Mexico State University
Administrative Council Minutes
January 13, 2010**

1. Minutes of November 10, 2009

The minutes of November 10, 2009, were approved as distributed.

Old Business

No items.

New Business

2. Naming Request [Nick Franklin]

Nick Franklin said the Naming Committee had approved naming room 330 in the Foreman Engineering Complex the Dr. William C. McCarthy STEM Memorial Laboratory. Ken White said Dr. McCarthy had been a professor of Civil Engineering, Associate Dean and Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and the founder of the Regional Alliance for Science, Engineering and Mathematics for Students with Disabilities Program. Dr. McCarthy was the Principal Investigator on grants from the National Science Foundation totaling \$8.5 million. Dr. McCarthy, who was in a wheelchair, was also instrumental in making the campus accessible to physically-challenged persons and in efforts to achieve ADA compliance. In honor of his many years of service to NMSU and his dedication in assisting and mentoring physically-challenged students, the College of Engineering requested approval of this naming. The Council approved the request as presented.

University-wide Information/Announcements

3. Comments from President Couture

President Couture said she did not have a lot to add to her remarks at yesterday's Convocation. She said we are fortunate to have an excellent staff representing NMSU in Santa Fe for the Legislative Session. One of our challenges will be to present the university appropriately as a land-grant university system and to convince the Legislature that reductions to higher education should not be the means to solve the state's budget problems. She said we will also need to explain our efficiencies and effectiveness in managing our resources.

Regarding the upcoming Board of Regents meeting and Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe events, Dr. Couture asked the Council to use prudent judgment to determine whether they need to be in Santa Fe. She pointed out that if there was not an issue on the Board of Regents agenda that affected a Council member directly, or if members were not participating in related meetings and did not have a specific appointment with a donor or others in Santa Fe, there was no obligation to be there. She said she was not discouraging anyone from helpful contact with those in Santa Fe but wanted everyone to be as prudent as possible with our resources. Dr. Couture invited the Council to send any comments to her about this.

In answer to a question from Dean Lacey about how to maintain enrollment growth while maintaining quality education, Dr. Couture said enrollment growth is necessary for our health. She said she plans to get a better understanding of where we have difficulty fulfilling our obligations as she studies our Living the Vision document and our institutional statistics. She understands we have a moratorium on filling positions and that we need a well-supported faculty to fulfill our obligation to our students. Our academic quality is job number one.

Christina Chavez Kelley said in the last seven months there has been very little communication about reorganizations that have occurred and this has caused some confusion and angst. She said it would improve morale if we regularly provided this type of information. Dr. Couture said she and Maureen Howard have already discussed how to provide meaningful information to the university community on a regular basis. She welcomed suggestions from the Council.

Dean Morehead said previously Ricardo Rel and the president shared information on a regular basis about what was happening during the Legislative Session and that was very helpful. Dr. Couture said she had visited with Ricardo about doing this. She asked the Council to let her know when they are not hearing enough about what is going on.

Dean Titus asked if there had been any discussion about reorganizing higher education similar to Arizona. Dr. Couture said some recommendations may come from a Governor's commission to study efficiency and effectiveness in government that Garrey Carruthers chairs. Jennifer Taylor said the integration at the administrative level of the Public Education Department and the Higher Education Department are being considered, as well as a review of the number of higher ed institutions in the state and the number of school districts.

Updates

4. Interim Executive Vice President/Provost Update [Jay Jordan]

Jay Jordan welcomed everyone and thanked them for their assistance. He said President Couture arrived at a very challenging time with very little opportunity to visit with her administrative staff prior to one of the most difficult Legislative Sessions in recent times starting next week. Dr. Couture thanked Dr. Jordan for taking on this interim assignment.

5. Faculty Senate Update [Chris Erickson]

Chris Erickson said the Faculty Senate passed Proposition 10-09/10 which will allow faculty who are funded externally to earn supplemental income during the summer similar to the way they earn supplemental income during the academic year. The policy has no impact on summer salaries which are still calculated using the same simplified formula.

6. NMSU Employee Council Update [Kelly Brooks]

Kelly Brooks thanked everyone for their support during her term as chair of Employee Council which ends in January. She introduced Roseanne Bensley, new Employee Council chair. Roseanne thanked Kelly for her phenomenal work for the Council, including designing the website and addressing a lot of issues.

7. ASNMSU Update [Travis Dulany]

No report since Travis had to leave the meeting for another commitment.

8. Graduate Student Council Update [Paul Kuhns]

Paul Kuhns said the Graduate Student Council will meet next Tuesday. Their priority will be the Graduate Research and Arts Symposium which, per faculty recommendation, will be held the first week of March. All New Mexico universities will be encouraged to send representatives to the symposium.

9. Athletics Update [Mac Boston]

No report since Mac Boston was out of town.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 8:30 a.m., Corbett Center, Colfax Room #210

Minutes recorded by Barbara Dickenshied.