

New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans  
Minutes of the February 22, 2008 Meeting  
Held at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
Socorro, New Mexico

(Minutes prepared by Debbie Wallace, Administrative Secretary @ NMIMT Graduate Studies)

Present: David B. Johnson, NMT; Linda La Grange, NMHU; Phil Shelley, ENMU; Linda Weems, ENMU; Marcia Bourdette, WNMU; Charles Fleddermann, UNM; Linda Lacey, NMSU; Bill Flores, NM HED

Presenter: Beth Walker, WNMU for the Western Social Work Proposal

*Approval of Minutes:* The Council reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2007 meeting. The meeting began at 11:15 A.M. The minutes from the November 16, 2007 meeting was approved.

*Approval of Agenda:* The council approved the agenda with minor revisions to the order.

*New Business:*

### **HED Presentation on DE Course Articulation**

Dr. Flores described how courses are reviewed and approved through HED. Dr. Flores stated that UG courses are reviewed by HED through CIP codes and that Graduate Programs are approved by HED. He also stated that programs that are approved through the Council of Graduate Deans are then presented to ACHE if there are conflicting concerns. Dr. Flores added that any new programs must be included the Institution's 5-Year Plan. Institutions have until October 2008 to modify their five-year plans. Plans may be reviewed annually. The Board of Finance would then have to make the final approval. Dr. Flores stated that these new programs should be reviewed carefully so that no programs are rejected after review by the Board of Finance. Dr. Flores also stated that proposed programs should show proof of high demand. He said that the Board of Finance will review programs for financial integrity. Dr. Flores stated that his goal was to set some startup funds aside to help with programs that are identified as meeting a critical need.

Flores encouraged Institutions to work together on degrees and to develop articulation agreements. David Johnson brought up a problem that NMT had concerning an UG program that was shared with NMSU. He stated that all tuition and formula funding went to NMSU and that NMT didn't receive any funding from non NMT registrations. He also mentioned that, in some instances, students were required to pay double tuition. Dr. Flores stated that an MOU should be put into place between the two schools so that NMT would receive their portion of the tuition and formula funding. An existing agreement called Reciprocal Registration permits a student to take fewer courses through one university to register for a course at another school. Dr. Flores said he would raise the

question to the task force to see what can be done about working state wide on a common agreement.

Other discussions touched upon increasing the number of graduate assistantships, work study, and the impact of the open meetings act on thesis and dissertation defenses.

### **Review of the NM HED revised Administrative Code:**

Dr. Lacey asked about the existing programs at universities and if the existing programs needed to be re-visited. She also stated that policy changes needed to be started and recommendations for code modifications were needed. Lacey mentioned that the first priority should be the graduate scholarship program stipends. The prior year was spent revising the Administrative code for new degree programs. We need to increase funding to attract high quality students as a top priority for this year.

### **Graduate Scholarship Program Stipend Review:**

Dr. Johnson stated that the New Mexico Graduate Scholarship that is issued to students who are female or ethnic minorities had not been raised for about twenty years. The amount allowed a student for this fellowship is \$7,200.00 for 12 months. He said that at one time receiving this fellowship was a great honor, but the stipend has never been adjusted and is still the same amount after all of those years. He explained how the stipend was given to the student. The student is awarded \$3,600.00 for one semester, which is a one quarter time allowance. Departments awarding Graduate Scholarships are required to issue the student a matching one quarter-time assistantship. Because Scholarship amounts are now funded at amounts below assistantships, departments typically make up the difference between the Scholarship and standard assistantship. After a brief discussion among the council members, Dr. Flores asked Dr. Johnson to write up a formal proposal to address the issue of increasing the scholarship amount and submit the proposal to HED.

*Old Business:*

### **Western Social Work Proposal – Presenter – Beth Walker**

Dr. Walker presented the proposal for a Masters Degree in Social Work to be offered on the Silver City Campus. An addendum to the proposal was provided to the council members. The addendum was a proposal that NMHU offer its MSW program to interested WNMU students at the Silver City campus for a period of time to graduate one cohort. A number of questions in reference to the main body of the proposal were raised and included the following: how many faculty members would be needed, how many students would be expected to enroll, would the NMHU cohort reduce the number of students available to enroll in the WNMU program once it began offering classes, and would the program be financially sustainable? Dr. Walker expressed her concerns and needs for the program and stated that she would like the Council's approval so that she could move forward and move through the additional levels of required approval. After

more lengthy discussion and questions, Dr. Walker was asked to leave the room. Dr. Johnson made a few comments and then moved to approve the proposal, which Dr. Fleddermann seconded. The discussion continued until Dr. La Grange called for a vote. The vote count was six in favor of approving the proposed Master's in Social Work for WNMU. There was one abstention.

*Adjournment:* Dr. Shelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.