



## General Meeting Minutes

2/4/2014

Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
4:00 pm, Senate Gallery Rm. 304

1. Call to order / Welcome
  - a. 4:04 pm
2. Secretary's Report / Approval Of Minutes For the past 2 meetings
  - a. Meeting minutes were approved for both prior general meetings
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. \$13,454, next meeting will be on Feb 12th
4. VP-Activities Report
  - a. Submissions proposal is still open at this time, 36 volunteers at this time and is still open to volunteer, 150 presentations, 3-4 in Spanish, another from UTEP
5. Graduate Senator's Report
  - a. Collin – Senate met last Thursday, New chief Justice, and other will chosen in the fall, finances are good, more money available than at start of last semester, get with senators as quickly as possible to get bill started, may hold financial aid workshop if necessary
6. Guest Speaker:
  - a. Dean Loui Reyes, Graduate School
    - i. Announcements:
      1. First Monday 45 students present – hope is to start interdisciplinary research, required in workplace in this new environment – please attend next meeting – president has applied for a liquor license
      2. Moving toward electronic thesis dissertation – hopefully spring 2015 – will save money, will cost about 95 dollars, if by paper 300-400
      3. Degree certification is now at the graduate school, give Kathy Robertson a call to determine if you are available to graduate
      4. Norma Polivino, advising undeclared students, should not be any undeclared doctoral students, if undeclared master's student cannot apply for financial aid.
      5. Thanks for participation in all of the numerous meetings that have been held, graduate student represent is needed
    - ii. News:

1. How hard is it to be admitted to NMSU – other schools on their admissions letter state how much funding will be available, NMSU does not, want to change this also want to state what financial aid will available to you or that you qualify for
  2. Want to improve recruitment endeavors, most students come to NMSU because of someone they know, want to train all graduate students on how to recruit, also want to train all 1300 graduate faculty
  3. Travel awards are built for scientists that go and present a paper, this is a problem for some students who want to present art or sculpture, is a particular problem for students in fine arts, asking the graduate council to approve some proposals at their next meeting, working to have all graduate students to do international travel for research presentations
  4. You Direct – many students do not see an advisor unless there is a problem, the student will have something like canvas that they will be able to review to see how they are doing, will text advisor to see how they are doing. Will start the You Direct training here shortly and hopefully will have it totally set up by next semester, will be individualized for each doctoral student
  5. Smart Catalog – starting, will be a contract that students will be able to follow and make it easier to follow the rules.
- iii. Questions from members
1. International travel – will be at the top of the list for the graduate council meeting on Thursday – working with homeland security to see if can get international students to do international travel
- iv. Issue
1. 4.0 students being honored as Honor students – problem is the fractional grading system, if get an A- then can't get the honors
    - a. One of the suggestions was a grandfathering system, if prior to implementation of the fractional grading system then should not be an issue
    - b. Graduate students should be under a different system than undergraduate students – it does not fit the graduate system
    - c. An issue is that professors are giving an A- or a B simply because they don't want students to have a 4.0
    - d. Best if we can have policies in place that can protect students from fractional grading.
    - e. Strong indication from the members that fractional grading is not appropriate for graduate students, or that any minus grade should be just the letter grade itself,



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this fractional grading is putting a lot of students on academic probation

- f. Dean Reyes will bring it up to graduate council and state that fractional grading needs to be removed for graduate students
2. Lack of GA positions and funds for research, wants to increase budgets of departments
3. Tuition waiver – believes it is against law to give tuition waivers in NM

### 7. Updates And Announcements:

- a. Meeting to draft letter for library fee
  - i. Did not have a meeting due to time constraints – if interested in being on committee to draft this letter, come talk to Romina, will meet in the next few days, and will present the letter at next meeting.
- b. Commencement Ceremony Change Proposal
  - i. Could potentially affect students later than this semester
  - ii. Will directly affect this semester, one of the issues is the length
    1. 3 options
      - a. Doctoral candidates to get the hooding ceremony at college level
      - b. Will have a separate ceremony for graduate students
      - c. A split ceremony one in the morning and one later in day like they have in the spring semester
      - d. At present leaning toward option 2 – most everyone agreed with option 2, one vote for the split ceremony

### 8. Open Forum

- a. Nothing

### 9. Adjournment – 5:02 pm