

NMSU Interfaith Council - Feb 5, 2015

1. Members Present: Scott Bird, Sal Melendrez, Jim Lehman, Larry Karol, Bruce , Lance Renfro, Cassie Calway, Xavier Torres, Jared Carson.

Rabbi Larry Karol called to Order at 8:20am

Xavier Torres led the opening prayer

Motion to accept Jim L., second Scott B., Motion approved and December Minutes accepted

Treasurers Report -

Currently we have balance \$2054.01

Rabbi Karol read a letter from Sabine from the Pagan Student Union which said she would not be continuing this year with the Interfaith Council with no students in the group and due to her schedule.

Bruce Vandevender shared a list of campus events.

NMSU will make up the difference for 2000 students for the lottery scholarship.

Regents approved a land-lease by the convention center for a possible third party contractor to put a hotel on campus.

Academic calendar - exams May 4-8

Spring break - March 23-27

May 9 Commencements - perhaps

Father Ray Flores from Newman

Pastor Susan Redfern Campbell

2015 legislative priorities for NMSU [govrelations.nmsu.edu](http://govrelations.nmsu.edu)

Big Events Community cleanup project - March 14 (Saturday) - for any individual or student organization that wants to take part.

Concerts - at Pan Am - 2 Cellos March 4

Brad Paisley March 6

Final home conf game March 7 - Pack the Pan-Am

Campus Activities office moved - to the first floor on the west end - where the old book store was. Activities lounge in front part - office in back of that lounge. 19 work stations for student organizations that don't have an office of their own.

106 lockers that will be rented out to commuter students, with 19 for those using work stations.

Crew brought in a speaker with some push-back from Sexual etc. resource center. Event was peaceful. Crew tried to reach out to those groups to say they weren't trying to offend but wanted to present their group. Sexual and Gender Resource Center and Stonewall asked for a review of

the process of scheduling the speaker. Flyers were posted from both sides with "to the point" messages. Aggies for Feminism and Aggies for Solidarity are spearheading a response.

Sal asked about Spirituality Center availability - Conference services is supposed to be booking. Bruce hasn't heard yet about specifics on reserving. Will there be charges for use of the building? Will it be open? Sal was told that you couldn't reserve it for a regular meeting in case there were events scheduled there or if alums or donors. Cassie said it was open when she was there on a weeknight. Sal will continue to ask. Bruce recommended that we contact President Carruthers that we are having difficulty in using the Spiritual Center.

Banners in Corbett - Xavier submitted banners and has not heard back. They are usually approved at the end of the day. Other groups have had their banners put up readily. Xavier wondered why each of our groups doesn't have a banner. Crew has two banners and Christian Challenge has two up. The banners have the name of the group and the time they meet. Xavier asked for guidelines on the banner. Bruce will pass along the feedback.

With regards to the Spiritual Center dedication, it seems contradictory that the commencement would require inclusive prayers but not the Spiritual Center dedication. We are wondering if it is still policy of the university to have inclusive prayer at public events at NMSU. Rabbi Karol will compose a letter regarding the prayer.

We continued with group and personal updates. Sal noted that the birth of their new son is approaching. Newman Center will be doing lunch for a cause soon - they are trying to put forth a consistent ethic of life. They will be looking at poverty issues in the area and visit low-income rest homes.

Jim will be at a national gathering of Franciscans in Albuquerque. Rabbi Karol noted that there will be CD release event for his new album on February 7 and that his son Adam will be married in Garrison, NY on February 21.

Cassie noted there is a new board of trustees at the UU Church - she is the new vice-president. The UU congregation is doing a chili dinner at Camp Hope on February 7 at 4-7 pm.

Xavier noted that Shrove Tuesday February 17 -pancake day at Wesley - fundraiser. 5-7pm.

Dialogue Program - the more successful ones were run more by students than by the Interfaith Council. The typical rooms that we have used are not available. We need least 3 months to plan it so it might not work. Rabbi Karol will see what we can generate in the greater community that could include NMSU students as well. Perhaps we could partner with CAFe and Peace Village to have a program and create opportunities for students to learn about what they can do in the community. Cassie said she could help organize such an event. She wondered if Nicole from Community of Hope might take part as well. This could be a program at which groups could tell about what they do. Aggie Cupboard could be involved and other NMSU groups.

Jared Carson offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.