

Minutes – NMSU Interfaith Council meeting on November 6, 2014.

Sal offered the opening the prayer

Rabbi Larry – Temple Beth-El/Hillel  
Jim Lehman - Holy Family  
Lance Renfro - Living Hope  
Claire Montoya - NMSU Financial Aid  
Bruce Vandevender - NMSU  
Jared Carson - Lutheran Campus Ministry  
Sal Melendres - Newman Center  
Julie Woody Unitarian Universalist  
Xavier Torres - Welsey Foundation  
Beatriz Ferreira - Baha'i Faith

Treasurer's report - \$1834.01

Muslim, Buddhist and RUF are groups that have been involved before that we should contact to see if they want to continue. CREW is considering returning. We have not heard from the Society of Friends this year.

Those present spent a moment talking about their own lives and pursuits.

Campus events - Bruce Vandevender

Claire Montoya  
Financial Aid Office

- Students are cautioned about taking out loans, but NMSU Financial Aid cannot refuse to give a student a loan.
- Students are given information about the salary they might have in their chosen field and how that would impact paying back loans. They can also estimate what their loans might cost.
- Subsidized loans - Government pays interest while student is in school. They are offered in a case of need.
- Unsubsidized loans, where interest compounds while the student is in school, are available to anyone.
- Students going part-time can receive loans.
- Default rates are normally calculated on a 3 year basis - we are high but not the highest - almost at 20%.
- Students don't have to disclose other loans they are carrying. Lifetime limit for loans \$31,000. Dependent undergrad. Independent Undergraduate - \$57,000. Graduate - \$138,000.
- Wages can be garnished for students who defaulted on loans.
- Just a small percentage of students take with no intention to pay back. Others take out the loans without a good handle on budgeting.
- Parents have expectation that part of the financial aid money is theirs.
- Paying back loans takes a sense of delayed gratification.
- Work study is need based and non-need based. Need based is automatically offered work study. The student needs to take responsibility, especially if they are not automatically rewarded. The student has to find a job himself/herself. There is a list of jobs offered. Students spend money from work/study on living expenses. Usually it is 15 hours a week at minimum wage. A student cannot work over the allotted amount. An award is a maximum. Some jobs go over minimum wage.

- There is knowledge about what types of students are defaulting. Usually, this would be students who drop out or have low GPAs.
- In many cases, students are not paying back their small loans (less than \$10k).
- Some defaults come from the branch campuses.
- Faith communities can help by referring students in financial trouble to Financial Aid. NMSU Red to Green Money Management can help.

Bruce - the Spiritual Center is coming up! It can seat 120 in the main area. Occupancy should happen soon.  
It is likely that Conference services will be managing the facility.  
Bruce's office will be moved over the next couple of weeks.  
Exams are coming up in December.

#### New Business

Group updates -

Hillel Student Fellowship - Film at Temple on November 16.

Holy Family - nothing new!

Unitarian - Julie will no longer be president as of end of December - elections in December.

Wesley - Annual Fundraiser on Saturday at Red Hawk Golf course and a tailgate before the Homecoming game.

Living Hope - moving forward!

Newman - Lunch bunch for a cause -11/17 - Aggie Cupboard. Took part in program to buy a shirt which buys a meal for someone in need. They pack the food along with a fraternity.

Lutheran Student Fellowship - CROP Walk on 11/22 - meeting behind Schlotzky's - starts at 10am. 25% of the funds raised stay local.

Dialogue Program - will be spring. Will discuss more in December!!!!

Finals week granola bars - Dec. 8-12. Will put stickers on and prepare at our Dec. meeting.

Lance will buy the bars - Rabbi will do a new sticker!!!

Jared can do Monday December 8. He suggested getting a donation of bars from Albertson's.

Jared will check.

Rabbi Karol delivered the closing prayer, the Prayer for our Country from Mishkan T'filah (A Tabernacle of Prayer).

Next meeting at Temple Beth-El, 3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue on December 4 at 8:00 am.