

# Inter-Faith Council Meeting May 7, 2015

Opening Prayer: Larry Karol

Approval of April 2015 Minutes

## PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

Present: Josh Graves, Lance Renfro, Bruce Vandevender, Jared Carson, Kendra Hernandez (Lutheran Campus Ministry), Jim Lehman, Provost Dan Howard, Larry Karol, Xavier Torres, David Hansen, Scott Bird

Provost Dan Howard's address: invited IFC members to participate in student training sessions (in late June) to assist students with suicidal intentions, etc. Questions asked: are you seeing more students in distress? What part do you play in assisting students?

What NMSU is doing to help students: paying more attention to students in their first year by changing the way NMSU advises students. NMSU will hire 3 full time and 11 graduate students who will advise only first year NMSU students. Advisors contact first year students regularly. Teachers are asked to post grades 6 weeks into the semester in order to find those students who are struggling and need help. The faculty is responding.

Why is enrollment down at NMSU? There are 700 fewer students entering in 2014-15 verses 2010. 22% more in state applicants this year, however, there will continue to be declining enrollment at NMSU due to the high enrollment over 2010-2012 recession. Brookings Institute Report ranked NMSU 89<sup>th</sup> (in Chronicles of Higher Education) in institutions within the US (600+ colleges and Universities). NMSU ranked higher than other peer universities (UTEP, U of A, U of C, USU, etc.).

In an effort to assist students, connect students with religious affiliate to offer spiritual support.

Spiritual Center: Could we change the way the building is scheduled in order to create more consistency for religious groups meeting there each week.

Concerns shared with Provost Howard: none.

For any question or concerns contact Provost Daniel Howard, direct #: 575-202-9763.

## OLD BUSINESS

-April 25<sup>th</sup> Freshman Orientation- no table was prepared.

-Jim: IFC Balance \$2087.45.

-Radwan needs to contact Jim Ficklin for contact information.

-Larry will finish the letter to NMSU and deliver it.

-Xavier would like to be placed on the NMSU mailing list.

-David Hansen- Rachael Wilbur will be the new representative for Religious Society of Friends. Announced a religious leaders meeting that will address the issue of moral injury/soul repair impacting

military suicidal rates at the First Christian Church, Sunday, May 10 at 2pm. For more information contact David Hansen: [dehansen@nmsu.edu](mailto:dehansen@nmsu.edu).

-Peace Camp: July 13-17, 20-24 at the First Christian Church, still looking for camp advisors.

### **NEW BUISNESS**

-Larry passed the gavel to Jared. Welcome to the "hot seat" Jared☺