PROPOSITION 04-06/07 (Rev)

Date:  September 7, 2006.

Proposition:  04-06/07

Sponsors:  Mark Andersen (CAHE), Tracy Sterling (CAHE), Chris Brown (A&S), Jon Holtzman (A&S), Wanda Eastman (CAHE)

Proposed Committee Assignment:  Emergency Legislation

Actual Committee Assignment:

Title:  Memorial Requesting Inclusion of University Community in the Discussion and Evaluation of the Possible Conversion of Arable Agriculture Land on Campus for a Proposed City Convention Center As Well As Any Future Plans for this Land.

Whereas:  This memorial concerns the west NMSU campus location (south of University Ave. and west of El Paseo/Union) selected by the City of Las Cruces Council on July 17, 2006 for the convention center.  This memorial does not make a case either for or against the development of a convention center.

Whereas:  The west end convention center site selected by the City of Las Cruces Council is irrigable, arable farmland.  Other campus sites appropriate for a convention center and which are not farmland exist.

Whereas:  The NMSU Board of Regents is scheduled to consider approval of further discussion between the City and the university staffs regarding this site and could possibly determine the future use of these land resources at their Sept. 8, 2006 meeting.

Whereas:  The paving of arable agriculture land on NMSU's main campus is irrevocable and affects both present and future generations.

Whereas:  The university community has not had adequate time to discuss, evaluate, and plan for the long term allocation of its irrigable, agricultural land resources.

Whereas:  More than 800 people have signed a petition objecting to the west end campus site for the City Convention Center and have requested working together with all stakeholders to select another location.

Therefore:  Be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate requests that all interested parties in the university community have a chance to discuss and evaluate any proposed conversion of arable, agriculture land on campus.  Further, that the university community participates in the transparent and open process to determine how arable and irrigable agricultural land on campus shall be used. Interested parties can include the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, ASNMSU and CAHE faculty and staff.