

CURRICULUM & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

MEMBERS

Susan Beck, Chair
Azadeh Onsaloo
Michaela Buenemann
Mary Lamonica
Jeanne Flora
Don Edgar
Lori Saiki
Tawney Aguirre
Willis Fedio

FUNCTION/PURPOSE

- Recommend curricula and degrees for approval through University Program Approval Committee (UPAC)
- Review and recommend policies related to academic issues on teaching
- Liaise with the university on optimizing the effectiveness of online instruction
- Liaise with the Vice Provost for digital learning initiatives

MEETING NOTES

- **September**

Reviewed Proposition 01-2021/22, A Proposal to Amend Administration Policy Rule 4.61 Transfer Credit for Prior Learning and recommended do pass.

- **October**

Committee did not meet

- **November**

Susan Beck was elected chair to replace Paul Anderson who has resigned his Senate position.

Committee members volunteered to represent two committees a. General Education Course Certification Committee – Patty Montoya, DACC b. IT Strategic Planning Steering Committee— Don Edgar, ACES

University Program Approval Committee (UPAC) update Susan gave a brief overview of the committee's focus and a short history of how UPAC came into existence. See 03-20/21: Senate Bill Proposing Improvements to NMSU's Curriculum Approval Process As a new committee, it is developing processes as it reviews new programs, concentrations. Per ARP 4.81, the committee approves all of the following for the Las Cruces Campus: --Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees and Majors --Master's and Doctoral Degrees and Majors --Supplemental Majors --Minors --

Concentrations --Graduate Certificate Program For curriculum changes on the Las Cruces campus, UPAC approves: --Minors --Concentrations --Graduate Certificates At the Community Colleges, UPAC approves: --Associate Degrees and Majors Curriculum changes at the Community Colleges are totally under the purview of Community College faculty, department heads, curriculum committees, deans, and academic VPs. UPAC recently approved concentrations in the following degree programs: --Data Analytics (Digital Agriculture) - Master of Data Analytics (online) --Marketing (Advertising) – Bachelor of Business Administration --Marketing (Professional Selling) – Bachelor of Business Administration --Marketing (Strategic Marketing) – Bachelor of Business Administration --Agricultural and Extension Education (Agricultural Communication/Community Development) – Bachelor of Science in Agriculture --Agricultural and Extension Education (Agricultural Strategic Communications) – Master of Arts (online) -- Nursing Practice (Nursing Anesthesiology) – Doctor of Nursing Practice --Economics (Energy Economic) – Bachelor of Business Administration

Committee reporting process, internal and external a. Committee liaisons (GECCC, UPAC, IT) submit their monthly reports to Committee Chair b. Committee chair combines all reports and submits these in monthly report to Faculty Senate Chair and Recording Secretary to be posted at Faculty Senate Documents <https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/2021-2022-faculty-senatedocuments/> c. Committee Chair gives oral report at both Senate Leadership Committee and Faculty Senate monthly meetings

- **December**

The committee had no pending legislation to discuss and committee member attendance was slim.

Faculty Senate Chair Parra has requested that the C&P committee past review fractional grading (FG) concerns and investigate FG as to how it relates to multi-section courses. Many, if not most of these multi-section courses, are general education courses.

Faculty Senate last tackled the fractional grading issue back in 2019-20 based on proposition from 2018-19 that asked Faculty Senate to study the matter. The 2019-20 proposition requested Faculty Senate conduct a survey. It was inconclusive. And the response rate from the companion ASNMSU survey on fractional grading was so low as to be unusable.

David Smith, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, will use updated Cognos tools to ascertain which courses have multiple sections and will investigate which course sections use different grading frameworks. He will be invited to the Committee's January 13th

Because committee attendance was so minimal, fractional grading and all its respective background legislation and data will be taken up by the Committee in Spring, 2022.

- **January**

The committee briefly reviewed fractional grading background and documents (see below)

Fractional grading in multi-section and/or GE courses – David Smith, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, walked the committee through analysis from the past two years of fractional grading (FG) in multi-section, Las Cruces campus courses, many of which are lower

level, general education (GE) courses. Almost half of these GE courses have “mixed” grading, with some sections using FG and some not. For example, English 111, now ENGL 1110, is problematic as well as several 200 level courses with a somewhat to even number of sections with and without FG that affect many students. Equity is an issue. Other pain points are possible loss of scholarships although we haven’t current documentation for this. Nor has the committee been notified of current concerns expressed by student government. A recommendation was made to investigate if and how UNM is handling FG.

The way forward—The committee recommends a short report provided to both Faculty Senate, ADAC, and the Provost’s office recommending that academic departments make an effort to standardize FG within their multi-section courses. The committee will assemble the documentation in hand and create such a report.

Fractional Grading documents

Proposition 15-18/19: Proposal to Change the NMSU Grading System by Removing Point Value from Plus/Minus Grades (<https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/propositions/2018-2019/15-18-19/>)

Proposition 09-19/20: A Proposal to Implement a Uniform Grading Framework Across the NMSU System (<https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/propositions/2019-2020-2/09-19-20/>)

Fractional Grading Update

(https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/10/2020/02/FS_FractionalGradingUpdateSpring2020D.pdf)

- **February**

The Curriculum and Programming Committee meeting was cancelled so that committee members might use that time period (4:00-5:00 pm) to submit their assessments of the Interim Provost candidates. Three candidates interviewed on February 10, 2022. Chancellor Arvizu requested that responses be submitted by 5:00 pm that day.

- **March**

The committee heard from the Geography and the Plant and Environmental Sciences departments in support of and opposition to Proposition 08-21/22 Proposal for name change of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (see <https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/2021-2022/08-21-22/>). After hearing many arguments, the committee voted to request an extension on voting on the proposition for another month. The proposition will be voted on at the April 14th meeting.

- **April**

Proposition 08-21/22 Proposal for name change of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (see <https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/2021-2022/08-21-22/>) Chris Brown introduced the proposition and noted that both departments had met to discuss the name change. He noted that both departments agreed to allow the Faculty Senate to move the proposition forward. The

committee voted unanimously “do pass” to move Proposition 08-21/22 to full Faculty Senate vote.

End of year report—what worked, what didn’t? How do we better align with University? Are there committees where C&P should have a presence? A slow start in Fall semester hobbled the committee somewhat as its first full meeting was not until November. Also, the committee had only one or two propositions assigned to it this year. As for committee involvement, C&P should retain members in the General Education Course Certification Committee and the University Program Approvals Committee. Vice-Chair Bronstein noted that NMSU has received a grant from the Association for Undergraduate Education and Research Universities for a three-year Curricular Analytics project that looks to reduce curricular complexity and increase the time to graduation. Associate Provost David Smith leads the project. The committee should invite Smith to present at a C&P meeting next year.