

**NMSU SCHOLASTIC AFFAIRS
2019-20 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
Submitted MAY 5 2020 by COMMITTEE CHAIR NICHOLE HAMILTON**

- **Met Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 4pm in Domenici Hall Room 102**
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Assigned legislation:

<u>01-19/20</u>	Elementary Education Alternative Licensure (Graduate Certificate)
<u>02-19/20</u>	Secondary Education Alternative Licensure (Graduate Certificate)
<u>03-19/20</u>	Special Education Alternative Licensure (Graduate Certificate)
<u>04-19/20</u>	Early Childhood Education Alternative Licensure (Graduate Certificate)

The committee reviewed and recommended DO PASS with amendments on all legislation. The report was accepted by the senate and APPROVED by the Faculty Senate on October 3, 2019.

- **October: No legislation/ Did not meet October 15, 2019**
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- **Met November 19, 2019 at 4pm in Domenici Hall Room 102**
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Assigned Legislation:

<u>06-19/20</u>	Memorial to Support NMSU's Land Acknowledgement Statement
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· Becky Corran updated us that President Flores has received much feedback from the university and has agreed that the Memorial is in need of revisions. The committee decided rather than tabling the review, to continue with meeting and discussion on how to proceed with revisions.

· Committee reviewed Dr. Pepion's suggestions in regards to revisions and suggested revision: (added revision post meeting is highlighted in yellow).

New Mexico State University acknowledges the sovereign Indian Nations and Native American communities of New Mexico. The Pueblo, Dine (Navajo), and Apache were the original possessors of the lands now occupied by New Mexico State University. As New Mexico's Land-Grant University, we accept Native Americans as our predecessors' and neighbors. We pledge to have a meaningful and respectful relationship with the sovereign Indian Nations and tribal communities.

· The committee agreed that the language Dr. Pepion chose was more concise in our attempts to acknowledge and honor the land and peoples before NMSU and those that still reside in and around campus in contrast to the broader scope of the original draft. In addition, we found the

use of words such as acknowledge, accept, and pledge to be active choices with intent for future developing and fostering our relationships.

· More discussion was addressed in how the memorial would be used, how we may address items we felt needed to be included in order to fulfill that pledge as well as how to address tribes that were not listed in Dr. Pepion's draft. The following is a list of items we as a committee have proposed for consideration to add to the memorial

1. Find use of the phrase "committed to" in order to further our wants in making this a call to action.
 2. Include all tribes.
 3. Include a statement ("living document") that will allow us to make any amendments, particularly to include more tribes as they and their history here are made known to us.
 4. Include a statement that provides details on how we think this memorial should be used (placement in buildings for visitors to read, announced at events such as commencement, etc.)
 5. Use more "Land Grant" language such as serving institution and language that will further promote this as a call to action to serve our community and the Indigenous persons we speak of.
- **The committee voted all in favor of seeking a one-month extension** from the senate to further the discussion and draft revisions that can be voted on for senate recommendation.
- We wished to invite more representation into this discussion by attending the next meeting or through email exchange if unavailable to attend.

Met Tuesday, December 10, 4pm in Goddard Hall 200 to further discuss amendments to the Land Acknowledgement Statement (see below).

Amended Proposal:

Whereas, NMSU is committed to establishing a Land Acknowledgement Statement, and

Whereas, decolonization is an ongoing process and NMSU recognizes this memorial as a living document that may be amended in the future in order to add our recognition of tribes and seek guidance to repair relationships with Native communities and the land, and

Whereas, in committing to the process of decolonization, we urge the NMSU system to expand support for Indigenous students, staff and faculty through sustained investment in academic programs and student services for Native Americans, as well as authentic participation in decision-making processes, and

Therefore, on this 6th day of February, 2020, the NMSU Faculty Senate formally requests that NMSU post this memorial with the following Land Acknowledgement Statement on the About

Us and History pages on the NMSU website, posted at Corbett Center, and that the Land Acknowledgement Statement is read aloud before special events such as Commencement, Indigenous Peoples Day, athletic and artistic events.

New Mexico State University honors Native American knowledges and worldviews based on intimate relationships to the natural world. The genesis of the Southwest Indigenous Peoples, including the Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache, established their guardianship of the lands now occupied by New Mexico State University. As the state's Land-Grant University, we acknowledge and respect the sovereign Indian

Nations and Indigenous Peoples. We pledge to have a meaningful and respectful relationship with the sovereign Indian Nations, Indigenous communities, and Native American Peoples within the institution.

Rationale: A Land Acknowledgement Statement is a formal statement that recognizes the significance of Indigenous Peoples to their campus communities. These statements are often part of formal university events, and many universities have adopted statements in recent years.

At the Faculty Senate meeting **January 16, 2020, the Scholastic Affairs committee was to meet before full senate** and vote on recommendation. Quorum was not met and the report was rejected by the senate, moved to unfinished business, and then opened for discussion on the senate floor. After lengthy arguments for the statement and those opposing, the senate approved the memorial as APPROVED AS AMENDED.

- **February: No legislation/ Did not meet February 18, 2020**
 - **March: No legislation/ Did not meet March 17, 2020**
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Met April 21, 2020 4pm through Zoom.

Assigned legislation:

09-19/20

A Proposal to Implement a Uniform Grading Framework Across the NMSU System

· Becky Corran (co-sponsor) introduced and discussed Proposition 09-19/20: A Proposal to Implement a Uniform Grading Framework Across the NMSU System.

A motion for DO PASS was moved and seconded.

· Discussion was opened to the committee members, many in favor of fractional grading. Guests requesting to attend were allowed to present arguments including ASNMSU representative Salma Lopez. There was a robust discussion including arguments for whole grades, those in favor of fractional grading, a desire for more data and polling from both students and faculty, and ideas for grading to be decided among the departments.

The vote totals for DO PASS were as follows YES: 4, NO: 8, ABSTAIN: 3

A new motion for DO NOT PASS was moved and seconded.

· The floor was opened for discussion

The vote totals for DO NOT PASS were as follows YES: 6, NO: 3, ABSTAIN: 6

· **The report will be given to the Faculty senate on May 7, 2020.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:26pm