

DEI Committee of the Faculty Senate, 3/20/2024

The meeting started at 4pm. Present: Romero, Pedraza, Ramos, Bond, Bronstein, Olivas

The committee discussed briefly the confusion over where grad students' tuition credits were supposed to come from, according to the collective bargaining agreement. The graduate school is sending out conflicting information, but in at least one department, the tuition credits are being billed to the department rather than coming from Central or from the Grad School. I forwarded this concern to FSLC at the end of the meeting.

For the rest of the meeting we workshopped a draft of Sen Pedraza's proposition to lengthen contracts of temporary part-time faculty to enable them to serve as lead PIs on grants. When the meeting was over I submitted the proposition to Faculty Senate Leadership.

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Jamie Bronstein

Diversity Council – Meeting Minutes

Date: April 3, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Hadley Hall, Conference Room 130/Zoom

Minutes

Announcements:

Dr. Scholz announced that Dr. Sophia Sangwanthong will be sending out a flyer regarding upcoming events surrounding the Asian Pacific Islander Program (Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islanders). Please keep an eye out for the flyer and plan to attend the upcoming events.

It was announced on KTSM that Denise Rodriguez-Strawn was a finalist for the 2024 Remarkable Women. (<https://www.ktsm.com/remarkable-women-2024/>) Dr. Rodriguez-Strawn was recognized for her advocacy work. She is the first Latina of New Mexico recognized for this award. Congratulations Denise!

Carlos Posadas announced that he is new to Diversity Council as a representative from NMSU's Employee Council.

J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium titled: Transformative Leadership: Women, Gender Diversity, and Social Justice. Scheduled for April 10, 2024.

Check-in: Leadership Changes

Diversity Council is an opportunity and safe space for members to express their reactions, both positive and negative, responses to the shift in administration. Below is a summary of the comments shared during the meeting:

- Social Media is reflecting a lot of positive posts and congratulations for Dr. Monica Torres' appointment as NMSU's Interim President.
- There are comments and support for Dr. Torres to be appointed as NMSU's permanent President.
- Hoping for the new Presidential search has a positive outcome.
- Dr. Torres and Interim Provost Reddi are both very supportive of DEI work.
- Supportive of Dr. Torres' appointment of Interim President; however, concerned with the potential impact it may cause DACC and the other Community Colleges once she leaves.
- Dr. Torres' appointment will be a loss to the DACC community.
- There is concern with the reconstructed search committee for the Presidential search.
- There is a concern with the "lack" of faculty representation. It seems to be "unbalanced".

- Ammu Devasthali shared that the search committee will be smaller and “nimble”. There will be a representative from faculty, staff, student and from within the community. Need to make a call to our community for support.
- The following question was raised: Can someone serving in an interim role have the ability to apply for the posted position? It is the understanding that they cannot; however, it was unclear. Planning to ask the question to HRS.
- It was shared, but not confirmed, that Dr. Torres was not interested in the permanent position.
- Interim President Torres and Interim Provost Reddi both have several years of service to NMSU, they both have the best interest of NMSU. Although in interim positions they come with the stability to continue to do great things.

There are a lot of conversations taking place, specifically internal conversations that we are not privy to. This includes a lot of complex discussions, behind the scenes, when it came to failing the previous search and also the discussions to start the new search and create the new search committee.

The Board of Regents have conveyed based on their decisions that they are really looking for someone who is strong to represent NMSU. They have a bigger picture in mind and we are looking forward to a positive outcome. We are looking to move forward with this new search and continue to do great things as a committee.

Provost Shoho announced that he has chosen to retire. It is unknown as to his reasoning. However, we are inviting everyone to reframe and move forward in a positive light. See this as an opportunity for the new President to hire a new Provost.

The following question was asked: Will the search for a Deputy Provost continue to move forward or will it be put on hold? It was unclear, will need to follow-up on this.

Interim Provost Reddi has jumped right in. He will continue to take action where needed. Interim Provost Reddi will continue with:

- Monday Morning Messages, a condensed version. His message is “We Are NMSU”.
- NMSU Operational Meetings
- Moving forward with needed actions.
- Will be located in Guthrie Hall.

Update on AVP of Diversity Initiatives—a tentative agenda for finalists and Diversity Council's role

- Semi-finalist interviews will be concluded this week.
- Should have the names of three to four finalists by Friday, April 5th.
- Diversity Council will be part of interview process.
- Dr. Scholz has a tentative agenda for finalist interviews, Spri will be sharing the agenda once the finalists are selected. It was announced:

- EID Directors will meet with finalists.
- Diversity Council members will have lunch with finalists.
- Open Forum will be held.
- Interview with Search Committee.
- Interview with Dr. Scholz and Spri.