

Faculty Senate Chair Report for 12 January 2017 Senate Meeting
Submitted 1.11.17 by Senate Chair Christopher Brown

- **AAG Meeting** – AAG again did NOT meet this month, and the only item to come our way via EMAIL was a most pleasant surprise, an Admin item that seeks to set a new pay scale for faculty promotions. Here are key points that are proposed:
 - Instructors to Assistant Professors will see a 7% increase of the mean salary of the new rank into which they move,
 - Assistant Professors to Associate Professors will see a 7% increase of the mean salary of the new rank into which they move, and
 - Associate Professors to Professors will see an 11% increase of the mean salary of the new rank into which they move.
 - This is a major change and improvement from past practice, coming close to doubling the increase that faculty will see, and I made a special effort to thank the Chancellor and Provost for this suggested policy change.
- **UAC meeting** – Information items on compliance training and NMSU core values were handled, and Central thanks staff and faculty for compliance and input. University Boards (the Senate is considered one) are to file annual reports for PoR of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, no later than 1.30.17. Thanks to Stuart Munson McGee for agreeing to help with the Senate report. Old business on credit card compliance practices was passed unanimously, and new business on the faculty compensation discussed above was introduced as new business. If Senators have opportunities to interact with Deans, Associate Deans, VPs, The Provost, or The Chancellor this month (they all vote on this next month), I ask that you thank them in advance for their support of this measure. Provost Howard shared a PPT presentation on the upcoming accreditation process, noting how critical it is for us to execute this well. I ask all faculty that are asked to help with this process to do so and put the energy and effort needed into the process.
- **ADC meeting** – Given this meeting occurred on 12.20.16, right before break, the meeting had limited items on the agenda. Changes to the Surveying Engineering Program were discussed (no action taken), as was the move of CMI to 120 SCHs for degree (CMI faculty voted to do so). Regular reports were given by me (Senate), Bernadette Montoya (Enrollment and Retention), Kathy Brook (ADAC), and Shelly Stoval (HLC Update). Provost Howard shared comments on experiential learning, centralized advising, and summer research teams for HSIs, and the meeting ended early.
- **Regents meeting** – The last Regents meeting was held on 12.9.16. Certificates and awards were given to Kevin Boberg (for his work on the Domenici Scholars Program), Anna Price (Above and Beyond Award), and Bob Nosbisch (Above and Beyond Award). Regent Policy 6.00 that is part of the process of revising the Regents Policy Manual and the APR that the Senate passed last meeting, was passed as part of the Consent Agenda. This is key to our efforts to revise the Policy Manual and ARP and to streamline the manner by which Central and the Regents provide needed guidance on how NMSU functions. Formal approval was provided for Regents' Financial Strategies, Campus Housing Plan, sale of property, and revision of the Six Pillars of Vision 2020. The last item deals with the Regents directive that all classes at NMSU include an experiential learning component, and the Regents will be engaging the faculty through meetings with Senators and faculty in

the coming months. Regents Lopez Askins and Cheney whose terms are ending were acknowledged for their service and thanked. Provost Howard closed the meeting with a presentation on the upcoming accreditation process, noting how critical it is for us to execute well; this was very similar to the one he gave at UAC.

- **Other issues in the works** - Owing to discussions with the Provost and his staff, we can expect continued discussion and action on the following issues, all of which will require active faculty input.
 - **Centralized Academic Advising** - This idea came out of the presentations that Tim Rennick from Georgia State made at NMSU in the last 6 months, and The Provost is actively advancing a model of campus-wide centralized u/g advising. A Task Force (TF) has been formed, and I have insured that adequate faculty representation is on the TF to insure our views are part of the discussion.
 - **Experiential Learning** - As noted in the report on the Regents Meeting, the Regents Student Success Committee has supported changes to Vision 2020 that will mandate that all students participate in an on or off campus experiential learning exercise. Discussions are in the earliest of stages, and we can expect much discussion and action on this in Spring Term.
 - **General Education Revisions (GE)** - A Provost's Office GE TF has met for the last 11 months, and both they and the statewide TF are moving towards finalizing a draft of the changes that will be advanced. Draft documents have been sent out by The Provost, and I invite faculty and Senators to share their views with the TF members and Provost Howard on the changes proposed.
- **Senate Chair Office Hours** - I will continue to hold Senate Chair office hours in my office (Breland 149) this term, but I cannot set these until I resolve a classroom conflict on one of my labs. As was the case last term, I invite people to take advantage of this opportunity to share your concerns with me, and I am also willing to meet at other times, or in your offices/labs if you are not able to make these hours.

Thanks for your interest in this report. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at brownchr@nmsu.edu.