

Access, Opportunity and Outreach Committee Annual Report 2025 – 2026

Members

Kim Lopez-Gallagher, Chair, Jamie Bronstein, Veronica Murga, Wiley Stem, Ihuiyolitzin Villicana Pedraza, Susana Ibarra Johnson, Justin Klockslem, Elizabeth Hetrick, Jason Bengtson, Roxanne Schumacher, Maria de Boyrie

Function/Purpose

- Recommend standards for the evaluation of teaching, and standards regarding promotion and tenure.
- Liaise on matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion with the Vice President for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity.
- Liaise across the university system on matters of staff training and education; to assist with building a robust university system.

Legislation originating in the AOO Committee

- 02-25/26: Proposed Name Change to Faculty Senate Standing Committee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- 06-25/26: Supporting CNM and UNM Joint Resolution Against the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education
- 11-25/26: Request to Central Administration to provide resources to part time faculty.

Meeting Notes

September 2025

- Our Committee met on 9/17/25 at 4:00 pm in Hadley Hall room 127 and via zoom.
- We had a student guest from the Alamo campus
- Senator Kim Lopez-Gallagher requested we add discussion of the Disability Access Services (DAS) Flex program to our agenda. The guest speaker was a student who utilizes the services of DAS.
- Apparently, it was shared that there are some concerns involving communication responses (through an automated portal) and timeliness. It was shared that 2 extensions of completion of assignments are typically granted as a standard for each semester. Additional extensions are reviewed and granted on a case-by-case basis. When a student goes to the portal to request an extension, they must list the purpose of the request for extension. The decision is then emailed to student and instructor, where they can see purpose. What if student has to disclose a panic attack as reason-should all see that? Senator Kopera-Frye suggested that Senator Lopez-Gallagher and she meet with Dr. Trujillo, Director, DAS, and then invite her to a subsequent DEI meeting.
- Information on free registration for Imagining America was shared
- Issue of name change was noted to be brought up at next FSLC meeting
- First meeting of Task force on Inclusive Practices at a Land Grant University was to be held after this first DEI meeting. Focus of group on restructuring EID Office

October 2025 – No report

November 2025 – No report

December 2025

- Notes from FS Access, Opportunity, and Outreach Committee (Formerly DEI Committee) Meeting 12/17/25 Our Committee met on 12/17/25 at 4:00 pm via zoom only (as it was after grades were due) There were only several members present.
- As new business, we discussed a joint resolution from Central New Mexico and the University of New Mexico Faculty Senates which opposes the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education” document. Their Chairs, Jennifer Rush (CNM) and Justin Bendell (UNM) had approached myself and Christopher Brown and Vimal prior to see if we can be added in supporting the joint resolution. Christopher and I met via zoom with the 2 Chairs on 12/12/25. I indicated to them that I would bring it to our Access, Opportunity, and Outreach Committee. The Joint Resolution was attached for Members to review on the agenda for this meeting. Of those several present, there was a positive response to support it.

January 2026 – No report

February 2026

- Notes from FS AOO Meeting 2/18/26
- Our Committee met on 2/18/26 via zoom only.
- We discussed the bill supporting a joint resolution of CNM and UNM opposing Higher Education Compact 1.0. It was sent to University Planning Committee for review in the upcoming meeting. I indicated that I would attend the UPC meeting to stand for questions.
- I announced that I am accepting the position of Associate Dean of the NMSU Graduate School, effective 2/23/26. I had asked Vice Chair Brown prior about the process for a new Chair of this Committee and he indicated to ask for nominations. I requested nominations be emailed to me for Chair position.

March 2026

NMSU Faculty Senate Access, Opportunity and Outreach Chair Report
Access, Opportunity and Outreach Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2026
Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm with a quorum of members present. Guest:
Christopher Brown, Faculty Senate Vice Chair

- New chair election. a. Faculty Senate Vice Chair Christopher Brown ran the election for a new chair.
- After a brief nomination period, Kim Lopez Gallagher ran unopposed and was

- unanimously elected chair.
- The Zoom session was accidentally ended. The meeting resumed. For a brief time, there was not a quorum present. After 15 minutes, members returned to the meeting and a quorum was reestablished.
 - We then discussed several issues:
 - Should we reopen communication with the office of Land Grant Mission (formerly the DEI office)? Kim volunteered to reach out to the head of that office and report back at our next meeting.
 - Should we revisit our committee bylaws and charge document? Nobody thought it was a bad idea, and we agreed to review these documents and report back at our next meeting with any suggestions.
 - Yoli Pedraza sent us a draft proposal concerning facilities and resources for part time faculty. Proposes that part time faculty should have access to lockers and office space, and should have their names listed on departmental websites. Yoli, Kim, and Jason Bengston made plans to meet for the purpose of revising this proposal.
 - There was a brief discussion of how to report a faculty member for misconduct.
 - Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

April 2026

AOO Committee meeting, April 15, 2026, 4:03PM

Present: Pedraza, Bengston, Klocksien, Bronstein, Lopez-Gallagher, Murga, Schumacher

- At the last meeting, we discussed the office of land-grant mission, but there wasn't time to meet up with the VP of DEI. Notetaker's addition: When there was a system-wide DEI committee, the chair of the Senate DEI committee was automatically seated on that system-wide committee. Now that there is an office of land-grant mission, it is not clear what the system-wide organization will be.
- There was also a discussion of the proposition to move the naming of faculty senate committees to the bylaws rather than the faculty senate constitution. Prop 9 passed out of the University Planning committee and will be voted on in the Senate at the May meeting.
- Prop 11-25/26 - providing resources for part-time faculty. The proposition is in the budget and resources committee, where it passed with amendments. Several people at the AOO meeting added their names as sponsors, and language in the document was reconciled with amendments suggested by the Budget and Resources committee.
- The meeting ended with a discussion of who was terming out, who was continuing their Senate term, and who was up for unchallenged re-election.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:28PM.