

End of Year Report
for
NMSU Faculty Senate
Curriculum and Planning Standing
Committee

Submitted by
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Introduction

The mandate of the NMSU Faculty Senate Curriculum and Planning Standing Committee as laid out in (FS 03/21) includes:

1. Providing recommendations on curricula and degrees for approval through University Program Approval Committee (UPAC).
2. Reviewing and recommending policies related to academic issues associated with teaching
3. To liaise with units in the NMSU system, university, academic colleges and departments on optimizing the effectiveness of in-person and online teaching.

In the 2025-2026 academic year (AY), Curriculum and Planning Committee members actively participated and contributed to promoting academic excellence and shared governance of the NMSU wide community. Members were committed to ensuring the achievement of the institution's strategic mission while maintaining its purpose as a land grant university. The committee was constituted with members representing various units across the NMSU system, as listed below.

- Conni DeBlieck (College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation)
- David Overstreet (Alamogordo)
- Gladys De Necochea (College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation)
- Gus Piña (Dona Ana Community College)
- Jacob Dalager (College of Arts and Sciences)
- John Sandstrom (Library and Acquisition)
- Lianne Grant (Dona Ana Community College)
- Oladayo Bello, (College of Engineering)
- Paul Kemp (Grants Community College)
- William Walker (College of Arts and Sciences)
- Zachary Klein (College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences)

Tasks

During 25/26 AY, normal committee meetings were held from 4pm-5pm on the second Thursday of every month to deliberate on any official business task assigned to the committee. The committee had seven official business meetings and two non-official (family) meetings, conducted over ZOOM with quorum achieved. Fall semester meetings were held on **09/11/2025, 10/16/2025, 11/13/2025, 12/11/2025** (non-official) and spring semester meetings were on **1/22/2026, 2/12/2026 (non-official), 3/12/26, 4/9/2026**. The last meeting was an official senate caucus, held during the full senate meeting on **5/7/2026** at 3.05pm to elect the next chair of the committee. Minutes of all official business meetings are available on: [CP Committee Report Sept.2025](#), [CP Committee Report Oct.2025](#), [CP Committee Report Nov. 2025](#), [CP Committee Report Jan. 2026](#), [CP Committee Report March 2026](#), [CP Committee Report April 2026](#). The committee's highlight for AY 25/26 was delivering on assigned bills and propositions outlined below.

1. Resolution 1-25/26
 - **Available** on [01-25/26](#)
 - **Focus:** Resolution Request for an Internal Estimate of NMSU Students Textbook Cost
 - **Relevance:** to address concerns related with the affordability and broader access to course textbooks, resources and materials by all students, thus aligns with institutional priorities focused on students' success and retention.
 - **Anticipated Contribution to NMSU:** provides data that will inform decision making on textbook affordability initiatives, potentially supporting cost reduction strategies, improved access to learning resources and materials in order to enhance student success.
 - **Committee's decision:** passed without amendments (refer to [CP Committee Report Oct.2025](#)).

2. Bill 03-25/26

- **Available** on [03-25/26](#)
- **Focus:** Recommending support for Lowering the Minimum Cumulate GPA for NMSU Admission.
- **Relevance:** highly relevant in the context of NMSU's mission as a land grant institution committed to access, inclusion, and student success. Lowering the GPA threshold aligns with efforts to remove barriers for underrepresented, non-traditional, and first-generation students who may demonstrate potential beyond standardized academic metrics. It also responds to enrollment challenges and creates an opportunity to further broaden participation in higher education across demographics.
- **Anticipated Contribution to NMSU:** may contribute to increased enrollment and enhance demographic representation within the student body. It will enable NMSU to expand the opportunity for higher education access to low performing marginalized and minority students. It also supports the institution's priorities related to student success as a minority and land grant university. While curriculum and planning committee members acknowledged the relevance of the bill, the committee noted that the appropriation and enactment of the bill must be coupled with appropriate and sustainable academic support mechanisms that would facilitate student progression, retention and graduation.
- **Committee's decision:** passed without amendments (refer to [CP Committee Report Nov. 2025](#)).

3. Bill 04-25/26

- **Available** on [04-25/26](#)
- **Focus:** Faculty Senate input to Academic Program Sustainability Plan Proposal.
- **Relevance:** relates to shared governance and faculty participation in decisions affecting academic programs, resource allocation, and long term institutional planning.
- **Anticipated Contribution to NMSU:** provides faculty-informed perspectives to support transparent, data-driven decision making on program sustainability, helping ensure alignment with institutional priorities, academic quality, and student success.
- **Committee's decision:** passed with amendments (refer to [CP Committee Report Sept.2025](#), [Report on the Academic Program Sustainability Plan CP](#) and [Short Document BR & CP](#))

4. Bill 05-25/26

- **Available** on [05-25/26](#)
- **Focus:** Proposal to Establish a Task Force on the Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pedagogy.
- **Relevance:** to address the growing impact of AI on teaching and learning, supporting faculty in adopting instructional practices, assessment methods, and academic integrity standards in response to emerging technologies.
- **Anticipated Contribution to NMSU:** the taskforce will initiate and provide a structured approach that involves faculty in the acquisition and development of guidelines and best practices for AI integration within NMSU. The goal is to establish and promote responsible ethical use of AI in supporting teaching effectiveness, students' learning and innovative pedagogy across the institution.
- **Committee's decision:** passed with amendments (refer to [CP Committee Report Jan. 2026](#) and [05-25/26 - Proposal to Establish Task Force on the Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Pedagogy. Amended](#)).

5. Bill 07-25/26

- **Available** on [07-25/26](#)
- **Focus:** Approval of changes to ARP 4.69 Academic Rules for Distance Education.
- **Relevance:** supports the evolution of NMSU distance education by ensuring that academic policies remain current, consistent, and aligned with best practices in online and hybrid instruction.
- **Anticipated Contribution to NMSU:** enhances the quality, consistency, and governance of NMSU distance education programs, supports student access, instructional effectiveness, and compliance with institutional mission and accreditation standards.
- **Committee's decision:** passing on hold due to unavailability of the document that highlights revisions made by the Policy Steering Committee (refer to [CP Committee Report March 2026](#))

6. Bill 12-25/26

- **Available** on [12-25/26](#)
- **Focus:** Request for Faculty Senate to review DRAFT proposal for a Doctoral Accelerated Program submitted by the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC)
- **Relevance:** Supports shared governance by involving faculty in the review of graduate program innovations, particularly those impacting academic structure, rigor, and student progression at the doctoral level.
- **Anticipated Contribution to NMSU:** Facilitates informed faculty input on the development of accelerated doctoral pathways. It potentially enhances increase in enrolment for graduate programs through an anticipated effort to retain high performing domestic students right from undergraduate level while maintaining competitiveness, academic rigor, quality, standards and effectiveness
- **Committee's decision:** passed without amendment (refer to [CP Committee Report April 2026](#))

Conclusion

The committee fulfilled its mandate to promote academic excellence and institutional effectiveness in matters within the purview of the NMSU Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum and Planning. This was achieved through active participation and contributions of all members to shared governance, particularly in areas related to curriculum and its planning thereof within the NMSU wide system.