

NMSU Faculty Senate Student Success Chair's Summary Report: 2025-2026

Submitted by: Kristian Finlator

Committee Members: Mona Elshinawy (Sept '25 - Dec '25), Dejan Magoč, Michaela Burkardt, Kelly Knight, Tawny Aguirre, Stephanie Lynch, Rachel Giaonnini, Rodrigo Figueroa Obregon, Eric Oskey, James Rice, Kristian Finlator (Chair), and Julie Steinkopf (February '26 - May '26)

Summary of Achievements Student Success met on eight occasions and achieved quorum at each meeting. Over the course of these meetings, the committee

- heard from Deputy Provost McAteer about the Complete College America Accelerator Project and filled out a survey assessing NMSU's strengths and weaknesses;
- heard from Follett and NMSU representatives about the proposed Books4Success "equity access" textbook acquisition program, discussed the program, voted to recommend against adoption by NMSU-Main, and drafted Proposition 01-25/26 asking the NMSU Administration to perform an internal cost estimate of student textbooks and materials before adopting any equity access program (the proposition was approved by the full Faculty Senate);
- heard from Interim Provost Reddi and Vice President for Student Affairs Tony Marin about the proposal to reduce the minimum cumulative high school grade point average for admission to NMSU, discussed the proposal, and drafted Proposition 03-25/26 recommending approval but asking for additional tracking and support to ensure that student outcomes do not decline (the proposition was approved by the full Faculty Senate);
- discussed the development of a campus-wide slate of options for regulating access to digitally enabled devices in the classroom;
- heard from Dean Koodali and IPC Director Yu about ongoing efforts to improve onboarding of international graduate students;
- raised the need to promote Faculty Talk 2.0, which has not been promoted by Faculty Senate in the way that was required by Proposition 03-21/22 and is therefore underutilized;
- discussed possible inequity in promotion of different athletic teams;
- developed a questionnaire to ascertain to what extent incoming international graduate students are guaranteed financial support across different units and colleges, sent it to the leadership of NMSU's academic colleges, and compiled results into a report that was shared back with college deans;
- discussed problems students encounter who transfer from branch colleges to NMSU-Main;
- drafted memorials thanking FS Chair Chaitanya, FS VC Brown, Interim Provost Reddi, and President Fermé for their service (these were adopted by the full Faculty Senate); and
- heard from Drs. Tony Marin and Marissa Fowler about changes in support of CPoS compliance.

Future Work The following tasks were left incomplete or merit followup:

- determine whether the NMSU Administration is (or should be) pursuing a different equity access textbook acquisition program, and whether ongoing efforts by Central (if any) respect the Faculty Senate request in Proposition 01-25/26;
- invite the Provost and/or someone from the Student Affairs office to update Student Success on the progress of the cohort who enter NMSU with a high school cGPA of 2.5-2.75, and assess whether additional support or tracking is warranted as described in Proposition 03-25/26;
- finalize a menu of syllabus options for digital device use in the classroom;
- invite Dean Koodali and IPC Directory Yu for an update on steps to improve the experience of international graduate students; and
- invite Director of Athletics Joe Fields to discuss equity in promotion of different athletics.