

## **University Planning Committee Annual Report (2025 – 2026)**

### **Committee Members:**

Chair, Stephanie Walker, K.T. Manis, Annja Cox, Brian Hampton, Rajan Ghimire, Tanya Allred, Raja Jayaraman, Donovan Fuqua, Joe Tomaka, Murali Darapuneni, Susann Mikkelson

### **Function/Purpose:**

- 1) Advocate on issues of shared governance
- 2) Liaise on changes to university structure, including colleges and departments.
- 3) Make recommendations on salary structures and/or university salary equity studies.
- 4) Assist with the promotion of the extension and outreach mission of the university.
- 5) Ensure faculty senate proposals and university policy is applied consistently.

### **Legislation Deliberated:**

**Proposition 12-24/25**, Task force to assess and reconsider faculty performance and promotion & tenure evaluation criteria in light of recent cuts to federal funding and reduction in IDC rate.

**Proposition 02-25/26**, Senate Bill Proposed Name Change to Faculty Senate Committee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Proposition 06-25/26**, Supporting CNM and UNM Joint Resolution Against the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.”

**Proposition 08-25/26**, Amendment to Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution to change the requirements for Chair and Vice Chair

**Proposition 09-25/26**, Updating the Names and Functions of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

### **Meeting Summaries:**

**September 10, 2025:** Due to scheduling conflicts, the committee unanimously voted to change future meeting times to the second Friday of the month from 1-2pm.

Guests included Drs. McAteer, MacGregor-Mendoza, and Brown. Drs. McAteer and Brown provided an update on the status of proposition 12-24/25 that deals with the challenging climate for federal funding for P&T applicants. It passed the full Senate last spring, and the administration reviewed and acknowledged it. Over the summer, the University Leadership Committee opted to return proposition 12-24/25 to University Planning Committee (UPC) to act upon. Rather than implementing a Task Force as originally proposed, with the support of Drs. McAteer and Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, the committee monitored reviews by all Department Heads and P&T Committee Chairs of their P&T Guidelines. They will report any requirements that may adversely impact faculty who are currently pursuing promotion and tenure in the current climate of federal funding cutbacks. Deputy Provost McAteer sent out requests for this review to all potentially impacted departments. The UPC committee kept track of responses.

**October 10, 2025:** Dr. Walker provided an update on the committee assignment of tracking progress by departments in reviewing their P&T guidelines and initiating revisions if needed per proposition 12-24/25. Only Kinesiology and Communication Studies Depts. had responded to date.

**November 2025:** Guests included Drs. Brown and MacGregor-Mendoza. Dr. Walker provided an update on the committee assignment of tracking progress by departments in reviewing their P&T guidelines and initiating revisions if needed per proposition 12-24/25. Following a nudge by Deputy Provost McAteer, 16 departments had reviewed their P&T Guidelines.

The committee was assigned proposition 02-25/26 that was submitted by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee who wished to rename their committee ‘NMSU Engagement & Service.’ The UPC agreed to pass a name change, but committee members strongly felt that the new proposed name didn’t fully cover the committee’s function. By a majority vote, the committee suggest a different, new name of ‘Access, Opportunity, and Belonging.

**December 2025:** The UPC reported that all NMSU academic departments had reported regarding their P&T Guidelines in accordance with proposition 12-24/25.

**January 2026:** No meeting held

**February 13, 2026:** Proposition 06-25/26 Supporting CNM and UNM Joint Resolution Against the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.” was assigned to the UPC for deliberation. Guest Karen Kopera-Frye attended and provided background information on this proposition. Proposition 06-25/26 was unanimously passed by the committee and presented to the Full Faculty Senate’s March meeting for a vote.

**March 13, 2026:** The committee was assigned Proposition 08-25/26 Amendment to Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution to change the requirements for Chair and Vice Chair; however, the committee unanimously voted to table its deliberation for one month and requested that they receive the most current, clean, version of the proposed bill and asked that the sponsors attend the April meeting to provide additional information regarding the bill. Guests included Chris Erickson (co-sponsor of the bill), Jamie Bronstein, John Sandstrom, and Christopher Brown. Points of concern included (1) This was a premature action because the union leadership is not yet structured; (2) This action would prevent individuals from serving in leadership positions; (3) It is not up to the Faculty Senate if someone wants to participate in NEA leadership and; (4) This action would constitute an overreach on the part of the Faculty Senate.

**April 10, 2026:** The committee deliberated propositions 08-25/26 and 09-25/26.

An amendment to 08-25/26 removing the verbiage “nor participate in negotiations between the NMSU-NEA and the NMSU Administration” was presented to the committee for deliberation. It was moved that this amendment be discussed by the committee, but no second motion was

offered, so the amendment was not deliberated. The committee discussed the original bill. Following deliberation by the committee, proposition 08-25/26 was voted down by a majority of the committee.

Kristian Finlator and Christopher Brown, co-sponsors of Proposition 09-25/26, provided background information. Currently, Faculty Senate committee names are codified in the constitution so can only be changed with a full campus, faculty vote. Proposition 09-25/26 seeks to remove reference to standing committee names in the Faculty Senate Constitution to facilitate future committee name changes without requiring a full university faculty vote. Amendments were submitted to proposition 09-25/26 including:

1. Amend Article VII, Section 1 of the NMSU Faculty Senate Constitution to remove explicit mention of standing committee names while retaining their number at six.
2. Amend Article VII, Section 2.1 of the NMSU Faculty Senate Constitution to remove explicit mention of topical standing committee names and refer to the Faculty Senate Bylaws for their names and purviews.
3. Modify Section B.5.f of the Bylaws of the NMSU Faculty Senate Constitution to reflect the changes.

Amendments and Proposition 09-25/26 were deliberated and approved by a majority vote. Bill 09-25/26 was presented to the full Faculty Senate's May meeting at which time it was approved. A university-wide faculty vote must now be conducted to approve the constitutional change.

**May 2026:** No meeting held

**Future Business:**

- 1) Proposition 09-25/26 was approved during the full Faculty Senate's May meeting. It needs to be put to a university-wide faculty vote to approve the constitutional change.
- 2) The UPC is encouraged to invite the NMSU Architect to discuss and weigh in on the future plans for the area where Cole Village is currently being razed.

Annual Report submitted by S. Walker, Outgoing University Planning Committee Chair