

Hello everyone:

On November 8, I attended an ADAC meeting, and here were my main takeaways:

Vice-Provost David Smith presented about “NMSU analytics,” a new program that is not the same as Academic Analytics. The program will be available for people from department chair and above, for such purposes as program assessment. Everybody who has access to the data can see information from across the university. You aren’t supposed to be able to identify individual students, but information about individual students could be inferred in the case of small programs. One can use NMSU analytics to run all kinds of reports, not just on individual departments or programs, but across the university. I asked “Isn’t this another software package that department chairs are going to have to learn?” But apparently, this is just a repackaged version of Cognos Analytics, so department chairs or department assistants already know how to use this.

Bank of America has a billion dollars to promote DEI initiatives around the US. Vice-Provost Patrick Turner said that his office is working on freshman interest groups, in which freshmen are together in a cohort and taking three overlapping classes together. [Parenthetically, back when dinosaurs roamed the earth in the late 1990s, we actually did have freshman interest groups, but like so many things at NMSU, the program died when the person whose pet project it was retired]. Anyway, Vice-Provost Turner suggests NMSU apply for money to follow graduates after graduation to see whether the talent stays in NM or not.

Also on November 8, Senators Fasenko, Hanson and I met virtually with Jon Webster and a couple of people in Marcomm to discuss updating the covid dashboard to include things like test positivity rates and trendlines showing how many people on campus have been vaccinated, since the vaccination numbers, particularly among students, have really trended up over time. There was also a big discussion about how to counter misinformation and disinformation about vaccines, and Professor Hanson sent Jon Webster an example of a possible FAQ for use on the dashboard. The next day, at the Town Hall, Webster noted that he was happy for this feedback and is integrating our concerns. And, in fact, some aspects of the COVID dashboard have now been updated.

### **Faculty Senate Reapportionment**

Using the numbers provided to me by the Office of Institutional Analysis, I was able to reapportion the 66 seats in the Faculty Senate. The new college of HEST collectively gained one seat, the college of ACES lost a seat, and all of the other entities will continue to have the same number of seats they have this year.

A larger issue that we are having, as a Senate, is faculty hesitancy to take on service responsibilities, especially in the current climate on campus. Some colleges or departments have been unable to find anyone to serve on Senate. Service to colleges or to the university is not currently figured into goal card evaluations, and takes time away from other faculty

responsibilities that DO count, like research, teaching, and outreach. The Research and Creative Activities committee is currently discussing the goal card system and the ways in which unrewarded service expectations particular hamper junior faculty, women, and faculty of color.

Fall 2021 has been an exhausting semester for all of us, as we continued to slog through the additional demands of teaching during a pandemic, with little praise and few kind words. I hope that everyone will find at least a few days over the impending holidays to completely forget about work and reward themselves for keeping their heads above water. You matter.

All best,  
Jamie