

Vice-Chair's January Report

On January 12, along with other members of the FSLC, I attended a meeting with the Chancellor, the vice-chancellor, and the acting provost. We discussed various issues, including changes to the university structure. We learned that the three administrators present, or as the Chancellor referred to them "three in a box," would be working directly with faculty senate leadership on the new org chart. Acting provost Scott will now be in charge of the graduate school. The Chancellor also received clarity on his responsibilities in terms of signing off on pieces of faculty senate legislation that were passed on to him. He expressed a willingness to sign off on faculty-talk after Julia explained where we were in that process. The chancellor is willing to meet with Faculty Senate leadership monthly. As of the time of that meeting, the chancellor had not seen the Prop 4-related audit, but was expecting to do so soon.

At the Policy Studies Committee meeting on Thursday, January 19, we went over the procedure for introducing new policies and got to see the new website that will be used to archive all university policies. The new PSC, which gets to vet all new policies, will have two faculty senate positions on it—chair and vice-chair.

At the ADAC meeting on 1/24, we talked about reverting in some way to having a longer time for students to add classes without permission of the instructor. The thought here is that the short timelines are preventing students from adding the classes in a timely fashion. ADAC wants to revisit the issue and is going to come back to faculty senate to see if we are cooperative.

Renay Scott talked about the redistribution of responsibilities in her office. Renay is officially the Dean of the Grad School, but she thanked Carol Flinchbaugh for doing most of the actual work. Once the university hires a new provost, they should do a search for a graduate dean and that new dean should work on whatever structure the graduate school should have. I asked about the union and Acting Provost Scott said that that is the regents' bailiwick rather than any of the administrators. Carol Flinchbaugh said that the administration of the grad school understands all of the grad students' concerns and is willing to work on them within the financial restrictions of the university.

Acting Provost Scott also talked about the use of HEERF funds, \$3.5 million of which was used to pay down student balances. This enabled some students to register who otherwise would not have been able to. Ruth Johnston would have the details about what HEERF money remains. Dave Maddox showed a slightly revised map of the NMSU budget model.

Announcements:

–Starry Night is cancelled. Instead, the College of Arts and Sciences is having "Night at the Museums."

–Carol Flinchbaugh said the graduate dean's office has a lot of funding available for students and that information about those scholarships was sent to the deans. I asked for Faculty Senate to be added as a node of information but I don't know whether it will or not.

–The colleges of HSS and Education will be swept so that all of the students are put into HEST. It is a “back end sweep.” I’m not exactly sure what that means.

Jamie Bronstein
Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate