

NMSU Faculty Senate Chair Report

For February 2022 by Julia Parra

Academic Deans Council

Currently, I am attending Acting Provost Scott's meetings titled Deans/Faculty Senate Chair meetings. We met on February 8, 2022.

- The snow/ice/weather scenario was discussed as related to communication and the need for people to have access to the same information.
- Positions: Interim provost interview day was noted; search for the Environmental Health and Safety position has two finalists; CIO search update was provided noting four finalists identified; Policy Chief and Chief Auditor search will begin.
- Associate Provost Shelly Stoval reported on the HLC Assurance Review Process.
- Budget requests were reviewed by AP Scott, sent to the budget office for analysis, more information to come...

Board of Regents Meeting/s

See the [Regent Meetings site for notices, agendas, binders](#). See the [Regent Committees](#) page for membership and charters. A few notes:

- BoR Special Meeting, February 7, 2022, note that Consent Agenda items were approved, the presentations were from PSL and NMSU Online/On-Demand, see [Binder](#).
- Student Success Meeting, February 24, 2022
 - Community Colleges provided reports, Faculty Senate Chair Tauna Cole-Dorn shared work of the Faculty Senate Student Success Committee, Chancellor Arvizu provided a legislative session recap.

University Administrative Council (UAC) meetings

See the [University Administrative Council](#) site for UAC information and minutes that have much more information.

- Introductions: Cristina Serrano-Johnson is the new Director for Learning and Professional Development; Bart Lane, loaned executive from Sodexo is the interim AVP of Facilities.
- Chancellor Arvizu: The administrative organization is moving towards solidification and being tweaked with feedback; It is suggested to rethink the purpose of UAC; The audit summary was noted and acknowledged that a lack of trust, transparency, and access caused this; looking to move forward and do better; more discussion will continue...
- Associate Provost Shelly Stoval reported on the HLC Assurance Review Process.
- Assistant Vice President Ricardo Rel introduced Clayton Abbey, Director of State Government Relations; shared legislative update, see <https://govrelations.nmsu.edu/> for updated information.
- Ermalinda Quintela, Operational Policy Facilitator and Senior Administrator provided ARP 1.10 update, working on the policy library site and communicating the revised policy process.
- Jon Webster, Lead Project Manager (COVID-19), provided the COVID Trends Report, note this is posted to NMSU Now, but is already replaced with the 3-2-2022 report.
- Acting Provost Renay Scott provided Search Committee updates; provided enrollment numbers – overall 2.8% down overall, NMSU Online up 16.1%, etc.; concerns with student GPA decline, struggles with COVID environment though starting to see some positivity with the potential of online and hybrid environments.
- There is more, please see the UAC site for upcoming minutes.

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Other items and activities

- **FSLC Meeting with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor:** Topics included composition of the permanent provost search, the upcoming P&T review process, revisioning of Regents Policy Manual 1.10 and 1.70, the revised administrative organization chart, graduate school, and the audit summary. More details to come as decisions are made.
- **FSLC Participation in Interim Provost Interviews:** Attended the interviews for the three final candidates on February 10, 2022.
- **CIO Search Committee Participation:** Attended the interviews that occurred in February.
- **Student Fee Review Board:** We met February 8, 9, and 10 to provide review and recommendations for the Student Fees Budget. These hearings are led by the ASNMSU President. Student Fees support Library, Education Abroad, Campus Tutoring, Aggie Transit, Band, ASNMSU, SAS, SILP, Student Media, Aggie Stampede, LGBTQI+ Programs, Cheer, ICT and [Auxiliary Services](#). Some videos - [Aggie Health and Wellness](#), [Office of Special Events](#), [Health & Wellness Employee Orientation](#).
- **University Budget Committee revisioned to University System Budget Committee:**
 - Alignment is occurring to continue to include the Faculty Senate Chair, and add the Budget & Resources Chair and a member of the B&R Committee.
 - The Budget & Resources Committee is currently directly aligned to university system conversations with attendance at their meetings by Vice-Chancellor Johnston and Advisor Dave Maddox. Forward movement is occurring for transparency, including an analysis of the current budget model and participatory action on what is needed including changes of or in the model.
- **Climate Action Team:** Began serving as Co-Chair; the committee is focused on taking action and creating solutions. Will be meeting every other week. See the site for history and upcoming information: <https://united.nmsu.edu/community/csat.html>
- **Pandemic Action Team:** See the trends at [NMSU NOW Dashboard](#). The decline in the numbers at hospitals is noted as driving the recent changes in mask mandate. Additional key topics included: changing of the signage to reflect where we are now; how do we bring back the F2F and also keep what we learned, i.e. people are finding it easier to meet in zoom when they need what's on their computer; traditional students are really confused as they have been online for last couple of years, and e.g. have not had an opportunity to mature in the previous ways including professional conversations across the board, increased mental health issues, and many are still worried about getting COVID; water testing capacity has been put in place though at this point we do not have a sampling strategy, but it should be considered for monitoring purposes; modeling face-to-face could/should still include protective practices including distancing and other courtesies, respect and courtesy should be values that remain intact; communication strategy is being revisited, and might need to scale back frequency of certain items, like a monthly or as needed newsletter and can we turn the focus of communication to overall health, healthy behavior... The immunization policy is coming back to conversation - was approved last summer prior to mandates, and needs revision; Renay Scott will be working on a project plan for this.
- **Native Peoples Commitment and Actions:** There is a group meeting with Chancellor Arvizu to discuss relevant critical issues. The current critical issues include 1) the development of Aggie Uptown amidst concerns from local Indigenous Tribes, communities, and 2) NMSU faculty recruitment, hiring, retention, quality of experience, and 3) Native American Studies.

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- **Policy Steering Committee (PSC):** Relevant parties have met regarding ARP 4.68, Part 5, B due to concerns of problematic inactivation. Current determination is that it makes sense to align with the 8-year catalog rather than the current 5-year process and the intent is that this policy and related standard operating policy will be developed by the summer and in the interim, anything that needs to be reactivated can be done with a form submission.
- **Naming Committee:** Honorary Naming of the College of Business Golf Management Program as the Herb Wimberly Program. This was approved. Will now go to UAC and if approved there will go to the Board of Regents.
- **Faculty Talk:** Lauren Goldstein, Organizational Development Specialist, from the Chancellor's Office is leading the workgroup that the Chancellor tasked to address the issues brought up in the **03-2122 Resolution**. Workgroup includes Faculty Senators, ICT, MarComm, HRS, General Counsel, and related Operational Policy Facilitator. A meeting was held March 1, 2022 at 11-12 and we are addressing issues of the technology (Yammer, faculty lists, deletion as related to HR policy, opting in and out); terms of use and relation to policy; who should be responsible for policy related moderation.
- **Learning Management Systems (LMS) Team:** Nothing to report.
- **Goal Team 4:** There is some changeup occurring in the Goal Teams' leadership; related to LEADS 2025 - 2025 is quickly approaching and it might be time to start thinking about 2030 goals; related to Native Peoples Commitment and Actions, we are recommending specific inclusion of related goals; Dr. Gena Jones provided a presentation about A New Vision for NMSU HRS; Banner 9 updates are needed; MarComm is undergoing a brand refresh effort.
- **Perozynski Emergency Fund:** For reference here is the link for website with information on history, eligibility, defined emergency, how to apply, etc. It is noted that they haven't had many applications, likely due to lack of knowledge.
https://wellness.nmsu.edu/Employee%20Services/perozynski_emergency_fund.html
- **Parra Senate Chair Office Hours aka Lunch w/ Julz:** Wednesdays, 12-1:00, **on-site in Guthrie Room 109D**, [Zoom link](#), email me if you need the link or phone information. If this day/time doesn't work for you, email me and we can schedule something else.

Next Meetings

March Senate Meeting

- March 3, 4:00 - 5:00pm MT

Senate Leadership Committee

- March 31, Thursday, 4:00-5:00

Standing Committees

- Budget and Resources - March 15, 4-5pm
- Research and Creative Activities - March 15, 4-5pm
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - March 16, 4-5pm
- University Planning - March 16, 4-5pm
- Curriculum and Programming - March 17, 4-5pm
- Student Success - March 17, 4-5pm

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