

## **April Vice-Chair Report**

Hello folks:

I enclose some of the take-aways that I got from the meetings I went to as your erstwhile representative.

### **ADAC meeting 4/11/2022**

1. There was a huge discussion about the downside of Cascade. Cascade was adopted before NMSU fired all of its webmasters, and so once the responsibility for fixing webpages devolved to the departments, there was no good way to train people and offer ongoing live support. Now things have come to a crisis, because the university web pages have a ton of dead links and we are about to be assessed for re-accreditation, largely through our websites.

MarComm is thinking about hiring an outside vendor to provide live support, but the picture is, overall, not a pretty one.

2. Kori made some announcements about not capping courses at a 0 cap.
3. There is a new curriculum committee (University Curriculum Committee) that has been set up to make sure that one campus doesn't make changes that screw up the situation for the rest of the campuses. People will see all the new CAFs that come in and will have an opportunity to object if a department is trying to introduce something that infringes on the turf of another department.

### **Grad Faculty Meeting, 4/21/2022, 730 am**

The grad school has a new mission and vision. "Affordable access to high-quality educational experiences".

Luis Cifuentes and Renay Scott came here in 2018, at which point NMSU had 2602 graduate students. So that is taken as baseline. Ever since then, graduate enrollment has been increasing, which compares favorably with other New Mexico institutions.

An assessment of the grad school called for a strengthening of professional programs including online masters and PhD programs. The "cash cows" are Ed.Ds and online masters that help to generate the SCH that support the programs that dont generate a lot of SCH.

There will be both online and in person orientation in the fall.

Hiring a new dean for the grad school is a top priority.

People seem to agree that we need tuition remission for graduate workers and she hopes this will be a reality by fall 2023. Renay Scott argued that health care will take longer due to the complexity. Health care on the exchange is too expensive for our students. Luis Cifuentes said part of the problem is that grad students dont show up to the health care briefings

Graduate stipends have increased by 3 and 4 percent as a result of the last legislative session.

Then there was a briefing about Grad Student Council.

Grad Faculty Council is changing the standards for grad faculty to not have to renew their status in the grad faculty. There is now a grad faculty handbook available online, but the grad school is going to mentor faculty directly through training.

Sherry Kollman, NMSU-Online

NMSU will be aiming online programs at NM students who take online classes in other states. 9896 students in NM are taking courses out of state. Also 333,938 NM adults have some college but not a degree. NMSU will be reaching out to this population by offering cheaper online education.

The number of NMSU-O students is still very small There were 84 new NMSU-O grad students this last fall, and in, Spring, 117. Fifty-five percent of NMSU online students are grad students. Sherry Kollman noted that NMSU-O, in order to make money, cannot have more than 36 percent attrition in a year. Right now it is more than 40 percent. Information about completion rates, either of degrees or of online courses, by NMSU-O students, was not available at the meeting.

Carol Flinchbaugh described some of the process improvements undertaken by the graduate school, and reminded everyone of the MAP program. She also said that graduate students need to be made aware of the wellness resource available on campus.

The Grad School will be expanding its social media footprint, and ramping up attention to existing and new PhD programs in the humanities. In terms of enrollment, Graduate School priorities include DEI targeting and maybe getting rid of standardized grad exams and other "hurdles." She mentioned some programs (math, and data analytics) on campus that are scaling back entry requirements in order to admit more students and then give them a chance to fail, rather than enabling entry requirements to serve as a form of gatekeeping.

Luis Cifuentes argued that NMSU has to find more funding for graduate students. It's not going to come from I and G funding. Paying tuition for all TAs will cost 3 million a year. 81-87 percent of TAs are funded by ING, but 10 percent of RAs are funded by I and G, and they should not be. There are 6-10 percent of GAs who are funded some other way.

### **ADAC Meeting, 4/25/2022**

One of the major items on the agenda is the horrific state of NMSU's websites, just as accreditation by the HLC is looming. There is an immense number of broken links, and there is no dedicated central way to address the problem. Marcomm has neither the manpower nor the desire. Because nobody in the enterprise is willing to make it an all-hands-on-deck scenario, the HLC is going to learn a lot about NMSU from the state of its websites.

There was some discussion of the Geography name change and whether or not things like name-changes need to go before UAC or Adac. Kori Plank wants everyone to know that even a name change for a department entails a lot of work for the registrar's office, in terms of re-coding. Patrick Turner and Marisa Fowler also emphasized the need for the student-service side of academic changes to be informed, since otherwise parents and students are confused about the content of programs.

Zooming in from her hospital bed, Anne Hubbell gave a presentation about Mental Health on campus. The honors college created a nice new resource for mental health in

the form of a website, but the larger infrastructure for mental health on campus is disconnected, and there is nobody to address the issues of faculty and staff. There was also a discussion about microaggressions associated with mental health.

Finally, NMSU will be moving to yearlong scheduling, and the Spring 2023 schedule is supposed to go up next week. It will remain up until November, but it is important to remind students that classes can be added to the schedule at any time, so they should not think what they see in the schedule in May is necessarily what they are going to get.

Have a good summer! And if for some reason I don't get to continue on as Vice-Chair, know that it has been a pleasure.

Jamie Bronstein  
Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate