

Vice-Chair's Report for October 2021

I represented Faculty Senate as your vice chair at several meetings and my takeaways are below.

VP of DEI meeting 10/11/2021

I attended a meeting with the new VP of DEI Linda Scholz and discussed the fate of Proposition 02-2020-1, the memorial to support the elimination of systemic discrimination at NMSU. It was a good meeting, at which the lack of an enforcement mechanism for discrimination by department heads and above was discussed, as well as what action items can be pursued right now. VP Scholz noted that at her former institution, UC Santa Cruz, all incoming students had to take training on diversity and inclusion issues as well as alcohol abuse prevention and sexual consent issues, and suggested incorporating something like that here.

ADAC Meeting 10/11/2021

We talked about the portal that exists for students to express concerns about in-class issues or issues with instructors. When it was showed to us, there was also a way for instructors to put in concerns about students, but the team is going to consider whether this is actually duplicative of the functionality of Navigator.

We also talked about full-year scheduling, which is something that the provost is determined to effectuate. The idea is that if students can enroll for a full year's worth of classes at a time, retention numbers should increase. It was brought up that some departments can't plan a semester in advance because they are extremely understaffed. The associate deans acknowledged this but also suggested that it was a fait accompli and that departments were going to have to do their best to comply.

ADAC Meeting 10/25/21

Changes to grad faculty status applications are being contemplated, and questions are even being asked, "Do we even need them anymore? What happens when a department chair doesn't want to nominate someone for grad faculty status? What about people like Nursing profs who don't have PhDs?"

We talked about the goalcards and the new subscription to Academic Analytics. I expressed the concerns that came out of the Research and Creative Activity committee regarding expense, lack of faculty buy-in, what these things are supposed to be addressing, how faculty will be able to check to make sure the details in Academic Analytics are correct, etc. David Smith is on the

committee that is handling the teaching part of the goal cards and is going to relay faculty concerns.

In other, non-meeting-related news that may be of interest, the NMSU Labor Board dissolved itself on October 25, meaning that the pending issue of the recognition of NMSU's Graduate Worker Union goes straight to the state labor board. The state labor board recently recognized that UNM's graduate workers are indeed state workers and so have the right to organize; so the dissolution of the local board has the potential to be great news for our long-suffering graduate workers.

My office hours are Tuesday afternoons and I am always available for faculty senators to drop by and discuss whatever. Just hit me up for the Zoom link ahead of time.

All Best,
Jamie Bronstein
FS Vice-Chair