Faculty Senate Vice-Chair Report
March 2019

Items discussed in the Associate Dean's Academic Council (ADAC) during the month of February included:

1. Proposal to change fractional grading
   Questions were raised about whether changing the system would take the university back to a system that was not accurate. A concern about staying with the +/- system is that there are no standards for what an A+, A, or A- represents. The group asked for more data on how many instructors are using fractional grading and institutional data on the issue regarding the claim that better performing students are being hurt by the system in areas such as scholarships.

2. Announcement of electronic thesis/dissertation submissions starting March 1
   The student will prepare the manuscript and the committee chair will certify the thesis or dissertation is ready to be uploaded into ProQuest. The Graduate School will review and approve or deny the submission through ProQuest. Final push through ProQuest to a public document will not happen until the degree has been awarded. There will no longer be paper reviews of these documents.

3. Common course numbers and learning outcomes for courses
   The goal is transparency in making sure that students understand what they are going to learn from a particular course. Faculty need to be aware that this is the direction the state is going. Next year, faculty teams at the discipline level will be brought together to talk about common learning outcomes.

4. A reminder about early performance grades

5. NMSU-O's website is up and the virtual campus is being loaded. The distance education program directors have been invited to meetings to start the set-up.

6. A quality metric task force has been meeting to develop an online quality metric. Difficulty has been in assessing hybrid or synchronous classes that use Canvas.

7. A proposal to use the Chinese National College Entrance Exam as a substitute for TOEFL was discussed. No decision was made.

8. Graduate concentrations in music were proposed and approved