Faculty Senate Vice-Chair Report
November 2018

During the month of October, there has been little to report. Topics in the Associate Dean's Academic Council (ADAC) meetings have included presentations on the new NMSU online initiative, which is progressing, but many details (such as tuition) still need to be decided; and updates on how the new spring 2019 block schedule is being received (so far, no problems yet, but it is early in the spring registration process). Announcements have been made about the adoption and process of implementing Turnitin, which the University is purchasing for faculty and students to use to check for plagiarism. The program may be available as early as spring 2019, but while Turnitin should be beneficial, faculty will need to establish individual standards for plagiarism based on academic discipline and specific course content. For example, citing a numeric formula in a particular way may be considered plagiarism in math or engineering, but not as much in English or philosophy. Additionally, the recommendation has been made that Turnitin results indicating plagiarism be used as constructive formative guidance with students and not as a punitive process.

Most recently, there has been a proposal to remove Faculty Senate from the approval process for applied associate's degrees and certificates. Since these are vocation-focused and often created in response to an emerging workforce need in the community, possibilities for expediting approval have been proposed by the community colleges. ADAC members asked clarifying questions and a new draft of the proposal will be brought to the first November ADAC meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Prentice