

NMSU Faculty Senate Meeting
September 3, 2026; 4:00 p.m.
Milton Hall Rm 185J and **Zoom**
MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate Chair Finlator requested that remote participants use the digital “raise hand” feature to request recognition from the Chair rather than posting comments in the chat. He explained that using the raise-hand feature would help ensure that participants' questions and concerns are noticed and addressed by the Assembly. Chair Finlator noted that Professor Kenney would assist in monitoring raised hands. Use of the chat remains permitted, but participants were encouraged to use the raise-hand feature when seeking the floor.

2. Recognition of Guests

- Dr. Lizely Madrigal, Director of University Technology Solutions and Support

Dr. Madrigal provided a presentation on classroom modernization efforts, including complete work, lessons learned, current priorities, and plans for future improvements. She emphasized the importance of faculty feedback in developing active-learning environments and improving classroom technology.

Faculty Survey and Identified Needs

Dr. Madrigal reported that a nine-question faculty survey was conducted to identify classroom technology needs. The survey was distributed to faculty, including DACC, and received 288 responses, with 190 faculty members completing the entire survey.

Key findings included:

- 71% of faculty reported experiencing technical difficulties in classrooms.
- 37% rated classroom technology functionality as average or below average.
- 17% reported dissatisfaction with the availability of technical support.

Dr. Madrigal noted that classroom reliability is essential to effective instruction and that technical difficulties can result in significant loss of instructional time. In response to concerns about technical support, IT expanded classroom technology support hours to include evening classes, with support available until 8:00 p.m., as well as weekend coverage.

Faculty feedback identified audiovisual technology and learning technology as significant areas of need. IT therefore prioritized addressing existing hardware and software problems before pursuing additional technology innovations.

Classroom Standardization and Modernization

Dr. Madrigal explained that NMSU has approximately 202 classrooms, of which 128 are centrally scheduled and the remainder are managed by individual departments. The current modernization effort is focused primarily on the 128 centrally scheduled classrooms.

Using available funding from two fiscal years, IT invested approximately \$400,000 in 2024 to update desktops and replace older bulb projectors with laser projectors in the 128 centrally scheduled classrooms. Ticket data showed that projector failures were a significant source of classroom technology complaints.

During 2025, IT focused on planning and developing a systematic approach to classroom technology replacement. The goal is to avoid having classroom desktops remain in service for more than approximately five years and to establish a regular replacement cycle.

In 2026, IT began replacing classroom control systems. Due to limited funding, the 128 classrooms were prioritized and tiered according to capacity, technology needs, and

usage. Approximately 98 classrooms received updated control systems during the current cycle.

Dr. Madrigal noted that the funding allocation for classroom modernization has not increased proportionally with the growth in the number of centrally scheduled classrooms. IT has submitted a request for increased funding.

Classroom Tiering and Costs

Francisco explained the classroom tiering system:

- Tier 1: One-projector classrooms with a relatively simple control system and teaching station.
- Tier 2: Classrooms with two projectors and more advanced control systems and programming.
- Tier 3: Classrooms with three projectors or displays and more complex technology and programming requirements.

Estimated costs discussed included:

- Tier 1 control system: approximately \$3,000
- Projector: approximately \$1,800
- Classroom computer: approximately \$1,200
- Tier 2 control system: approximately \$7,000–\$8,000
- Tier 3 control system: approximately \$10,000–\$11,000

Francisco noted that costs increase with the number of displays and the complexity of managing multiple sources. Faculty feedback will help determine whether multiple projectors should display different sources simultaneously or the same source across multiple displays.

Active Learning and Student Lab Improvements

Dr. Madrigal reported that IT has conducted a literature review of active-learning classrooms and visited other institutions, including UTEP, to examine classroom designs that support student collaboration. IT has compiled information and best practices in a planning notebook, which Dr. Madrigal offered to share with faculty.

She noted that plans for 2027 and 2028 will be informed by additional faculty feedback. IT intends to conduct another faculty survey in the fall, preferably between Labor Day and Thanksgiving, rather than at the end of the semester, to reduce survey fatigue.

Student computer labs have also undergone modernization. IT reduced the number of desktop computers in some labs, added docking stations and collaborative spaces, and is adding furniture to support group work. Dr. Madrigal reported increased student use of the renovated lab spaces.

Facilities Coordination and Campus Planning

Dr. Madrigal emphasized the importance of coordinating technology improvements with Facilities so that classroom furniture and technology can be modernized together. She noted that some classrooms still have fixed furniture that does not accommodate current student technology needs and indicated that she has raised these concerns with the appropriate groups.

IT is also working with the Student Technology Group and other campus stakeholders to coordinate priorities and incorporate student input into classroom modernization planning.

IT plans to present its modernization plan and supporting data to the CFO as part of an effort to secure additional funding. Dr. Madrigal also indicated that the classroom modernization plan may be incorporated into the institution's Integrated Campus Development Plan. She stated that capital funding should be considered for both classroom technology and furniture improvements.

Communication, Training, and Governance

Dr. Madrigal stated that IT is improving communication with faculty regarding classroom upgrades. A dedicated webpage is being developed to provide information about classroom modernization and other IT resources in a more accessible format.

IT is also developing short instructional videos for new classroom hardware and software. These “micro-videos” will demonstrate how to use classroom control panels and other technology and will be made available through the IT website and social media. An updated equipment inventory is also being developed to ensure that classroom technology can be effectively tracked and managed.

Dr. Madrigal proposed establishing a formal classroom technology governance committee, chaired by a representative from the Provost's Office and including faculty, students, Facilities, architects, Scheduling, and other relevant stakeholders. The goal is to improve coordination and ensure that classroom modernization decisions reflect the needs of those who use the spaces.

Dr. Madrigal concluded by emphasizing that classroom modernization will be an ongoing process of standardization, maintenance, training, and continuous improvement. She stated that students should have a consistent classroom experience regardless of whether a classroom is centrally scheduled or managed by an individual department.

Faculty were invited to provide feedback or suggestions directly to Dr. Madrigal rather than waiting for the next survey.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

Agenda approved.

4. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 2026, meeting

5. Reports of Officers

- FS Chair, Kristian Finlator

Chair Finlator reported that his written report was posted the previous week and that Vice Chair Bello's report was posted that morning. He reviewed several highlights from his report.

Chair Finlator expressed appreciation for the work of the Senate, noting that four senators had drafted five new resolutions for consideration during the fall. He noted that all four senators were first-time resolution authors and stated that their participation was encouraging for the upcoming academic year.

Administrative and Leadership Meetings

Chair Finlator reported on his participation in various meetings, including regular meetings with the President and Provost, which he and Vice Chair Bello attend weekly when possible.

He noted that President Ferme is interested in exploring a teaching-focused pathway to tenure, in addition to the traditional combination of teaching, research, and outreach.

Former Chair Chaitanya has expressed interest in a research-focused pathway to tenure.

Chair Finlator stated that the administration is considering expanding the range of pathways through which faculty may qualify for tenure. The matter has been temporarily assigned to Faculty Success, with Senator Manis in charge. Senators with ideas or feedback were encouraged to communicate with Senator Manis and the committee.

Chair Finlator also encouraged senators to review the publicly available draft of the university's strategic plan and discuss it with their constituents.

Faculty Senate Funds

Chair Finlator reported that the Faculty Senate has approximately \$3,000 per year available in funds. He noted that the current bylaws do not specify who controls these funds. At present, Chair Finlator and Vice Chair Bello are administering the funds. The funds have been used once to cover the framing and printing of a memorial honoring Senator Oskey, who passed away at the end of the previous academic year.

Chair Finlator stated that he will continue providing reports on the use of Faculty Senate funds. He noted that the Senate could address control of the funds through a motion if senators wish to establish a different process.

Student Registration Deadline

Chair Finlator reported that President Ferme has raised concerns about the deadline for students to register for classes without instructor approval, which currently occurs shortly after the beginning of classes. President Ferme suggested that the deadline be moved earlier.

Senator Allred noted that the existing registration window had previously been considered and approved by the Faculty Senate approximately five years ago. He explained that faculty had differing views regarding how late students should be permitted to join classes without instructor approval.

Chair Finlator asked Senator Allred to locate the previous proposition and provide it to him so that the Senate can review the reasoning behind the existing policy before considering any changes.

First-Year Pass/Fail Proposal

Chair Finlator reported that Vice Chair Bello has suggested that NMSU explore the possibility of allowing first-year students to take courses on a pass/fail basis during their first semester. He noted that similar approaches have been used at other institutions and that the proposal would require significant study. The matter is currently unassigned, and senators interested in developing the proposal were encouraged to contact Vice Chair Bello.

Employee Recognition Council

Chair Finlator reported that the President, Provost, and Head of HR are interested in reexamining employee recognition practices and plan to establish an Employee Recognition Council.

The initial group will include the Head of HR, Dr. Bill Dial, the head of the Employee Council, Sonia White, and Chair Finlator. Senators were invited to provide ideas regarding ways to improve recognition of employee achievements.

New Mexico Council for Higher Education

Chair Finlator announced that he and Vice Chair Bello are participating in the development of the New Mexico Council for Higher Education, an organization bringing together representatives from faculty senates and employee councils at major universities throughout New Mexico.

He explained that the council was initially formed to develop a coordinated response to the Trump Compact 1.0 but continues to exist and is being considered for broader collaborative purposes.

Administrative Searches

Chair Finlator provided an update on several ongoing administrative searches:

- The Vice President for Research search is being co-chaired by Chair Finlator and Deputy Provost McAteer.
- The Vice President for Global search is being co-chaired by Vice Chair Bello.
- The search for an Associate Provost for Cooperative Extension and Outreach is being co-chaired by Senator Holguin.
- The searches are expected to include in-person interviews during the fall.
- HR is preparing to initiate searches for permanent deans for ACES and Engineering, both of which currently have interim deans. These searches are expected to conclude in the spring.

Chair Finlator noted that the combination of these searches and other administrative activities will make for a busy fall semester.

- FS Vice-Chair/SLC Chair, Oladayo Bello

Vice Chair Bello provided an update on several Faculty Senate activities and priorities.

Open Senate Seats

Vice Chair Bello reported that efforts are underway to fill open Faculty Senate seats in HEST and Grants.

- For Grants, there is one open seat. Vice Chair Bello is working with the Recording Secretary and IT to coordinate the process, with a goal of filling in the seat by the end of September.
- For HEST, Vice Chair Bello will work with Senator DeBlieck on the process, with a goal of filling the open seat by the end of October.

Constitution and Bylaws Vote

Vice Chair Bello reported that preparations are underway for faculty voting on proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Because IT requires lead time to establish the ballot, the anticipated voting period is September 16–30. The goal is to have the results available by the end of September.

Faculty Senate Website

Vice Chair Bello reported that the Faculty Senate website is being migrated to a new platform. As part of the migration, the Senate is also reviewing opportunities to improve the website's appearance, organization, and usability.

Senators were encouraged to review the current website and submit suggestions to Vice Chair Bello. She will coordinate with the Recording Secretary during the migration and revision process.

Faculty Senate Outreach

Vice Chair Bello noted concerns about limited faculty participation and awareness of the Faculty Senate, particularly in connection with efforts to fill the open Grants seats. Despite announcements seeking nominations, there has been limited interest in filling the positions.

To increase awareness, the Senate is developing a Faculty Senate informational flyer explaining the Senate's role, its impact on faculty, and ways faculty can participate. Vice Chair Bello offered to assist with distributing the flyers to faculty offices. She emphasized that faculty do not need to serve as senators to participate in Senate activities, including contributing to the development and discussion of propositions.

University Programs Approval Committee (UPAC)

Vice Chair Bello reported on her work as co-chair of the University Programs Approval Committee (UPAC). During a recent meeting, three new Ph.D. programs were presented for consideration. Following the committee's review and deliberations, one program was approved, while two were not approved. The committee documented its rationale for the decisions.

Academic Degrees and Academic Programs (ADAP)

Vice Chair Bello also reported on her work with the ADAP Committee. She presented Senator Burkardt's concern regarding student registration, specifically that students registering for primary courses may not be aware of supplemental or supporting courses that could assist them in successfully completing those courses.

Vice Chair Bello stated that the concern and proposed solutions were presented to ADAP, but discussions remain unresolved. She is continuing to work with Senator Burkardt to identify a possible path forward.

Vice Chair Bello concluded by noting that additional details are available in her full report on the Faculty Senate website.

6. Consent Agenda

- Approval of Prof. Lawrence LaPlue as Parliamentarian
- Approval of Ms. Mari Cisneros as Recording Secretary
- Approval of [Proposition 01-26/27](#) – A Memorial in Honor for Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza. Sponsor (s): O. Bello (Engineering), K. Finlator (A&S), J. McAteer (A&S; Deputy Provost), V. Pimentel (Business).
- Approval of [Proposed Revisions to ARP 4.61 Transfer of Credit](#)
- Delegating Approval of the Minutes from the May 2027 Faculty Senate meeting to the FSLC

This motion authorizes the current Faculty Senate Leadership Committee to approve the May 2027 Minutes on behalf of the full Faculty Senate. Without this motion, responsibility for approving the May 2027 Minutes will fall to the 2027-2028 Faculty Senate.

Chair Finlator introduced the consent agenda, which included five items. He explained that items on the consent agenda would be approved by unanimous consent at the end of the discussion unless a senator objected to an individual item. Any item receiving an objection would be removed from the consent agenda and considered under New Business.

The five items were:

1. **Parliamentarian:** Approval of **Professor Lawrence LaPlue** to continue serving as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian. Chair Finlator noted that Professor LaPlue had served in the role previously and was willing to continue. The Constitution requires the Parliamentarian to be nominated and approved by the full Faculty Senate. No objections were raised.
2. **Recording Secretary:** Approval of **Ms. Mari Cisneros** to continue serving as Recording Secretary. She had previously served in the role, and the Constitution requires her appointment and approval. No objections were raised.
3. **Proposition 01-26/27 – Memorial for Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza:** **Senator Pimentel** presented a memorial recognizing **Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza**, Professor in the Department of Language and Linguistics and inaugural Provost Fellow for Faculty Success. The memorial recognized her distinguished service, extensive experience with promotion and tenure committees, mentorship of faculty, and contributions to faculty success and well-being. The resolution expressed the Faculty Senate's appreciation for her service, mentorship, and commitment to New Mexico State University faculty.
4. **Proposed Revisions to ARP 4.61 – Transfer of Credit:** Chair Finlator explained that the Policy Steering Committee forwards policies affecting academics to the Faculty Senate for review. The Faculty Senate Leadership Committee had reviewed the proposed revisions to ARP 4.61 and determined that the changes were sufficiently minor that full Faculty Senate review was not necessary. The revisions were therefore included on the consent agenda.
5. **Delegation of Approval of May Faculty Senate Minutes:** Chair Finlator explained that the Faculty Senate traditionally meets in May, but many senators serving in the following fall may not have attended the May meeting. To avoid

placing the May minutes on the fall agenda each year, the proposal would delegate approval of the May Faculty Senate minutes to the **Faculty Senate Leadership Committee**.

Chair Finlator asked whether there were any objections to the consent agenda. **Hearing no objections, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.**

Following approval, Chair Finlator invited the Faculty Senate to recognize **Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza** with applause.

7. Reports of Standing Committees – N/A

Chair Finlator reported that the standing committees had not yet met and, therefore, there were no committee reports to present. He emphasized that committee chairs should not be concerned about the lack of reports at this point in the academic year. Chair Finlator noted that he had provided the standing committee chairs with links to documents outlining their responsibilities, based on his understanding and prior experience, along with an initial list of tasks that committees may address during the upcoming year. He acknowledged that some portions of the documents may need to be revised or may not accurately reflect committee needs, as he is new to the role. Committee chairs were encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for improving the proposed responsibilities and tasks. Chair Finlator stated that the documents are intended to serve as a starting point for committee work during the year.

8. New Business (Procedural) –

- Proposed Special Rule Limiting Speeches When Motions are Pending
Limits senators to two speeches per motion, no more than two minutes per speech. Requires 2/3 majority to pass. See attached document.

Chair Finlator introduced a proposed special rule governing Faculty Senate meeting procedures. He explained that special rules establish procedures within a deliberative assembly that fall between the rules of parliamentary procedure and the Senate's Constitution and bylaws. Once approved, a special rule remains in effect for the duration of the academic year. The first proposed special rule would limit the number and length of speeches during debate. The proposed rule states that each senator may speak up to two times on any debatable motion, with each speech limited to two minutes. Chair Finlator explained that the standard parliamentary rules allow up to two speeches of ten minutes each, which he noted would not be practical for a Faculty Senate that meets approximately once per month for one hour. Because adoption of the special rule requires a two-thirds majority vote, Chair Finlator called for a motion.

Motion: Each senator may speak up to twice on any debatable motion, with each speech concluding within two minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Chair Finlator opened the floor for debate and discussion.

A vote was then conducted, with senators indicating their votes either physically or digitally.

Vote: 46 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Result: The special rule was **approved** by the required two-thirds majority

and will remain in effect for the remainder of the academic year.

- **Proposed Special Rule Clarifying the Workflow for ARP Revisions**
Clarifies similarities and differences between workflows for Resolutions and proposed ARP revisions. Requires 2/3 majority to pass. See attached document.

Chair Finlator introduced a second proposed special rule concerning the workflow for Administrative Rules and Procedures (ARP) revisions. Chair Finlator explained that the Faculty Senate Constitution provides procedures for how Senate resolutions are introduced, considered, and approved. ARP revisions follow a somewhat different process because they are not necessarily authored or sponsored by a senator. The proposed special rule is intended to clarify the similarities and differences between the processes for Senate resolutions and ARP revisions and to establish a clear workflow for ARP revisions as they come before the Faculty Senate. Chair Finlator stated that the proposed workflow is intended to preserve the Faculty Senate's role in the ARP revision process while identifying points where the process necessarily differs from the procedures governing resolutions. The proposed rule was included in the special rules document available to senators.

Motion: To approve the proposed special rule establishing the workflow for ARP revisions. The motion was made and seconded. Chair Finlator opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion.

A vote was conducted, with senators voting physically or digitally.

Vote: 46 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Result: The special rule was **approved** and will remain in effect for the remainder of the academic year. Chair Finlator noted that the special rules may be changed during the academic year through another motion requiring a two-thirds majority vote.

9. New Business (Legislative) –

- [Proposition 02-26/27](#) – Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee Award Rules Amendment. Sponsors: Faruk Arslan (Business), Abdu Abdelkefi (Engineering), Kristian Finlator (A&S)
Assigned to Research and Creative Activity

Senator Abdelkefi introduced Proposition 02-26/27, concerning amendments to the NMSU Open Access Publication Fund rules. The fund was established through collaboration between the Faculty Senate and upper administration to help NMSU faculty cover open-access article processing and publication costs. An Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee was created to administer the award process.

Following the completion of the pilot year, the committee proposed four amendments:

Increase the maximum award amount

Based on accepted applications, the average article processing charge (APC) is approximately \$2,700. As of July 28, 2026, approximately \$76,000 of the initial \$100,000 allocation had been spent. With an additional \$100,000 allocated for the 2026–27 academic year,

approximately \$120,000 is currently available. The committee therefore proposes increasing the maximum individual award from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Allow student-led publications

The fund would explicitly cover NMSU student-led publications, provided the student publishes in collaboration with an NMSU faculty advisor.

Include NMSU branch campuses

The rules would clarify that applicants may be based in any NMSU academic college or branch campus, eliminating potential ambiguity about branch-campus eligibility.

Cover copyright-clearance costs

The amendment would explicitly allow funds to cover copyright-clearance expenses associated with open-access journal publication, including costs related to images or other copyrighted material appearing in journal articles. The proposed amendments are currently under consideration by the Research Creativity Committee.

- [Proposition 03-26/27](#) – A Bill to Amend Proposition 05-23/24 – Proposition to Create the Online Learning Council to Advise the Chancellor of NMSU-Global. Sponsors: K.T. Manis (Business), Kristian Finlator (A&S)
Assigned to Access, Opportunity, and Outreach

Senator Manis provided a brief report on Proposition 03-26/27, which proposes amendments to Proposition 05-23/24 concerning the Online Learning Council. The primary goal is to strengthen shared governance by formally establishing a voting Faculty Senate representative on the NMSU Global Faculty Advisory Council. The proposed amendment addresses several gaps in the council's current bylaws:

Clarify voting status

The bylaws currently identify the Faculty Senate Chair or Vice Chair as a member but do not clearly guarantee that the representative has voting rights.

Allow an alternate senator

The amendment would allow the Faculty Senate Chair to appoint another senator to serve as the Faculty Senate representative when necessary.

Address the teaching requirement

The current bylaws require council members to teach NMSU Global courses. The amendment would clarify that the Faculty Senate representative is not excluded because they do not teach an NMSU Global course.

Purpose of the Amendment

Overall, the amendment is intended to: Ensure formal Faculty Senate representation and voting participation on the NMSU Global Faculty Advisory Council. Improve coordination and communication between the Faculty Senate and NMSU Global. Strengthen shared governance while preserving the council's existing advisory role.

- [Proposition 04-26/27](#) – Resolution Establishing a Task Force on Dual-Career Recruitment and Retention. Sponsor (s): F. Omar Holguin (ACES)

and others to follow.

Assigned to Budget and Resources

Senator Holguin provided a brief report on Proposition 04-26/27, which proposes establishing a task force to examine dual-career recruitment and retention across the NMSU system.

The task force would focus on:

Understanding the impact of dual-career considerations on the recruitment and retention of faculty across the NMSU system. Evaluating current institutional practices for addressing dual-career situations. Examining practices at peer institutions to identify approaches that may be applicable to NMSU. Developing a flexible and financially responsible framework or guidance that would give the institution additional options when dual-career recruitment or retention situations arise.

Purpose of the Resolution

The overall goal is to better understand dual-career needs and develop practical, sustainable guidance that could strengthen NMSU's ability to address these situations during faculty recruitment and retention.

- [Proposition 05-26/27](#) – Resolution Establishing a Faculty Task Force on Promotion, Tenure, and Faculty Evaluation Related to Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Sponsor (s): F. Omar Holguin (ACES), Matthew Sievert (COAS), Koffi Djaman (ACES), Chuck Creusere (COE)

Assigned to University Planning

Senator Holguin introduced Proposition 05-26/27, giving credit to the RCA Committee for its work on this issue during the previous year. The resolution proposes establishing a university task force to evaluate how innovation and entrepreneurship are incorporated into promotion and tenure (P&T) policies across NMSU.

The task force would:

Assess current P&T policies and practices related to innovation and entrepreneurship across different academic units. Work with units across the institution to conduct surveys developed by a national organization, identified in the discussion as PTI, as well as conduct gap analyses. Identify opportunities for improvement and develop recommendations for incorporating innovation and entrepreneurial activities more effectively into the university's broader P&T system. Consider evolving sources of faculty support and research activity, including opportunities involving industry partnerships and other avenues beyond traditional external funding mechanisms.

The overall purpose is to evaluate whether NMSU's promotion and tenure system adequately recognizes innovation, entrepreneurship, industry collaboration, and emerging forms of faculty activity, and to identify opportunities for improvement across the institution.

- [Proposed Revisions to ARP 4.62 Academic Agreement Assigned to Student Success](#)
- [Proposed Revisions to ARP 4.65 General Education Courses Required for Graduation Assigned to Curriculum and Planning](#)

Chair Finlator introduced two proposed revisions to Administrative Rules and Procedures 4.62 and 4.65. The items were assigned to the Student Success and Curriculum and Planning committees, respectively. Chair Finlator encouraged members who support any of the legislation presented to contact the lead sponsor or the chair of the committee considering the legislation if they are interested in co-sponsoring. He noted that broad co-sponsorship from different colleges and academic units across the state demonstrates broad support for the legislation.

10. Unfinished Business – N/A

11. Other Business –

Senator Sandstrom raised concerns regarding revised Administrative Rule and Procedure (ARP) 15.5, which addresses computer security and the use of computers off-site. Senator Sandstrom stated that the policy appeared vague and expressed concern that it could potentially allow ICT to examine an employee's home computer when it is being used to teach an online course. Senator Sandstrom recommended that the policy be reviewed and that clarification be sought regarding these issues. Chair Finlator thanked Senator Sandstrom and noted that ARP 15.5 was not currently on the agenda. He asked Senator Sandstrom to submit comments through Policy Hub, if possible. If submission through the Policy Hub was not possible, Chair Finlator requested that the comments be sent directly to Vice Chair Bello or herself so they could be raised at the Policy Steering Committee.

12. Remarks and Announcements

- FS Chair, Kristian Finlator
 - Procedural Updates
 - Chair's Report
 - May 2027 meetings

Chair Finlator provided the following announcements:

Strategic Plan: Chair Finlator noted that the President has published an initial draft of the strategic plan and encouraged senators to review it. She emphasized that the plan is intended to be a living document and invited senators to submit suggestions or identify areas for improvement to the appropriate office or to him.

Parliamentary Procedures: Chair Finlator announced several updates to parliamentary procedures outlined in the Special Rules document posted to the Faculty Senate website. He clarified that these are not changes to the rules or bylaws but provide guidance on how meetings will be conducted. One change concern voting procedures. Votes will not routinely be counted unless a senator requests a counted vote.

May Faculty Senate Meetings: Chair Finlator announced that there will be two Faculty Senate meetings in May. The regular meeting will be held on May 6 to address regular Faculty Senate business. A second meeting will be held on May 13 for caucusing. Senators whose terms continue beyond the academic year should attend both meetings; senators whose terms end after the second academic year need only attend the May 6 meeting. Senators were asked to ensure both dates are on their calendars.

Subcommittee Meeting Schedule: Chair Finlator noted that some regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings conflict with Thanksgiving, winter holidays, and spring break. Vice Chair Bello, Chair Finlator, and Mari have adjusted several subcommittee meeting dates in November, December, January, and March. Senators were asked to update their calendars accordingly.

Faculty Senate Website: Chair Finlator reiterated Vice Chair Bello's comments regarding improvements to the Faculty Senate website. Senators were invited to submit suggestions for improving the website to Chair Finlator or, preferably, Vice Chair Bello.

- FS Vice-Chair/SLC Chair, Oladayo Bello

Vice Chair Bello announced that there is an open Faculty Senate seat on the Graduate Faculty Council. Although the bylaws provide for the Vice Chair or a designee to serve, Vice Chair Bello invited any interested senator to volunteer for the position. If no senator volunteers, Vice Chair Bello indicated that she would serve. She noted that she could attend meetings when the designee is unavailable and vice versa.

Chair Finlator clarified that the position is a non-voting, ex-officio seat that Vice Chair Bello would relinquish to the senator who volunteers. The seat was previously held by Senator Palacios, who has since moved into a voting seat on the council. Chair Finlator also noted that Senator Abdelkefi chairs the Graduate Faculty Council.

In response to a question from Senator Sandstrom regarding the time commitment, Senator Abdelkefi stated that the Graduate Faculty Council meets on the first Thursday of each month during the academic year. Meetings generally last approximately 90 minutes, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Faculty Senate Survey

Vice Chair Bello announced plans to distribute a survey to faculty in conjunction with the faculty voting process to assess faculty perceptions of the Faculty Senate. She stated that the survey would consist of one question with four response choices.

To encourage participation in both the survey and voting, Vice Chair Bello reported that up to 15 \$25 Campus Bookstore gift cards had been secured for a raffle. The raffle would include approximately two participants per college. Vice Chair Bello indicated that she would work with IT to limit eligibility for the raffle to faculty who are not members of the Faculty Senate. Senators were asked to share the survey and raffle information with their constituents.

NMSU Forward Strategic Plan

Matthew Sievert asked whether he should provide Chair Finlator with a document his department was preparing for presentation to FSLC regarding concerns about President Ferme's strategic plan, **NMSU Forward**. Chair Finlator stated that if the document is brought to FSLC, she will have an opportunity to review it. She thanked Sievert for taking the initiative to assemble the department's concerns.

13. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Present: FS Chair K. Finlator, FS Vice Chair O. Bello, M. Burkardt, W. Walker, R. Campbell, R. Garay, V. Pimentel, J. Cook, K. Knight, R. Jayaraman, C. Garcia-Anaya, M. Sievert, J. Klocksien, K.T. Manis, R. Schumacher, I. Garcia-Bryce, M. Montañez, H. Baek, T. Manz, T. Conner, I. Pedraza, V. Murga, D. Overstreet, P. Hemp, T. Allred, J. Sandstrom, C. Creusere, G. Piña, D. Magoc, D. Fuqua, T. Miller-Tomlinson, S. Mikkelsen, J. Hunter, G. Memon, C. Mitchell, T. Aguirre, I. Hansen, A. Cox, C. DeBlieck, G. De Necochea, J. Bengtson, E. Gamillo, R. Villegas-Arguelles, B. Hampton, K. Djaman, M. Furuhashi, R. Palacios, S. Lynch, R. McMullen, A. Abdelkefi, R. Ghimire, R. Li, O. Holguin, E. Magrane, C. Mitchell, S. Johnson, C. Pelak.

Guest: James McAteer Deputy Provost, Anisa Sanches Graduate Student Council Chair, Robbie Grant NMSU Global AT Executive Director, Francisco Martinez Manager Classroom Tech, Lizely Madrigal Director of University Technology Solutions and Support, Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, E. Nicole Meyer, Christopher Brown.