

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report – Activities for April and May of 2026 Christopher Brown, filed 6.10.26 (apologies for late submission)

Below, I share highlights of work I completed as Vice Chair in April and May of 2026. As always, I am very happy to visit with anyone who would like to gain more data on activities reported. Pls note, this is my last Monthly VC report; details on the work completed in the 2025-2026 Academic Year are provided in my final 2025-2026 report.

Group of 4 Meetings with President Ferme and Provost Reddi – During April, Chair Chaitanya and I attended two Group of 4 Meetings on 4.8.26 and 4.15.26. I share data on issues discussed below.

- **NMSU compliance with US DoJ decision on accessibility of online data sharing** – we continued to discuss this issue in April and learned that the DOJ extended the deadline for compliance to 24 April 2027. The Provost’s Office is working to pull together a committee to outline how NMSU will comply, and we can expect to hear details of this work moving forward after James McAteer briefs Provost Designate Joe Bull as he joins NMSU in July of 2026.
- **Strategic Plan** – the BoR is increasing pressure on President Ferme to see progress, and Central will be posting updates on a to-be-deployed Website. Major foci will include efforts to increase student success, and metrics will be key to advancing this. President Ferme seeks input from Senate and the broader faculty, and we can expect to see a draft in the early fall.
- **Executive searches** – President Ferme notes search committees for leadership of NMSU Global, VP of Coop/Exper. Learning, and the VPR’s Office are being formed:
 - VPR search – co chaired by Kristian Finlator and James McAteer. Students and Senators will join, Witt Kiefer will be search firm.
 - Global – co chaired by Rick Marlatt and a faculty member to be named. Students and Senators will join, Parker to be search firm.
 - VP of Coop/Exper. Learning - Omar Holguin to co-chair, CFO Bottorff, Monica Torres and Cynthia Bejarano to serve. Search firm TBD.

Meetings of the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), University Program Approval Council (UPAC), and the Policy Steering Committee (PSC)

- **ADAC** – We met twice during April, 4.13.26 and 4.17.26, and discussions have focused on the following issues (some of this detail comes directly from ADAC minutes, with permission of ADAC Chair Ben Widmer):
 - **Capacity Overrides (Hicks)** Renita Hicks presented a proposal to remove the capacity override function from the Banner system, starting with the Spring registration cycle.
 - **Thesis and Dissertation Template (Kopera-Frye)** Karen Kopera-Frye provided an update on the mandatory accessibility updates for graduate templates.
 - **Complete College America (CCA) – Career Connected Degree Mapping** - Joseph Lakey provided an overview of the Career Connected Degree Mapping service, part of the CCA Accelerator program. Key discussion points included:

- **Project Scope:** The 6-month initiative aims to produce enhanced roadmaps for 4-6 priority programs that connect curricula directly to career opportunities.
 - **Summer Workload:** Concerns were raised regarding faculty involvement over the summer. Members suggested that stipends or departmental head involvement would be necessary to ensure participation during non-contract periods.
 - **Program Selection:** Suggested areas for pilot mapping are to be given to Joe. Accredited colleges (Engineering and Business) were deemed lower priority for this specific initiative.
- **UPAC** – UPAC did not meet in April, and no meetings are planned until August of 2026 when new proposals will be reviewed. VC Brown onboarded VC Elect Bello on how UPAC meetings unfold and provided detail on her role as UPAC Co-Chair.
 - **PSC** – The PSC met once in April – 4.13.26. Several changes to the ARP are proposed, proposals are in various stages of the review process, and details are provided at the NMSU Policy Hub - <https://policy.nmsu.edu/>. Donna Ottaviano continues to post changes in play in Hotline, and interested parties are encouraged to review progress, provide input to changes that are in process, and also submit proposed changes at The Policy Hub. Below are policy changes currently in play:
 - **ARP 7.65, Reductions on Force** – This was posted for Community Review, comments came in, and a revised draft will be presented at the May PSC meeting.
 - **ARP 18.05, Honorary Degrees** – Initial submission by University Policy Officer, minor change to remove VP of Advancement from policy, as this office no longer exists.

Chair Elect Finlator and VC Elect Bello attended the 13 May 2026 meeting and were introduced, and VC Brown has onboarded both as regards their role on the PSC and the work involved.

Onboarding efforts for Chair Elect Finlator and VC Elect Bello – During April and May of 2026, VC Brown met with Chair Elect Finlator and VC Elect Bello for onboarding sessions and also shared documents that outlined recurring activities and timeline, noted open items that need to be closed out, and provided suggestions for improving the efficiency by which staff in The Provost’s Office support the Senate. As I wrap this last monthly report, I share that Senate Leadership is in good hands with Chair Elect Finlator and VC Elect Bello.

