

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in room 127 Hadley Hall and via zoom.

The Committee discussed the great events which happened on Indigenous Peoples Day October 14, 2024.

Senator and Chair Kopera-Frye talked about creating more coordination of communication between the University Diversity Council, HEST DEI Committee and Faculty Senate DEI Committees. Members shared their ideas for point persons in their institutions, e.g., Alamogordo campus. It was noted that Co-chairs from the University Committee came to Faculty Senate meeting on 8/29/24 to share their goals and ideas. The Committee decided to invite Co-Chairs to our next DEI meeting on November 20, 2024 to begin conversations.

Senator McDonald shared information on the Hadley Hall murals and ideas from the 2020 working Committee regarding recommendations on 3 campus murals-Hadley Hall, Branson Library, and Trader statue in Plaza. Ideas from working group included walling them off, moving them, etc. There was a \$10,000 commitment by Interim President Gough, but that is not enough to handle the vandalized damage prior. The family of the artist has been involved with NMSU, so they are moving slowly. Scanned images were completed. Recommendation from DEI was to bring to full Faculty Senate for discussion.

Senator Grant brought up if there is a faculty sabbatical, and they have a medical situation and cannot complete the sabbatical, do they have to pay back NMSU? The faculty member cannot return to work. A policy issue here. It was recommended to bring this to the attention of Chair of Faculty Senate Chaitanya and Vice Chair of Faculty Senate Brown.

An email was received from faculty from Gender and Sexuality Studies noting a relocation by the prior Provost and desiring another academic home. All agreed to support our colleagues, and it was suggested to bring this to Chair of Faculty Senate Chaitanya and Vice Chair of Faculty Senate Brown for further discussion.

Senator and Chair Kopera-Frye brought up the issue whether we have a campus-wide Land Acknowledgement. Senators reported that the prior Chancellor Arvizu did not fully endorse this, and Senator Corran was Chair at that time. Senator Kopera-Frye suggested we bring it to the full Faculty Senate again, now that leadership has changed.

Senator Lopez-Gallagher and others were concerned about how to advise a student who comes to them reporting harassment. The student indicated they felt the instructor was untouchable. A full discussion ensued and it was recommended that the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) send a representative to our monthly Faculty Senate Leadership or Full Faculty Senate meeting to advise on the process for us to help students navigate the course of action.

Next meeting is November 20, 2024, via zoom and in room 127 Hadley Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kopera-Frye

Faculty Senate DEI Committee Chair