

NMSU Faculty Senate Meeting
December 5, 2024; 4:00 p.m.
Hadley Hall Rm 130 and [Zoom](#)

MINUTES

- **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.
- **Approval of Agenda**
Moved and seconded to approved agenda.
Agenda approved.
- **Recognition of Guests**
-Interim Provost, Lakshmi Reddi, Deputy Provost James McAteer, Robbie Grant, Jim Stanfill, Renita Hicks.

10 Minutes

Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi-

Interim Provost Reddi announced that it is his honor to introduce our newest employee in the leadership circle, Jim Stanfill, who has been hired as the regular Chief Information Officer (CIO). He will oversee all our technology matters. Jim has vast work experience with large organizations, and he has recently brought some much-needed efficiencies to the campus.

Over the past couple of months, we have noticed that the corporate world is much quicker than the university environment, but Provost Reddi believes he is bringing some of those efficiencies to the campus. There are many initiatives he won't discuss for him, but one important point is that the President and Provost emphasized the need to be prompt with financial aid disbursement this coming year due to issues we faced last year. We need to address the Department of Education compliance concerning the coursework counted toward financial aid.

While our Vice President of Student Success is unable to join us today, we recognize that this matter requires careful attention to how we design the coursework in our system and how it counts towards degree requirements.

VP for Student Success, Renay Scott/Renita Hicks, CIO, Jim Stanfill-

The project aims to ensure accurate encoding and compliance with elective coding. There is a license in place for achieving this, but it has not been integrated with Cpas, the course program of study linked with Banner. The goal is to establish a connection between the new Achieve platform and Banner, allowing information to move between both systems. An integration capability will be developed as part of this initiative, and Cpas will be incorporated into daily operations when the project goes live.

The project's scope has been defined through collaboration between Renita's team and mine, focusing on what needs to be implemented to address current compliance issues. While some work was completed in 2022 and 2023 with Achieve, the necessary interface between Banner and Achieve was not built at that time.

The kickoff for the project occurred recently, and David Kent Consulting has been hired to assist both teams in creating this interface from scratch for effective communication between Cpas, Banner, and Achieve. Additionally, David Kent Consulting will support the business side, including Dr. Scott's team and Renita's team, in mapping data for various degree programs.

There are still planned tasks to complete, including ongoing encoding work by Renita's team and David Kent Consulting. This involves mapping seven supplementary majors, implementing 169 undergraduate minors, creating 138 undergraduate certificates, and mapping 138 associate programs. Further, 24 graduate certificates, 44 doctoral programs, 230 master's degrees, and 28 grant minors also need to be included.

The aim is to finish all development and mapping work by the end of February. Work has commenced now, despite the upcoming holiday, due to David Kent Consulting's commitment to continue through Christmas. This completion target allows for two months of testing with Renita's team and the IT team to ensure functionality prior to going live sometime in April.

Questions, discussion and answers followed.

- **Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2024, meeting**
Moved and seconded to approve minutes.
Senator Aguirre abstains due to her absence.

Moved and seconded to approve agenda.

Minutes approved and submitted with the abstain from Senator Aguirre.

- **Emergency Legislation**

06-24/25 – A Memorial affirming the diverse campus community that NMSU is, and in support of students at-risk of Harassment, Discrimination, and Deportation. Sponsor(s): William Walker (A&S), Christopher Brown, (A&S), Tawny Aguirre (DACC), Dylan McDonald (Library), Tom Hart (A&S), Michaela Burkardt (A&S), Kim Lopez Gallagher (DACC), Lois Stanford (A&S), Kelly Jenks (A&S), Kathryn Olszowy (A&S), Katie Richards (A&S), Colleen Bond (NMSU Alamogordo), Debasmita Roychowdhury (DACC), Hiranya Roychowdhury (DACC) Kristian Finlator (A&S), Juie Shetye (A&S), Amy Garcia (DACC). Michaela Buenemann (A&S), Amanda Cuellar (ACC), Avis James (A&S), Brian Hurd (ACES), Jamie Bronstein (A&S), Bertha A. Bermúdez Tapia (HEST), David Ortiz (HEST), Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza (A&S)
Moved and seconded to consider Proposition 06-24/25 as Emergency Legislation.

Senate Vote

YES: 44 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: 1

Senate voted in favor; proposition moved to Unfinished Business.

- **Reports of Officers**

FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya

03 Minutes

Their weekly meetings with the leadership, including Chair Chaitanya and the Vice Chair Brown, have been ongoing. In November, they met three times to discuss various issues, such as artificial intelligence, the vice president search, the integration of global programs with the main campus, and the IDC distribution issue. They also addressed the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). These discussions are informal, and both Chris and Vimal share their opinions and advice.

On November 5, they also discussed the NMSU Online Advisory Committee meeting. During this meeting, they typically hear about enrollment and retention numbers. However, one topic that caught their interest was about the MA education in early childhood with licensure, which is set to move completely online. There are other programs, like the bilingual certificate programs, that are returning to in-person classes. This decision raised concerns about fairness to students who expected these programs to be entirely online. There is uncertainty about whether there will be online components or if some classes will require physical attendance. Following this, there was a discussion about who makes these decisions and whether faculty input is considered. If anyone has information or data on this topic, I would appreciate hearing about it privately. We need to be careful not to mislead students regarding the services we provide and their format.

Chair Chaitanya also attended meetings focused on student success and visited the Santa Fe State Capitol. Vimal Chaitanya, Christopher Brown, Provost Reddi, Deputy Provost McAteer, Government Relations VP Clayton Abbey, and Chris Kinsley met with key people who advise legislators on proposals and support. They also met the Secretary of Higher Education. Overall, they found these meetings to be very positive and beneficial.

Their main request during these discussions was for \$5. 48 million in the next budget cycle to raise faculty salaries to be competitive with the 40th or 50th percentile among similar institutions and approximately \$3M to support graduate students. This was probably the most critical point Chair Chaitanya wanted to convey. In Vice-Chair report, other important topics will be included.

FS Vice-Chair, Christopher Brown

03 Minutes

Vice-Chair Brown's report is online. Some highlighted keys discussions between Chair Chaitanya, President Torres, and Vice Chancellor Coleman about the relationship between NMSU Main Campus and NMSU Global. They agreed that NMSU Global has positively influenced enrollments, but better coordination with other programs at NMSU is needed. This discussion was productive, and Vice-Chair thanked Robbie for being very responsive to faculty concerns.

There is positive news regarding funding for open access journals. Previous Senate legislation have a small portion of IDC funds to support article processing charges, and President Torres has secured \$100,000 in one-time funds to start this program. Chair Chaitanya and Vice-Chair Brown are planning a meeting with VPR Cifuentes, AVP Schaub, and Dean Comerford from the library to initiate this in early 2025.

Vice-Chair attended the ADAC meeting where changes to ARP on graduate faculty appointments were discussed. The chair of the Graduate Faculty Council, Senator Hameed Badawy, agreed to send the

proposed changes to Ermelinda Quintela, chair of the Policy Steering Committee, to get the process moving. There was also a conversation about how adjuncts are assigning incomplete grades and the need for departments to address this issue proactively.

ICT informed us that Windows 10 will be commissioned in December 2025. Those with Windows 10 devices should consider purchasing new machines soon. Additionally, ARP 15.15, which concerns email, is under review, particularly regarding auto forwarding of NMSU email. More updates will follow as it progresses through the Policy Steering Committee.

The UPAC saw various program proposals. A proposal that focuses on low yield programs and aims to work with departments to improve their sustainability has been developed. Discussions have been proactive to ensure a positive partnership between Central and Departments. UPAC will finalize this review as the semester ends before sending it to the Provost and returning it to the Senate in early 2025. Interested individuals can request the latest draft.

Lastly, the Policy Steering Committee met in November and is currently working on three important items: a freedom of expression policy (ARP 3. 6. 3), guidelines for sponsored youth programs involving minors on campus (ARP 1679), and a new ARP focused on digital accessibility. They will reconvene on Monday, and I will provide updates at the January Senate meeting.

- **Reports of Standing Committees**

15 Minutes

- Budget and Resources

- The Budget and Resources Committee met on the 12th and had a quorum, missing only one member.

- Chair Hanson gave a brief summary. The committee had a productive discussion with the new HR head, Marshall Parks, who was very open and transparent. He talked about upcoming changes in HR that address our concerns, including the hiring process. We also discussed several other HR issues, and he seemed willing to collaborate with us in the future.

- [Full BR report on FS website.](#)

- University Planning

- University Planning Committee met in November.

- Chair Lehnhoff gave a brief report. The committee is continuing to revise the P. and T. Guidelines, they have made several changes and improved the documents. They will meet again next week to finalize their draft, which will then be sent to the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Committee welcomes any input on necessary changes to the P. and T. Guidelines, so please contact Chair Lehnhoff if you have suggestions. The final report will summarize the proposed changes they have made. [Full UP report on FS website.](#)

- Curriculum and Planning

- Chair Piña gave a brief summary. The committee voted on Proposition 06-24/25, that was considered Emergency Legislation.

- [Full CP report on FS website.](#)

- The Senate moved and seconded to approve the Budget and Resources Committee report.

- The Senate votes in the affirmative to accept Budget and Resources Committee report to be passed and approved.

- Research and Creative Activity

- The committee met on November 14th.

- Chair Tian gave a brief report. During their meeting Chair Chaitanya introduced the VPR.

- The VPR will explain their plan regarding how the domestic state plans to approach research at a university. There are two types of research: one is research-intensive, and the other is more teaching-oriented with some research activities. The VPR wants faculty at New Mexico State to have the choice in this matter.

- Additionally, the committee discussed the proposal regarding a 0. 5% provision of IDC for a continuous support program for open access publication costs. Some members felt this percentage is too small, while others believe more of the budget should go to publication costs. There are mixed opinions on the bill, with some members finding it useful but noting that the support mechanism is unclear. The bill was not voted on during the Zoom meeting; instead, voting occurred offline. An email was sent to the committee, receiving nine responses: seven in favor and one against the bill in its current form.

- [Full RCA report on FS website.](#)

- The Senate moved and seconded to approve the Research and Creative Activity Committee report.

The Senate votes in the affirmative to accept Research and Creative Activity Committee report to be passed and approved.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee met on November 20th.
Chair Kopera-Frye gave a report on the meeting. They discussed collaboration between the University Diversity Council and the Faculty Senate Committee DEI, on behalf of Dr. Scholz, who was out of the country. Mariana Ortega and Spri Aubrey presented activities related to goal 6, focusing on subgroup 6. 1 for student belonging, especially for students of color, and subgroup 6. 2 for faculty and staff retention. There was strong interest in our group, especially with the new administration beginning in January.

The University Diversity Council suggested starting a know your rights campaign. This campaign aims to provide safe spaces for students, faculty, and staff to understand their rights, particularly in light of past events concerning sanctuary campus policies. The goal is to increase awareness of what individuals can and cannot face, and how they should respond to various situations.

This initiative is moving quickly with upcoming listening sessions. An invitation has been extended to anyone interested in participating. These sessions are essential due to changes in policies in states like Florida, Oklahoma, and Iowa, where programs related to diversity are facing significant challenges and rebranding. Unlike some institutions that are changing program names to avoid scrutiny, our position, led by Dr. Scholtz, is to maintain existing terminology until further notice. Additionally, some diversity, equity, and inclusion officers are losing their jobs in states like Oklahoma, which shows the serious nature of the current climate. If you are interested in joining the campaign and attending the listening sessions, please let Chair Kopera-Frye know so she can share the details.

In their meeting, they also unanimously voted to allocate \$2,200.66 of leftover funds from the Indigenous Peoples to the United NMSU student organization for events. Since we can't give tuition or make scholarships, this amount will help with their operating budget for campus activities.

Another important matter is the return of the land acknowledgment proposition, which had seen no action previously. A decision was made by the DEI group to lead the effort to bring this back into consideration. On December 2, a meeting was held with Ann Hubble and others to discuss moving forward, with plans to meet next Tuesday with the Native American Outreach and Engagement Task Force, which includes tribal community members. The goal is to find partners within this group who are interested in collaborating on this proposition to create lasting relationships and initiatives, ensuring the effort is meaningful and sustained.

The Senate moved and seconded to approve the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee report.

The Senate votes on the affirmative to accept Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee report to be passed and approved.

- Student Success Committee met on November 14th.
Chair Aguirre gave a brief report. The committee had 100% attendance, there was no voting involved. There are 2 propositions to be discussed by the curriculum committee on Thursday at 4 o'clock. Proposition 7 is about reviewing the policy for NMSU students taking classes at community colleges. Proposition 8 concerns the attendance policy ARP 4. 4. 6 for students. [Full SS report on FS website.](#)

- **New Business**

05 Minutes

- 07-24/25 – Resolution to allow NMSU main campus students to enroll in and receive credit for NMSU system branch courses. Sponsors: R. Gioannini (NTT), T.Aguirre (DACC), K. Lopez Gallagher (Alamogordo), and K. Finlator (A & S). **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning Standing Committee.**
- 08-24-25 - Changes to ARP 4.46. Lead Sponsor: T. Aguirre, Sponsors: K. Finlator, J.Rice, M. Elshinawy, D. Magoc, S. Lynch, R. Gioannini, K. Lopez Gallagher (Alamogordo), K. Finlator (A & S), Lead sponsor: T. Aguirre (DACC) **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning Standing Committee.**

- Unfinished Business-** **05 Minutes**
06-24/25 – A Memorial affirming the diverse campus community that NMSU is, and in support of students at-risk of Harassment, Discrimination, and Deportation. Sponsor(s): William Walker (A&S), Christopher Brown, (A&S), Tawny Aguirre (DACC), Dylan McDonald (Library), Tom Hart (A&S), Michaela Burkardt (A&S), Kim Lopez Gallagher (DACC), Lois Stanford (A&S), Kelly Jenks (A&S), Kathryn Olszowy (A&S), Katie Richards (A&S), Colleen Bond (NMSU Alamogordo), Debasmitha Roychowdhury (DACC), Hiranya Roychowdhury (DACC) Kristian Finlator (A&S), Juie Shetye (A&S), Amy Garcia (DACC). Michaela Buenemann (A&S), Amanda Cuellar (ACC), Avis James (A&S), Brian Hurd (ACES), Jamie Bronstein (A&S), Bertha A. Bermúdez Tapia (HEST), David Ortiz (HEST), Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza (A&S)
No discussion.

VOTE:

YES: 42 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: 1

Motion passes; Proposition approved by Senate.

03-24/25 - Clarifying Exceptions to Final Exam Requirements in ARP 4.50. Sponsors – K. Finlator (A&S); J. Burchett (A&S), M. Burkardt (A&S); and M. Prescott (A&S). **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning Standing Committee.**
No discussion.

VOTE:

YES: 48 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-

Motion passes; Proposition approved by Senate.

- 05-24/25 – Establishing Continuing Support for Open Access Publication Cost-
 Sponsor(s): K. Finlator (A&S); F. Arslan (CoB). **Assigned to Research and Creative Activity Standing Committee.**
Discussion followed:
Senator Sandstrom said faculty members who are not on the committee have questions about proposing changes and whether they need to attend committee meetings. There is uncertainty about the correct process for submitting proposals. It is important to include Dean Comerford and have someone from the library in the committee. The library faculty also face publication issues and have access to important resources that others might need to ask about. For example, there is a current opportunity to increase a purchase from Cambridge University Press from \$3,000 to \$14,000, which would waive all Article Processing Charges (APCs) for a year. There is uncertainty about how much is published in Cambridge University Press, but similar agreements exist with major publishers. The concern is about covering costs, which may fall on either the library or the individual authors. It is emphasized that the library should be part of the group and considered for funding.
Senator Finlator proposed to Senator Sandstrom to translate that into a proposed friendly amendment that stipulates that not only should there be at least one member from each of the colleges, but there should also be a representative from the library on the committee that decides how this money is discouraged in section one of the proposal.
Vice-Chair Brown said that since the committee passed a due pass as written, we don't look at a friendly amendment, but what he would suggest is that the Chair ask for a formal amendment from one Senator a second from another, and then vote on the amendment and then we vote on the amended bill.
The Proposition now reads in section 1 to include the library:

(1) Establish a rigorous method for allocating funds from the OAPF. We recommend the formation of a diverse panel of six faculty members representing the library and each of the NMSU colleges (except the Honors College), provisionally named the OA Publication Fund Allocation Committee (OAPFAC), to be drawn either from the Faculty Senate or from the general faculty. The OAPFAC would be responsible for reading and evaluating applications for support from the OAPF following a rubric that is, in turn, to be anchored in the guidelines laid out in Proposition 07-23/24. It would operate much as a grant allocation committee would.

Moved to approve made and seconded for the amended resolution.
Senate votes in favor.

VOTE:

YES: 37 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-

Motion passes; approved amended resolution by Senate.

Move to approve made and seconded for the amended proposition.
Senate votes in favor.

VOTE:

YES: 39 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-

Motion passes; Proposition 05-24/25 approved with the amended resolution by Senate.

- **Other Business - NONE**

- **Remarks and Announcements**

- a. FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya **02 Minutes**
NONE
- b. FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown **02 Minutes**
NONE

- **Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.**

Present: FS Chair Vimal Chaitanya, FS Vice-Chair Christopher Brown, S. Hanson, E. Lehnhoff, A. Romero, T. Stolte, A. Ashley, H. Baek, E. Hetrick, R. Schumacher, W. Walker, L. Saiki, K. Knight, R. Figueroa, M. Darapuneni, C. DeBlieck, L. Hermanson, D. Magoc, S. Lynch, J. Tomaka, R. Jayaraman, J. Rice, G. Duff, K. Finlator, Z. Shen, P. Smoak, T. Cleveland, K. Lopez-Gallagher, I. Pedraza, P. Tian, M. Elshinawy, T. Conner, W. Stem, S. Gordon, R. Li, C. Erickson, A. Tawny, J. Cook, M. Burkardt, D. McDonald, J. Sandstrom, H. Badawy, F. Arslan, L. Grant, J. Hunter, T. Manz, M. Furuhashi, S. Walker, O. Holguin, J. Dalager, R. Gioannini, O. Bello, E. Oskey, T. Allred, G. Piña, RecSec. Cisneros.

Guest: Deputy Provost James McAteer, Executive Director Academic Tech Robbie Grant, Jim Stanfill Chief Informational Officer, Renita Hicks University Registrar.