

**Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report - December, 2024**  
**Christopher Brown, filed 1.8.24.25**

Below, I share highlights of work I have completed as Vice Chair in December of 2024. Owing to winter break, this will be a short report, as many of the committees in play had limited meetings in December. As always, I am very happy to visit with anyone who would like to gain more data on activities reported.

**Meetings with President Torres and Provost Reddi** – Chair Chaitanya and I continue to enjoy excellent access to President Torres and Provost Reddi through our weekly meetings, and I share data on issues discussed below. Meetings were limited during December due to the winter break; of note, President Ferme joined us for a few meetings.

- **One-time funds to support a program to support paying for article processing charges for open access journals** – President Torres delivered on her commitment to provide \$100k in one-time funds to support getting this program started, and I advised Interim President Torres, Interim Provost Reddi, and President Designate Ferme that I was working on assembling the Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee (OAPFAC) that was called for in [Senate Bill 05-24-25, Establishing Continuing Support for Open Access Publication Costs](#). I hope to have this in place by mid-January so this committee can begin its work on distributing these funds.
- **Efforts with the NM Legislature to secure additional funds to increase faculty salaries** – Chair Chaitanya and I had continued discussions with Central on the effort to move a bill in the upcoming session to secure \$5.4M for enhanced faculty salaries and \$3+M for enhanced GA salaries. President Designate has asked for very specific data points to support these efforts, and Interim Provost Reddi will be working with Marshall Parks and the Provost’s Office data person to secure these data.
- **LFC idea to have NMSU be the State’s online program manager** – This came out of a meeting that President Designate Ferme and the 6 other presidents of 4-year institutions had with George Muñoz, LFC Chair. This was a total surprise to the presidents, and President Designate Ferme is in discussions with these presidents on how to respond to this idea.
- **BoR request for formal audit on academic programs** – This was initiated in early December, this reflecting pressure from Santa Fe to make sure resources for programs are being used well. The backstory of this involves comments from HED that “we see all these new programs come our way, with no request for more resources, and no programs are being sunsetted.” This is related to the Academic Program Sustainability Proposal that came out of UPAC, and we expect to hear comments from Interim Provost Reddi on the proposal that was submitted to him in December.

**Meetings of the FSLC with President Torres and Provost Reddi** – The FSLC continues to meet with Interim President Torres and Interim Provost Reddi once per month, and I share notes from these meetings under separate cover in email. Chair Chaitanya and I have asked that these meetings continue with Dr. Ferme taking the helm, and he has agreed to continue the meetings.

**Meetings of the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), University Program Approval Council (UPAC), and the Policy Steering Committee (PSC) - I share highlights below:**

- **ADAC** – We only met once during December, and discussions have focused on the following:
  - Kate Terpis' term as ADAC chair is ending, and Rick Marlatt will be the new ADAC Chair starting in December.
  - Discussions on Carnegie community engagement reclassification are underway, and we can expect to see ideas filter down from these discussions to Deans and to DHs.
  - Department Name Change-- The Department of Civil Engineering (CE) proposes a name change to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. CE faculty are working with units on campus who may have an issue, and we will see a Senate bill for this name change coming our way at the January FSLC meeting.
  - Changes to ARP 6.43 on grad faculty appointments are still in play, and Hameed Badawy, chair of the Graduate Faculty Council, is moving a formal proposal on this change through the Policy Steering Committee.
- **UPAC** – In the last few months, we have reviewed many proposals, and I noted highlights in my last Vice Chair Report. We did not meet in December due to Winter break, and we will next be meeting in February (January meeting was cancelled due to start of classes and very limited new business).
- **PSC** – We did not meet in December, and this was the latest of many PSC meetings that were cancelled. I will visit with Chair Chaitanya and Deputy Provost James McAteer to explore a discussion with The President and Provost about getting the policy review process back on track. Of note, we were advised by Lisa Henderson, NMSU General Counsel, that the formal proposal that Hameed put forward to revise ARP 6.64 on graduate faculty appointments was put on hold as the CBA negotiations with NMSU-NEA and Central unfold. I personally do not believe that any of the revisions being proposed have any significant impact on faculty workload and conditions, but we don't control what moves in the PSC.