

NMSU Faculty Senate Chair Report for December 2024

Weekly Meetings with Interim President Torres and Interim Provost Reddi: Vice Chair Brown and I met with the leadership on **December 2nd, 9th, and 16th**. Incoming President Ferme joined as well in our meeting on the 16th.

These meetings have been very helpful to us in providing input to the NMSU administrative leadership on variety of initiatives/actions being contemplated by them. At the same time administrative leadership has come to value our input before taking specific actions.

Some of the topics discussed during December meetings were P&T timeline (no changes for now from previous timeline), Department of Education restriction on courses considered towards degree program for financial aid (Renay Scott, Jim Stanfill, and “Degree Works” consultants are studying the impact of this restriction on students), Resolution for on-going support for publication fee, IDC distribution details, Ratio of Administrators to Faculty (over 5 years how has it changed? “Administrator” and “Faculty” need to be defined to get an accurate measure), Services provided to international students (what can we improve?), Global hybrid programs, AI in classes (Dean Pontelli appointed as the point person for all AI related issues), Graduate Student union issues, BOR audit committee, Commencement (compared to previous ceremonies, what needs to change or reinstalled) etc. The vice Chair report provides more information on select topics.

SLC Meetings with NMSU Administrative Leadership: These are monthly informal meetings typically arranged on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9 am. During these meetings the President and Provost may give a summary of activities they are engaged in, which may be of interest to the faculty and provide responses to questions/concerns/requests raised by the SLC members. We met on **December 5th**. The vice Chair seeks topics of interest from the SLC members as agenda items and offers a summary of discussion via email. Please see the vice Chair’s report.

NMSU on-line Advisory Committee Meetings: These are monthly meetings organized by NMSU Global Chancellor, Sherry Kollman. Typically, the discussion revolves around recruitment numbers for Global (Seth) as well as main campus (Renay Scott) and issues involving on-line delivery, security etc. (Robbie). We met on **December 3rd**. It was learned that Bilingual, TESOL, and Bilingual certificate programs will go back to HEST for administration, while the M.A. in Education (Early Childhood + Licensure) will move to Global for delivery and administration.

Faculty Senate Meeting: These are full faculty senate meetings arranged monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 4 pm. These meetings have occasional guest speakers but primarily deals with the passage of resolutions put forward by a group of senators and reports from the Senate’s six standing committees on issues they are working on. We met on **December 5th**. Minutes of the meeting are available on the NMSU faculty website.

President’s Cabinet Meeting: The cabinet usually meets every other week on Mondays at 10 am. I represent the faculty senate with administrative unit heads directly or indirectly reporting to the President (typically though the provost). ASNMSU President and NMSU Employee Council

Chair also serve on this committee. We met on **December 9th**. Primarily, Interim President Torres informed us that the BOR ends up calling special meetings, which can be avoided if we plan more regular meetings and establish a protocol of preparation for upcoming BOR meeting with timelines. President Torres shared and discussed document; she had prepared to establish such timelines. She also shared and discussed Protocol for NMSU faculty and staff communications with BOR. Finally, she shared the calendar of 2025 BOR meetings, which consisted of 8 regular meetings and two special meetings during commencement weekends in May and December.

Academic Affairs Council Meeting: This is primarily the meeting of academic Deans with the Provost, which used to be called Dean's Academic Council meetings previously. We met on **December 10th**. Various topics and priorities of the provost and the Colleges were discussed.

Board of Regents Regular Meeting: This occurred on **December 12th**. The agenda and the meeting are public information available on their web site and the proceedings are webcast. I had the opportunity to present a brief report on the Faculty Senate activities. I partially read the senate memorial about affirming the diverse campus community and the resolution for the administrative leadership to establish a permanent fund for open access article publishing charges. Finally, I briefly summarized the ongoing activities of each of the six standing committees. The report was appreciated with no follow-up questions.

Follow up to Santa Fe visit: We met with incoming President Ferme, Clayton Abby, Lakshmi Reddi, Chris Kinsley and others to discuss the additional documentation requested during our previous visit to request NMSU faculty compensation increase. We met on **December 16th** to discuss exactly what we need to provide and how best to provide it to the legislators.

NMSU Day Planning Committee: We met on **December 19th** for the second time to plan and bring more organization and coherence to the planned activities. The NMSU day was initiated last year so this is only our second event, which will be on Friday, December 31st, the day before the Las Cruces Day celebration. The idea is to showcase NMSU's presence and importance to the State legislators and engage in some festivities. The event is being organized by the Government and Community Relations Office and the NMSU Foundation. I have taken up the task of communicating with the academic side of the house and assist with planning.

FSLC Meeting: The FSLC met on **December 19th** to conduct its regular business. The minutes of the meeting are available on the NMSU Faculty senate web site.

Specially called Meetings: President Ferme called two special meetings; first on **December 12th** to inform the faculty senate leadership about his meeting with the LFC Chair and his suggestion that NMSU can provide the platform to all four-year colleges in NM in offering on-line education. The second special meeting was called on **December 18th** to seek participation from faculty in selecting Chief of Staff for his office.

Fun Activities: It was the Holiday and graduation season and it was fun to attend several functions such as Graduates dinner on December 4th, Lunch with BOR and women student athletes on **December 12th**, Lunch with outstanding graduate awardees on **December 13th**, reception for interim President Torres on **December 17th**, and reception for President Ferme.