Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report – Activities for December 2025
Christopher Brown, filed 1.13.26, <mark>amended 1.14.26</mark>

Below, I share highlights of work I have completed as Vice Chair in December of 2025. As always, I am very happy to visit with anyone who would like to gain more data on activities reported. Please note due to the winter break and finals, this will be an abbreviated report due to less Senate-related activities being in play.

Review of student enrollment and faculty headcount data for allocation of Senate Senates seats - I received data for the fall 2025 census of student enrollment and data from HR on faculty lines, and I ran the #s through the Excel file and formulas we have used for the last several years. No changes in # of Senators per college and representative groups resulted, and all allocations to colleges, representative groups, and the FSLC remain the same as posted to the Senate Website.

Group of 4 Meetings with President Ferme and Provost Reddi – Owing to winter break, we only met once with the President and Provost on 12.10.25, and I share data on issues discussed below.

- **Possible changes to make grad enrollment more efficient and getting apps to departments earlier** - we brought this issue up, which happens as the GS holds apps for review until they complete, and sometimes this is due to a single ref letter missing. We will invite Ranjit to the next meeting of The Group of 4 to discuss this.
- **Better data from Derek Yu on travel ban**s – A message about travel to banned countries is out, Patricia Sullivan's message on export control is out, and this is pretty much handled. We did get an update from Derek Yu at the December Senate meeting, and he will advise of any changes we see from the Trump Admin.
- **Link on Senate bills from Senate to Central Admin** – We are still having issues whereby bills that are passed and need action by Central or other campus leadership units are not moving as well as they should. Carley Casey in Provost's Office suggests that we need to use Adobe sign to get the transmittal from Senate to Central. To make this happen, the cover sheet needs to be updated prior to loading it in Adobe Sign, and a place for comments or future action. Can Carley add a next action button? Yes, but it will take time to make it happen. This is easy to do if we know who needs to be in the flow, but it will be harder to do if we don't know the flow a priori. Vimal notes Docusign could do what we want, and Carley will look into this.

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

- ADAC – We met once during December, and discussions have focused on the following issues (some of this detail comes directly from ADAC minutes, with permission of ADAC Chair Ben Widmer):
  - **Graduate Applications and Enrollment -** Ranjit Koodali provided context for current graduate application data following his attendance at the NM Council of Graduate Schools meeting. While reports showed a 36.3% decline, Ranjit explained the data is skewed because certain high-volume programs, such as the Doctor of

Nursing Practice and the MBA on the main campus, are not accepting applications for specific 2026 terms.

- **Graduate Marketing and Recruitment Efforts -** The Graduate School is implementing several new recruitment incentives and workflows. A $1,000 Graduate Success Scholarship is being offered to NMSU students to encourage them to continue into master's programs; this scholarship is stackable under the current collective bargaining agreement.

- **Graduate Forms –** Ranjit Koodali presented new fillable PDF forms intended as a stopgap measure to streamline administrative work associated with exams and degree certification. The intent is to eventually move these into Slate. A new "catch-all" form for master's non-thesis students was discussed. Gabe Garcia questioned the necessity of a form for coursework-only options. Ranjit clarified that current NMSU academic regulations require documentation of a final examination or integrative experience, necessitating the form until structural changes are made to the regulations.

- **UPAC** – UPAC did not meet in December, we will not meet in January, and updates from February meeting will be provided in a future report.

- **PSC** – The PSC met on 12.8.25, 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 has started posting 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 tables noting things currently in play, this detail pulled directly from the December agenda:

Proposed policy actions

2. Status Report

Record #	ARP	Title	Status
2025.01	New	Professional Licensure and Certification	Information Report to BOR
2024.09	New	Digital Accessibility	Information Report to BOR
2025.10	4.81	Degrees, Majors, Minors and Other Academic Programs of Study	Information Report to BOR
2024.05	16.79	NMSU Sponsored Youth Programs (proposed title: Programs Involving Minors)	Community Wide Review
		Review period ended 11/11. Feedback sent to proposal sponsor. Proposal sponsor reviewing feedback for possible revisions.	
2024.02	3.10	COI: Prohibitions in Procurement	See Note
		Initially sent to the President's Cabinet for review and discussion at their Meeting on October 13. On Oct 7 it was pulled from the agenda by the sponsor.	
2024.03	14.92	Sales and Solicitation	See Note
		Initially sent to the President's Cabinet for review and discussion at their Meeting on October 13. On Oct 7 it was pulled from the agenda by the sponsor.	
2024.08	3.63	Freedom of Expression (proposed title: Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly)	See Note
		Process paused for further evaluation by the proposal sponsor. FOE committee met and another version is being prepared.	
2025.07	New	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Meeting Assistants	See Note
		Community Vetting completed – Sponsor asking for additional time	
2025.06	11.01	Research Funding and Research Institutes	See Note
		Pulled by the Proposal Sponsor for further review. Proposal sponsor directed UPO to close without action.	