

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report – Activities for February 2025 **Christopher Brown, filed 3.3.25**

Below, I share highlights of work I have completed as Vice Chair in February of 2025. As always, I am very happy to visit with anyone who would like to gain more data on activities reported.

Meetings with President Ferme and Provost Reddi – Chair Chaitanya and I continue to enjoy access to the President and Provost through our weekly meetings, and I share data on issues discussed below. Meetings were limited during February due to people needing to travel to Santa Fe for the Legislative session.

- **Ideas to support the safety of NMSU students, faculty, and staff in light of Trump Administration Executive Orders** – Central is very aware of concerns we all have, and they are working with the NM Department of Justice and NMSU General Council to explore how best to protect members of the NMSU community. Chair Chaitanya and I met with the President and Deputy Provost McAteer on 21 February to discuss how NMSU can best respond to the USDoE Dear Colleague letter, and we provided input that helped the President draft the message he sent on 2.26.25.
- **Potential changes to ISSS office** - An ISSS task force has explored ideas on improving the functions of ISSS, and discussions led to the development of a new structure. Provost Reddi sent a message out to the campus on 2.20.25. providing details of these changes.
- **Five executive searches are in play or will start soon:**
 - VPR – Search is underway with Chari Chaitanya at the helm, we expect visits to campus in early May.
 - SVPFA – Christian Kinsley’s contract ends 30 June, we believe that this is a hard stop, and Christian will lead the search.
 - HEST Dean - Search is underway with Phame Camera at helm, Zoom interviews will happen in March, and we expect candidates’ visits to happen in April.
 - Provost- The President is in early thinking on this, and we are making suggestions concerning composition of the search committee.
 - HR – Marshall Parks’ contract ends in June, and The President is in early thinking on the search.

Meetings of the FSLC with President Torres and Provost Reddi –Due to the Legislative session and the President’s staff still settling in, we did not meet in February. Marissa Yniguez and Cindy Garrett worked up a schedule for meetings for March, April, May, and June, and I sent Outlook invitations with meeting details to FSLC members on 3.1.25.

Meetings of the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), University Program Approval Council (UPAC), and the Policy Steering Committee (PSC). I share highlights below: (ADAC details come directly from ADAC minutes with permission – thanks to Rick Marlatt):

- **ADAC** – We met twice during February, and discussions have focused on the following (some of this detail comes directly from ADAC minutes, with permission of ADAC Chair Rick Marlatt):

- **Federal Course Program of Study (CPOS)** – Renita Hicks and Melissa Magnusson gave a very informative presentation on the CPOS, including details on NMSU’s implementation of the federal regulation. Federal financial aid including Pell Grants and loans are restricted to coursework that is required as part of a student’s degree plan. Federal funding eligibility is contingent on this requirement. State funds such as Opportunity and Lottery, and other institutional funding programs are not impacted. The CPOS project kicked off in December 2024 and will be completed in April 2025. Slides were shared with ADAC, and I can share with any interested members.
- **Extending the VWW Military Credit Waiver to Military Spouses** - HEST recently received a request from a military spouse to extend the VWW credit waiver for active-duty and retired military members to military spouses. ADAC discussed whether this is a topic and potential rule change that could be considered. Numerous questions were raised regarding who would monitor eligibility and verify spousal deployments, could these requests extend eventually to children or other dependents, how many such requests might be added to CAAS’ processing workload, and more. As NMSU is a military supportive institution, Military and Veterans Programs (MVP) joined the 2.24.25 meeting for further discussion. ADAC expressed support for the following plan to deal with this issue: members work with Military and Veterans Program to produce a concise policy for a vote at a March ADAC meeting, this document could be worked into a Senate Bill that could be introduced in April and voted upon in May, which would line the process up for inclusion in the 26-27 catalog.
- **Credit Hour Registration Restriction for GAs with a GPA Below 3.0** - Historically, a rule appears to have been programed at some point which restricts GAs to seven credit hours if they fall below a 3.0 cumulative GPA. This rule does not appear in the ARP, Graduate Catalog, or Academic System Regulations but is implemented in Banner and has necessitated department heads to route a memo through their academic dean’s office to the Graduate School for approval for students in these cases to return to nine credit hour enrollment in compliance with their GA requirements. Support was expressed for drafting a policy to address this issue, discussion proceeded of how the current Petition and Schedule forms could be revised to support the proposed change, and support from the Registrar’s Office will be needed to make the rule change.
- **Graduate Grade Replacement Policy** – We saw an informative presentation on a draft of a potential grade replacement policy which resembles current practice for undergraduate students and is aimed at student success and degree completion. Support was expressed for the current draft. Formal ADAC approval will be sought with approval from Graduate Faculty Council and action with Faculty Senate to come.
- **UPAC** - UPAC did not meet in February, as we did not have any pressing business. Co-Chair Joe Lakey and I will be meeting with faculty who have proposed programs that were not approved by review bodies, and I will provide details as these discussions unfold.
- **PSC** – We again did not meet in February, and this was the latest of many PSC meetings that were cancelled. Of the 18 meetings we should have had in the last 10 months, we have only met 4 times. I see this lack of engagement on the policy review process as

completely unacceptable. I shared my concerns with the Provost about getting the policy review process back on track, and I received a call from Ermelinda Quintela noting that we will be starting our meetings again soon. The next scheduled meeting is 3.10.25, and I will provide an update after we meet.