

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR's Report for March 2026

Summary of Important Relevant Information

I have put together items from various committees that I serve on, which I find relevant to faculty success and work environment. For more detailed information, please contact me.

Message

Senator Kristian Finlator was introduced as the next chair of the senate by President Ferme and Senate Chair Chaitanya at the Board of Regents meeting on April 1. Again, we appreciate the willingness of Senator Finlator and Senator Sandstrom to participate in the senate activities at the highest level.

From Board of Regents Meetings

The Regents approved Books 4 Less program of Follett for the Alamogordo campus. They have been operating there with more than 99% of student participation. They also approved dining rates increase of 3.7% to Premium and Voluntary Student Meal Plans. There was a spirited discussion towards the end about the need for tuition increase at NMSU in response to Budget Officer Kim Rumford's no tuition increase budget proposal for 2027, before its approval.

Other Meetings

- **International Graduate Students** –The task force charged with investigating the current practices and adopting best practices to improve the experiences of international graduate students has the results of students' survey. Senator Finlator, as a member of this task force, has codified and analyzed the survey results and we will be meeting soon to discuss the results to improve the experience of international students during their stay at NMSU.
- **Support for FACT committee** – the faculty advisory committee on technology is now being assisted with a staff member and its membership is being bolstered by additional faculty members. Senator Chris Erickson is the Senate's designated member on FACT. Please reach out to him for more information.
- **Strategic Plan** – the BOR asked the President about the status of NMSU's strategic plan and while giving the progress, he mentioned there will be a working document which he will make available to the Regents in May.
- **From the Policy Steering Committee** - Vice Chair has provided a good summary of various policies under review at present with stakeholders' input through PSC website. The policy I have been eyeing closely is the 3.45 service and companion animals as it may impact on our classroom teaching directly. We have gone through stakeholders' feedback phase, and it is now awaiting President's cabinet approval to go to the President for implementation.

- **Program Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee:** This committee is now established with two members from the senate serving on it. They are Oladayo Bello from engineering and Jonathan Cook from A&S. Senate vice chair has provided more information in his report.
- **Number of administrative searches:** With the announcement of Dr. Bull as the new incoming Provost for NMSU yesterday by the President the search has closed successfully. Many other administrative searches will open to fill positions that are currently held by interim appointments or ones that are being vacated. These include VP for Research, Director of PSL, Chancellor of Global, Dean of Engineering, and Dean of ACES.