

NMSU Faculty Senate Chair Report

Report for April 2021, by Julia Parra

University Administrative Council (UAC) meetings

See the [University Administrative Council](#) site for UAC information and minutes that have much more information. A few notes:

- Ricardo Rel shared an overarching Legislative Report regarding the 60 day session; overall it went well for Higher Education and NMSU - CARES swap was restored, 0.5% new recurring money for I&G for all institutions, 1.5% compensation increase (noted that the Governor vetoed the word “average”), Carlsbad is allowed to become a community college with official independence possible two years down the road (we are keeping on eye on the impact related to Faculty Senators), the students did a phenomenal job gaining 33 million in financial aid, see the full report - [2021 Legislative Session Final Report](#).
- There was a good discussion about electronic vs. digital signatures; electronic is any form of signature done electronically, digital is the secure version, both are legal; NMSU’s current position - allows the use of both, the secure digital signature is preferred though any internal document can be signed by electronic signature, HOWEVER, you need to send that document to the next level **using your NMSU email address**; for external documents that go outside NMSU, a secure digital signature is REQUIRED; it was noted that ICT is working to get the certified secure digital signature process set up; more to come on this...
- Check out the new student resource - [Crimson Connection](#), a public facing site that all can access, logs events, orgs, news, forms, etc.
- Virtual and in-person commencements are being organized, for more information, see [NMSU Commencement](#).
- Please sign up for 2-Factor Authentication! There are some good details in your email from John Roberts.
- Chancellor noted working with legislation towards new revenues and that HED Secretary Rodriguez has set a new strategic plan for HED in the state as a priority; discussed the Agricultural Modernization initiative and a lot of activity will be ramping up, and much more...

Board of Regents Meeting/s

See the [Regent Meetings site for notices, agendas, binders](#). A few notes:

- Special Meeting, April 5; no change in tuition and fees requested, BoR did not approve the \$20 Academic Services fee proposal, they did approve proposals for engineering and nursing differential tuition and the proposals for housing, meal plan, and parking rates.
- Student Success Meeting was called regarding the College Merger; the committee voted to send to the May 14 BoR meeting.

Other items and activities

- **NEEDED!**
 - **Parliamentarian needed to serve starting Fall 2021.**
 - **Still need a 1-year housing committee representative.**
- **New Committee Structure:** Hopefully you completed the form sent by Vice Chair Beck ranking your preferred committee membership. We will be setting up the committee membership over the next couple of weeks. You can email Vice Chair Beck about this until May 18.

Thank you for your continued investment in the work of the [NMSU Faculty Senate](#). If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please email Julia Parra at juparra@nmsu.edu; Vice Chair contact TBD.

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- **Weekly Rapid Response Team aka Pandemic Action Team:** Reminders: continue to email me or Michael Mapp with your questions, issues, concerns; NOTE the site for 2021 - <https://now.nmsu.edu/>
 - Vaccine promotion underway; mobile vax units are available...
 - Students were surveyed regarding returning in the fall, it was basically a 30, 30, 30 split for in person, hybrid, and online preferences; something students really appreciated were the Zoom recordings; it was noted that the concept of Hybrid at NMSU should be further discussed.
 - There was a conversation about faculty office hours regarding on-site office hours, a perceived policy regarding closed doors vs. Covid safety recommendations, and making sure everyone knows that Zoom office hours are still an option.
- **Goal 4: ICT Futures:** Many retirements led to this endeavor. There are sub-teams. We started by considering the question: If ICT could best serve and support the NMSU system, what would be needed to get there? This is a large project, for more information, see [ICT Futures Initiative](#).
- **Faculty Talk:** Senator Kellie Sharp-Hoskins is leading discussions to reset Faculty Talk. Look to the fall for continued discussion and likely an updated proposition.
- **AAG Meeting:** We are reviewing and revising the Policy of Policies, ARP 1.10; the draft will be shared at the next UAC meeting.
- **Parra Senate Chair Office Hours aka Lunch w/ Julz:** One more Wednesday, 12-1:00, [Zoom link](#), email me if you need the link or phone information.
- **Summer Updates:** I will send a monthly update for June, July, and August.

Next Meetings

We will send out the requisite information at the beginning of Fall semester.