

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report – Activities for October 2025

Christopher Brown, filed 11.4.25

Below, I share highlights of work I have completed as Vice Chair in October 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.

- **Persistent communication challenges** – Provost Redi shared concerns about these challenges and the need for leadership in various units to be more proactive. Of note, the poor rollout of student mandatory Title IX training and Central’s efforts to move Book4Success without adequate formal engagement with The Senate and ASNMSU were noted. President Ferme and Provost Reddi will engage with their leadership team to make needed improvements.
- **Experiential and Coop Ed** - This is a big priority for President Ferme and Provost Reddi, and Michelle Claire from U Cincinnati visited to share the UC experience. Takeaways from these meetings are NMSU does much in this area, future efforts need a coordinating effort from Central, and we will see future discussion on this as President Ferme and Provost Reddi digest the report from Michelle Claire.
- **Revised policies on Provost’s Faculty Fellows** – Provost Reddi would like to limit duration for these opportunities to 2 years to provide more faculty these opportunities, and he provided guidance with a memo to campus community in October.
- **Senate leadership representative on Global Advisory Committee** – The Senate passed a bill in March 2024 calling for this committee, Central acknowledged this in March 2024, but former Senate leadership failed to engage. We learned the committee was formed and active in fall 2024, Chair Chaitanya and I have engaged with Mark Lawrence, Chair of the committee, and the Senate Chair and Vice Chair will represent Senate leadership on the committee.
- **Response to Trumps Compact on HE** – President Ferme put out a faculty-wide survey, he received 165 comments that he read in detail, and he provided his read on how to respond to The Compact in a campus-wide message.

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

- **ADAC** – We met twice during October, and discussions have focused on the following issues (some of this detail comes directly from ADAC minutes, with permission of ADAC Chair Ben Widmer):
 - **Multi-Disciplinary Academic Facility Presentation (Decker Group)** – A proposal for a \$100M facility is in the very early stages of development, and Decker provided very early ideas to ADAC. Two possible sites are in play, and the goal is to build a building that will be a hub for campus teaching and advising and see higher utilization rates.

- **Department Registration Permissions** - Joe Lakey introduced a discussion regarding recurring departmental frustrations over the lack of flexibility in granting class registration permissions, while emphasizing the historical risk of widespread administrative abuse. **Discussion Consensus:** The majority of members opposed granting open registration permissions to all administrative staff due to concerns over inadequate training, increased staff workload, and the risk of incorrect overrides. Gabe Garcia advised what ENG does to handle these, ADAC members liked his approach, and future discussions will explore developing a similar process for other colleges.
- **Graduate Applications and Forms** - Ranjit Koodali shared updates regarding compliance and workflow improvements in the Graduate School.
- **UPAC** - UPAC did meet in October, we reviewed the following programs that were submitted to UPAC, all were approved, and I can provide more detail to anyone interested in learning more.
 - Accounting – Bachelor of Accountancy (online)
 - Human Resource Management – Minor
 - Three Engineering Technology & Surveying Proposals
 - Civil Engineering Technology – Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (Online)
 - Information Technology (IT Enterprise Management) – Master of Information Technology (online)
 - Information Technology (Cyber Defense) – Master of Information Technology (online)
 - Two Communication Studies Proposals
 - Sports Communication – Undergraduate Minor
 - Communication Studies (Organizational Communication) – Master of Arts (online)
- **PSC** –Thanks to the leadership of Donna Ottaviano, the new University Policy Officer, we are regularly meeting, and things are moving. 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 has started posting changes in play in Hotline, and interested parties are encouraged to review progress and also submit proposed changes at The Policy Hub. Below are tables noting things currently in play, this detail pulled directly from the October agenda:

Proposed Policy Actions

<u>Record #</u>	<u>ARP</u>	<u>Title</u>
2024.05	16.79	NMSU Sponsored Youth Programs (proposed title: Programs Involving Minors)
		Stakeholder Vetting completed – Feedback received and sent to proposal sponsor.
2025.06	11.01	Research Funding and Research Institutes
		Paused at August 25 meeting – V. Chaitanya to provide update
2025.08	4.69	Academic Rules for Distance Education
		Stakeholder Vetting completed. Feedback received and given to proposal sponsor.
2025.09	4.55	Grade Reports
		Initial submission – Change for grades on graduate student repeat classes to be in alignment with undergraduate grading policies.
2025.10	4.81	Degrees, Majors, Minors and Other Academic Programs of Study
		Initial submission – Update committee name change and add language related to inactivation and periodic review by the Provost.
2025.11	3.40	Process for Disability Accommodation
		Initial Submission – Reflect organizational move from OIE to HRS and include additional clarifying information

Status Report

<u>Record #</u>	<u>ARP</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Status</u>
2025.01	New	Professional Licensure and Certification	<u>President's Cabinet Review</u>
		Cabinet Meeting Oct 13 – waiting for feedback	
2024.09	New	Digital Accessibility	<u>President's Cabinet Review</u>
		Cabinet Meeting Oct 13 – waiting for feedback	
2024.02	3.10	COI: Prohibitions in Procurement	<u>See Note</u>
		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	<u>See Note</u>
		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)	<u>See Note</u>
		Process paused for further evaluation by the proposal sponsor. The revised version may be submitted for Oct 27 th PSC meeting.	
2025.07	New	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Meeting Assistants	<u>See Note</u>
		Community Vetting completed – Sponsor asking for additional time	