Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee

Report for December 8th, 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm with the following members present: Omar Holguin, Runwei Li, Thomas Manz, and Sandra Way.

Quorum was not achieved.

Note: Due to scheduling conflicts, an alternative meeting date was selected and announced.

Guests: None

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was reviewed.

2. Announcements & Updates

Arts and Sciences Senators for the 2026–2027 Term

The committee acknowledged the following incoming senators from the College of Arts and Sciences:

Joshua Clark, College of Arts and Sciences

Marat Talipov, College of Arts and Sciences

3. Old Business

University Software Access and Licensing Follow-Up

Paul Hamilton provided an email update from the Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT) regarding software access questions previously raised by RCA.

Key points shared include:

- NMSU's Chief Information Officer, Jim Stanfill, indicated that the current IT budget cannot support the purchase of additional enterprise software licenses at this time.

- FACT recommended that the next step is for RCA to communicate specific faculty software needs to D'Anne Stuart to better assess priorities and potential solutions.

- FACT confirmed that the NMSU software portal is current and lists all institutionally supported software:
  https://inside.nmsu.edu/software/

Additional discussion points included:

- Adobe Creative Cloud is available to students through campus computer labs using NMSU credentials.

- NMSU is developing a new virtual desktop environment (VDI) to allow off-campus access to licensed software. While no launch date is set, performance issues with the current VDI were acknowledged.

- Questions were raised regarding which software packages listed on the portal are downloadable to physical machines versus web-based access, with specific mention of EndNote, which may fall under library-supported resources.

- The committee discussed the value of clarifying and highlighting online software packages separately and using administrative communications to better inform faculty of available resources.

Recommendation moving forward:
Initiate engagement with D'Anne Stuart to articulate faculty software needs and explore potential paths forward and continue coordination with FACT to refine and communicate software access information.

4. New Business

No new requests were brought forward.

5. Action Items & Next Steps

- Assign follow-up communication with D'Anne Stuart regarding faculty software needs.

- Continue dialogue with FACT and Central IT on software access and communication strategies.

- Confirm and prepare agenda items for upcoming meetings.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2026.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.