

## **Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee**

Report for January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm with the following members present: Omar Holguin, Marat Talipov, Runwei Li, Frank Boutsen, Hyunin Baek, and Thomas Manz.

Quorum was achieved.

**Guests:** None

### **1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

### **2. Announcements & Updates**

Welcome to the new senator, Marat Talipov.

### **3. Old Business**

University Software Access

The committee continued its discussion regarding software access and emerging institutional needs, with particular attention to artificial intelligence tools.

Key discussion points included:

- A recommendation to initiate engagement with D'Anne Stuart, Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance, to assess current faculty interest and needs related to software access, including AI-related software.
- Committee members discussed the importance of gauging faculty's demand before advancing requests.
- The committee noted whether the RCA committee should be represented on the university's AI committee, given the broad implications of AI tools for research and creative activity.
- Frank Boutsen proposed the idea of a university-wide AI think tank to strategically consider how NMSU can best leverage investments being made in AI infrastructure and resources.

### **4. New Business**

Invitation to Interim Vice President for Research

The committee discussed inviting the Interim Vice President for Research to a full Faculty Senate meeting. It was recommended that the Chair and Vice Chair extend the invitation.

Proposed discussion topics include:

- Impacts of reduced indirect cost (IDC) recovery
- Federal grants experiencing delays or administrative holds
- Impacts on projects involving non–U.S. citizen principal investigators or personnel

### **5. Action Items & Next Steps**

- Invite Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, Provost Fellow for Faculty Success, to engage with the committee.
- Omar Holguin reconnected with the Promotion and Tenure Innovation and Entrepreneurship (PTIE) organization to explore participation in the February meeting.
- Continue discussions related to institutional recognition of research and entrepreneurship, including how such recognition may be leveraged within Promotion and Tenure processes and the structure of committees responsible for review

### **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.