

Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee

Report for October 14, 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm with a quorum of members present: Omar Holguin, Paul Tian, Amanda Ashley, Lisa Hermanson, Chuck Creusere, Runwei Li, Frank Boutsen, Hyunin Baek, Thomas Manz, Motoko Furuhashi, and Sandra Way.

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- The agenda was reviewed and approved without changes.

2. Announcements & Updates

- New member Sandra Way was introduced as the College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation (HEST) representative.
- Interim Vice President for Research Patricia Sullivan was invited to attend but later declined due to a schedule conflict. The committee will work with the VPR's staff to schedule a future meeting.

3. Old Business

- University Software Acquisition and Licensing
 - Robbie Grant (Academic Technology) provided clarification that enterprise-level software used broadly across NMSU is funded through the central budget and coordinated by Central IT and the IT Governance Committee, chaired by CIO Jim Stanfill. The Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT) provides advisory recommendations for these acquisitions, with each college having 1–2 FACT representatives.
 - The committee will coordinate with Sonia White (FACT coordinator) to schedule a presentation on institutional software licensing requests. The committee discussed identifying what software is available, how it is distributed, and how faculty can better access these resources. Some specific software of interest mentioned included BioRender, GraphPad, the Desktop version of EndNote, and ChemDraw.
- Faculty Senate Open Access Fund
 - The committee continues to explore updates regarding the Faculty Senate Open Access Fund. Outreach has been made to John Sandstrom and Karen Kopera-Fyre to invite a program representative to the RCA meeting to learn more. It was noted that to improve engagement in such programs, faculty distributions should occur during nine-month employee contracts rather than in the summer.

4. New Business

- Discussion on whether P&T Guidelines should include clarified language to reflect Entrepreneurship
 - The committee reviewed potential updates to include explicit language under "Scholarship and Creative Activity," recognizing patents, invention disclosures, licenses, startups, and industry partnerships as scholarly products. The committee

reviewed resources from PTIE.org and recommended inviting a PTIE representative to a future RCA meeting to discuss successful approaches to incorporating entrepreneurship into P&T policies.

5. Faculty Input / Open Forum

- Members discussed ideas to further elevate the RCA Committee's role within the Faculty Senate and to explore opportunities for broader engagement with university leadership.

6. Action Items & Next Steps

- Omar will reinvite Interim VPR Patricia Sullivan, extend invitations to Arrowhead Center (Patricia McKnighten), and a PTIE representative.
- Follow up with the APC Open Access Committee, John Sandstrom, and Karen Kopera-Fyre regarding the Open Access Fund.
- Amanda will invite a FACT representative to the next meeting to discuss software licensing and access.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.