

NMSU Faculty Senate Student Success Subcommittee Chair Report

Meeting: 12/11/2025

Submitted by: Kristian Finlator

Committee Attendance: Six committee members attended; three were absent

Guests: Vice-Chair Christopher Brown Graduate College Dean Ranjit Koodali; IPC Director Derek Yu

I. 16:00 Quorum Established and Agenda Approved

II. Presentation by Dean Koodali Dean Koodali reviewed the history behind Interim Provost Reddi's decision to re-organize ISSS into the office of International Programs Compliance (IPC), which was created on Friday 12/20/2024. The overall goal of IPC was to integrate several separate administrative units serving international students and scholars. Among other things, it is hoped that relevant legal work can be undertaken "in-house" at NMSU instead of outsourcing it. Mr. Yu joined as IPC Director in October 2025.

A non-academic Canvas course has been developed to facilitate international student onboarding. An email drip campaign through Slate is used to reach students who have enrolled, where possible before they arrive at NMSU. This covers graduate student wellness, travel, and housing. Three Analytics reports were run on 8/17, 8/14, and 8/19 2025 to identify recently-enrolled students and invite them to complete the course. Faculty Senate members are welcome to review the course shell and send suggestions. Slate exposes open-through and click-through rates so that administrators can send follow-ups to students who do not appear to be completing this training.

Senator Burkardt noted significant bottlenecks associated with processing the transcript of an international student who completed their MS at NMSU, and now wants to remain for a PhD. Dean Koodali speculated that changes in the implementation of I-9 verification or HR issues could be at play, but invited Senator Burkardt to forward the student's Aggie ID so that the issue could be tracked.

Senator Finlator asked whether international students could begin onboarding prior to August. Dean Koodali replied that international students often enroll rather late, and that a three-week visa pause in fall 2025 made the problem worse. Some units (such as Engineering) also require students to visit with faculty before enrolling in courses. All three factors cause delays.

III. Presentation by IPC Director Yu Mr. Yu outlined six IPC initiatives related to international graduate student onboarding. In support of these, he holds weekly meetings with Student Scholar Services, Study Abroad, and the Passport Office as well as monthly meetings with IPC.

1. Develop comprehensive international student guides to cover pre- and post-arrival support as well as announcements of social and cultural activities and events. This effort was 1/3 complete as of mid-December 2025.
2. Restructure the international graduate student orientation. It will be lengthened from 3-4 hours to a full day. The orientation will cover, among other things, dining options and campus regulations such as attendance policies, reduced cost enrollment, and change of level.
3. Redesign student forms for improved student usability including OPT, CPT, STEP-OPT, reinstatement, change of level, transferring into/out of NMSU. This is in progress.

NMSU Faculty Senate Student Success Subcommittee Chair Report

4. Develop an IPC website that will cover basic information. This was initially delayed because IPC staff did not have training in web development, but is now in progress.
5. Create policies and procedures for daily IPC activities. Prominently, IPC advisors will be trained to resolve student inquiries within 24 hours or communicate with them as to why more time is needed.
6. Implement regular professional training for IPC staff consisting of (a) weekly regulatory updates; and (b) management skill training. This training should begin in Spring 2026.

Senator Finlator asked whether more tax trainings and more Sprintax code access could be secured. Mr. Yu replied that contracting for more tax trainings with licenced trainers was in progress.

Senator Finlator asked about ending the practice of silent course registration holds. Dean Koodali observed that all international graduate students are given a full semester to bring their undergraduate transcripts to the Graduate College, and more time can be granted as necessary.

After this discussion, Mr. Yu and Dean Koodali left the meeting.

IV. Issues to track A review of the foregoing and comparison with the initial report on international graduate student onboarding prepared by Student Success during Summer 2025 reveals the following questions:

- Is the cause for the delay in transcript processing experienced by the physics graduate student whom Senator Burkardt referenced understood?
- Should any campus units consider streamlining prerequisites for international students to enroll in order that they begin administrative onboarding sooner?
- Will the IPC guides under development contain a list of tasks that students must complete as they arrive at NMSU as well as the order in which they're to be completed?
- How will current international students be invited to contribute to the international student guides that IPC is developing?
- Will the re-structured international student orientation address banking, social security numbers, driver's licenses, and health insurance?
- Will IPC schedule additional tax trainings and make more Sprintax codes available?
- Can the use of silent course registration holds by the Graduate College and IPC be ended?
- Can Campus Housing leases be timed to begin *before* students must be on campus?
- How can direct contact between incoming and current international students be facilitated?

IV. Announcements Senator Finlator reviewed the status of Propositions 01-25/26 and 03/25-26 and noted that he plans to run for Faculty Senate Chair in spring 2026.

V. 16:40 Adjournment