

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR's Report for September 2025

Summary of Important Relevant Information

1. Provost's Office is working on Data consolidation for NMSU to have consistent and reliable data which are not contradicted by multiple offices. It also aims to assign responsibility of reporting type of data to one office, so everyone knows where that responsibility rests. To begin with, this effort will start with Global campus, Informational Technology (IT), Enrollment Management, and Office of Institutional Analysis (OIA). A faculty -fellow will be selected and assigned the task to coordinate this effort.
2. The provost's office has also started identifying procedures that can be best automated to improve efficiency. The initial list includes things such as travel reimbursements, international travel approval, student registration waivers, senate resolution tracking, and sabbatical requests.
3. Information Technology has identified cyber security as the most important threat to the smooth functioning of NMSU and is implementing procedures and systems to mitigate vulnerability. This has already impacted on the NMSU retirees as they can no longer access their emails though Microsoft outlook although they can continue to use web-based email access. IT has hired a cyber security chief and are considering buying security insurance, which appears to be the best route in case of an debilitating attack requiring repair or ransom.
4. Third party communication to faculty or students with the usual warning that this email originated outside of NMSU are usually avoided unless the sender is known and if follow-up is required has led to confusion. Recently this happened when mandatory student training was communicated to the students by a third-party vendor hired by NMSU, I-9 verification requests from third party etc. This was brought to the attention of President and Provost, and it was decided that henceforth the university will send out an alert ahead of the third-party emails to establish their legitimacy.

5. The office of DEI will be renamed to reflect the land grant mission of the University and to assure the representation of rural community in NMSU's commitment to education and research to assist the community we serve. Important programs such as Trio, McNair will target the rural community for recruitment, education, and service.
6. A multi-disciplinary building is being planned on main campus for which legislative funding is sought and looks likely to be received. The building will have classrooms, offices, research labs etc. but with multi-disciplinary emphasis. The building will have open and inviting meeting places for students and faculty. HED has shown support for this idea. For this multi-million \$ building two sites are being considered. The old Chancellor's row and along University Avenue. DEKKER is currently doing feasibility study.