

Faculty Senate University Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm, adjourned at 1:38pm

Guests included: Chris Erickson, Jamie Bronstein, John Sandstrom, Christopher Brown

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Walker, K.T. Manis, Annja Cox, Susann Mikkelson, Brian Hampton, Rajan Ghimire, Tanya Allred, Joe Tomaka, Raja Jayaraman, Donovan Fuqua, Murali Darapuneni

A quorum was in place.

Old Business:

Bill 06-25/26, ‘Supporting CNM and UNM Joint Resolution Against the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”, that was deliberated and unanimously passed in our February committee meeting was presented to the full Faculty Senate’s March 5th meeting. After discussion, the bill was tabled until April’s Full Senate meeting.

New Business:

The UP committee was assigned Bill 08-25/26, ‘Amendment to Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution to change the requirements for Chair and Vice Chair’ for deliberation. Committee guest, Chris Erickson, who is one of the bill sponsors, provided background information.

The two main changes presented in the bill were (1) requiring that the current Faculty Senate Chair and Vice Chair may not serve as a member of the NMSU-NEA leadership, nor participate in negotiations between the NMSU-NEA and the NMSU Administration, and (2) to remove reference to standing committee names in the Faculty Senate Constitution to facilitate future committee name changes without requiring a full university faculty vote.

The UP committee was generally favorable towards removing specific committee names in the Faculty Senate Constitution. However, the proposed separation of Faculty Senate leadership and NMSU-NEA leadership solicited intense discussion. Points noted include:

- This was a premature action because the union leadership is not yet structured.
- This action would prevent individuals from serving in leadership positions.
- It is not up to the Faculty Senate if someone wants to participate in NEA leadership.
- This action would constitute an overreach on the part of the Faculty Senate.

The committee discussed voting separately on the two changes put forward in this bill; however, concern was expressed that the bill’s submission seemed rushed. The committee finally voted to request another month to deliberate the bill. They would also like to receive the most current

version of the proposed bill and ask that the sponsors of the bill attend the UP committee's April meeting to provide additional information.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for April 10, 2026, at 1:00pm

Minutes submitted by S. Walker, University Planning Committee Chair