

Vice-Chair's January Report, 1/31/23

Hello everyone!

The faculty senate chair elections have been held and current Chair Gaylene Fasenko won re-election by a resounding 190 votes to 96. Congrats to Gaylene and to her indefatigable campaign chair Becky Corran, whom I understand was quite busy whipping votes at DACC. I will be cycling off Senate at the end of the semester as my term is up, and I am beginning succession planning with Faculty Senate Leadership in order to ensure a smooth transition for the next Vice-Chair.

If anyone is interested in becoming vice-chair, that position begins in May and requires that you be elected to Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (which election also happens in May). The vice chair's responsibilities include: ADAC meetings every two weeks, Policy Steering Committee meetings about once a month, University Program Approval Committee meeting co-chairmanship and monthly meetings, service on the University Space Committee, which meets a couple of times a semester, coordination of and leadership of the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee meetings, leadership of monthly meetings with the University executive team, reapportionment of senate annually based on the campus census in November, reminding the senior senators when it is time to run elections, and monthly meetings with the Senior Associate Provost. Basically, you have to be able to block off Mondays for meetings. So the one course release is more than taken up with administrative responsibilities.

In return, you will be given a key to a small office in the basement of Hadley that you will share with the Faculty Senate Chair. There is a very nominal summer stipend for the vice-chair, and a one-course release each semester. The Faculty Senate Chair may or may not convey the results of any meetings had with the administration or the regents, acknowledge your existence or contributions, take constructive criticism without becoming incredibly defensive, or allow you to communicate with the faculty at large, so this job is best for the kind of person who isn't too concerned about positive feedback from others. On the other hand, the administrators of the university will, for a short period of time, theoretically realize that you exist, if that's the kind of thing that floats your boat.

Old Business:

I had a meeting with VP of Policy Operations Ermelinda Quintela and with University General Counsel associate counsel Mariah Ortiz. They agreed that Policy 10.50, the policy on faculty alleged misconduct and discipline, is hopelessly vague, leads to wrongful termination lawsuits, and that policy isn't being followed anyway. However, the university has no Compliance Officer or Ombudsperson, so there isn't any way to ensure that ELR (the problem is mostly ELR) follows policy. After slow-walking the attempted policy change for several months, they have now kicked the proposed policy change to an ad-hoc committee. It is interesting to note that the slow-walking of the proposed policy change ITSELF violates the ARP. But again, because the issue is the protection of faculty who are being denied due process, nobody really cares.

UPAC, Jan 19

The committee approved changes to Native American studies and talked about approving changes to the standard operating procedure for the committee. It was a very short meeting.

ADAC: Jan 23, 2023

1. The catalog language review is starting in February.
2. If students fail a class or get a D, their re-take doesn't count as part of the 15 credits that are needed for maintained scholarships. Also, NMSU is looking for a new financial aid director.
3. Math department wants to create honors sections of its 1000-level gen-ed approved math classes.
4. Kori Plank is leaving, hired away by Courseleaf.
5. Patrick Turner requested that all first-year experiences be centralized under his office.
6. Didi gave an update on the provost search. Dean Reddi is heading the graduate school dean search. The grad school is "doing the best they can; Carol had a little hiccup." Phame is the interim dean of the grad school. There will also be a chancellor search.
7. There was a conversation about a STEM night that Anne Hubbell is organizing.
8. Departments have to be better about submitting waiver and appeal paperwork because it is interfering with students' financial aid.

9. There was a big discussion about 450-level and 500-level and above classes and the impact on MAP students.

I think that's about it!

Enjoy—
JB