

Vice-Chair's February Report

Hello everyone! Here is my report of the meetings that I attended in February.

ADAC meeting 2/13/23

1. There was a discussion of supplemental math instruction. Math tends to be a gateway course that torpedoes student retention.
2. There was also a discussion about the timing of the publish phase of the schedule and complications regarding room assignments. There was no great conclusion to the discussion.
3. ADAC went through some proposed catalog changes with regard to excused student absences.
4. ADAC went through a lot of other catalog language, specifically with regard to graduation requirements.
5. Mini-semester II classes are needed.
6. Jodie Kenny is taking over advising responsibility for NMSU-Global.
7. The other associate registrar is also resigning, leaving two positions vacant.

PSC Meeting 2/13/23

There was a discussion of 10.50 and a vote was taken to remove it from the approved policies in the queue. I voted no, but the decision was made to remove it from the queue (There are five voting members of the committee). There is supposedly a meeting on March 1 to have more discussion about misconduct and discipline but one of the things I also said is that we are somewhat chasing our tails without any enforcement mechanism when people violate policies.

ADAC meeting 2/27/2023

1. Anne Hubbell says that there is a new training available for mental health and another one for safe zone training. Also, <http://jedfoundation.org/faculty-guide/> is a guide for faculty members to learn about student mental health.
2. Gen Ed Level 1 Requirements

Jodie Kenney introduced herself. She is the assistant director of academic online advising and works for NMSU Global now. Her office is Milton 185D. There is an increasing number of transfer students joining NMSU without a completed Level I English requirement. The idea here is to have any gen ed class replace that Level I English requirement, in order to meet the right number of gen ed credits. There was a discussion about letting departments steer students in the direction of a particularly helpful Gen Ed of some kind, but departments don't have access to the system that enables waivers. The committee gave their blessing to Jodie and Marissa to make decisions individually on this.

3. Grad students at commencement

Phil Post reported that Phame thought it would be OK for grad students who still have a few credits left to finish to walk at graduation. There was a big discussion about this. Some of the academic deans think it would be a good idea to create an opportunity for grad students to walk when they are not yet finished. The whole point here seems to be to “cultivate good alumni relations” or in other words to try to get donations from people. Right now it is possible to make exceptions for individuals experiencing hardship. Personally, I think that is preferable to making an overarching rule.

4. Course Substitutions

There is no consistency across colleges of who has to sign off on course substitutions for student course audits. There was a big discussion of this. People want there to be consistency but things happen. No action was taken.

5. McNair Program

Marko Mohlenhoff is the new coordinator of the McNair program here at NMSU, funded by a Department of Education grant. He explained the McNair program, which you can read about here <https://honors.nmsu.edu/mcnair-scholars.html>

It is a great opportunity for under-represented students who want to pursue graduate education, and the mentors assigned to the undergraduates also get paid. I mentored a McNair fellow back when we used to have the program in the early 2000s and it was a good experience.

6. Opportunity Scholarship

Students can qualify for the opportunity scholarship and other scholarships simultaneously (like the Lottery scholarship).. As long as students are meeting the eligibility criteria for the summer, they can take classes during the summer. Virginia from Financial Aid also talked about some of

the issues with MAP students (Masters' Accelerated Programs). There is a lot of manual entry of course equivalencies involved.

Fun fact: people who graduated two years or more ago can qualify for free tuition and only have to take 6 credits a semester instead of 15. Works for people with a GED also.

7. Aggie Jumpstart

This is a 4-week summer program to catch up at-risk students so that they can start the fall semester without having to be in remedial classes. Right now Arts and Sciences runs this. Amanda Barrier came to the meeting to see whether other colleges could financially support the program. The program costs \$40,000 and subsidizes all housing, food and instruction for these students. But now Amanda is out of money. Last year there were 11 students in the program and the persistence rate of these students has been 10/11.

May I just use this little space right here to state how ridiculous it is that a public university is paying university administrators \$300,000 to \$550,000 a year, and football and basketball coaches \$650K a year, and yet the college of Arts and Sciences has to go on bended knee for \$40K for a retention program that actually seems to work?

I'm planning to talk about workload issues at the next ADAC meeting (well, the one after the next one, since the next one is during Spring Break).

Have a good one,

Jamie Bronstein
Vice-Chair Extraordinaire