

**NMSU Faculty Senate Meeting**  
November 2, 2023; 4:00 p.m.  
Domenici Hall Rm. 109 and Zoom

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:05p.m.
2. **Recognition of Guests**  
Ex – Officio Faculty Senate Members, and any other guests present.
3. **Approval of Agenda**  
Moved and seconded to approve agenda.  
Minutes approved.
4. **Appointment of Recording Secretary**  
Moved and seconded to appoint Maria Cisneros as Recording Secretary Faculty Senate  
Maria Cisneros approved as Recording Secretary for Faculty Senate
5. **Approval of Minutes of October 5, 2023 meeting**  
Moved and seconded to approve minutes.  
Minutes approved.
6. **Reports of Officers**  
**FS Chair, Gaylene Fasenko** – Report posted on FS website.  
Reminder of & updates on important searches going on:  
University General Counsel- deadline for applications has been extended for a month.  
Graduate School Dean and Associate Provost for International Affairs - Dean Lakshmi Reddi (Chair of the Search Committee) provided update on the search. Application deadline closed October 20<sup>th</sup>. On campus interviews to be conducted in early December.  
President - search is ongoing. Deadline for full consideration is December 6<sup>th</sup>.  
The search committee is planning to meet at the end of November.  
Chair Fasenko asked if Faculty Senate wished to develop a proposition regarding the recent increase in the medical and dental premiums by 10%.  
  
**FS Vice-Chair, Vimal Chaitanya** – Report posted on FS website.  
Vice-Chair Chaitanya commented about the committees he will be serving, he is now Co-Chair of the UPAC (University Program Approval Committee) – which meets once a month, and the ADC (Academic Dean’s Council), which meets twice a month, and the Policy Steering Committee, which meets twice a month. The PSC meetings in October were cancelled. A more detailed report of activities will be uploaded online.
7. **Reports of Standing Committees**  
**Budget and Resources** - *V. Chaitanya, Chair*  
Committee Chair Chaitanya started off by thanking D’Anne Stuart and Kim Rumford for being able to make it at last minute request. D’Anne Stuart talked about the University priorities and the expectations from the legislative requests to the house. We also discussed the faculty salary raise. A document is being created for Clayton Abbey to circulate to the legislators making a strong case for increased faculty compensation. It will include why it is important for the faculty salary be competitive compared to the peer institutions and how actually this impacts the education and training of graduating students and impact on the State’s economic development.

**Faculty Success** - *G. Duff, Chair*

Committee met on October 11, 2023.

There was a request for the committee to provide a formal proposition for the Faculty Senator on the Onboarding procedure. The committee will review it for any changes on their next meeting and will come up with the proposition for the Onboarding and have it for the November meeting. There was a discussion also about Faculty Success not being a recognize committee. In the Constitution, University Planning is one of the standing committees of the Faculty Senate. The committee had a discussion about the name change and may require an amendment to the Constitution. Chair Fasenko commented that the Faculty Success is a Standing Committee, but technically the name is University Planning as per the Constitution.

[See Faculty Success committee report on FS website.](#)

**Curriculum and Programming** - *G. Pina, Chair*

Committee met on October 12, 2023.

Main goal on Proposition 02-23/24 minor detail, had a sponsor that was no longer with the NMSU system and named Dr. Michaela Buenemann to be listed as the primary sponsor, therefore there was no changes to the proposition that was voted back in September. Proposition was assigned to Student Success.

**Research and Creative Activity** - Senator Susan Beck

Senator Beck was there on behalf of Chair, T. Price. The committee has met twice and is working on a proposition to request funding for article processing charges to assist tenure track faculty and minority faculty in publishing open access journals.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - *J. Bronstein, Chair*

The committee is working on a couple of other propositions, possibly do a survey for the naming and renaming of roads and buildings. Proposition 3 came out of that committee and report is on the FS website.

[DEI Proposition 03-23/24](#)

**Student Success** - Senator Tanya Allred

Senator Allred is standing in for Chair, T. Aguirre. Reported by Dr. Renay Scott the 2023 National Survey of Student Engagement was overall very positive about their experience at NMSU. Seniors, on the other hand, had a negative outcome and Dr. Scott's office is looking into it. Another concern is that 45-50 students utilizing the counseling center per day, the only downside of it is they have felt the strain of the mental health issues. They are working to hire a case manager and another counselor. Dr. McIntyre talked about the 25% drop due to the demographics and the committee is looking at that for enrollment. They are also to continue looking at ARP 4.46 which is the student absences. Dr. Campbell had agreed to rewrite some of it to work on the wording, she has already done that and will be presenting it at their next Student Success meeting. Committee is going to work on the prerequisite requirements the requirements entrance for English and math and check with the ACT and SAT scores, all the parameters to make sure the ones that have been set are still working or need to get updated.

**8. New Business**

**Proposition 02-23/24:** Senate Bill Proposing Modification to the Viewing a Wider World Requirement: M. Buenemann (A&S), T. Aguirre (DACC), H. Badawy (Eng), J. Flora (A&S), D. Edgar (ACES), L. Saiki (HEST), R. Figueroa (A&S)  
Assigned to Student Success Committee.

**Proposition 03-23/24:** Memorial Calling on the NMSU Administration Financially to Support Programming for Indigenous People’s Day and Comply with Promises Made in 2018-9. Bronstein (A&S), Bond (NTT-Alamogordo)  
Assigned to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Proposition 04-23/24:** Memorial Urging the NMSU Administration to Respect Faculty Rights Under the Public Employees Bargaining Act (Jamie Bronstein (A&S), William Boecklen (A&S), Christopher Brown (A&S), Avis James (A&S), Daniel Vega-Albela (A&S), Will Walker (A&S) Jessica Schultz (HEST), Amy Garcia (DACC), Hiranya Roychowdhury (DACC), Susan Beck (Library)  
Assigned to Faculty Success.

**9. Unfinished Business - None**

**10. Other Business**

**a. Open Access Resources – Senator Beck**

- Senator Beck gave a [Power Point Presentation on Follett Access](#), on how to make textbooks and course materials more affordable to students at NMSU. Provost Alan Shoho has convened a working group to evaluate this.
- The group consists of the following members, Kevin Comerford, Kim Rumford, Renay Scott, Eddie Gallegos, James McAteer and Susan Beck. The group had two meetings. At the second meeting Follett Access did a presentation on their program where they provided information on the textbooks and how they would provide all required books for all students with a charge of a flat fee.
- There is also an opt out – opt in option for students and freedom to choose for faculty. The program is not 100% digital. They also get novels, music, scores, workbooks, nursing packs only art supplies are not included.
- Senator Comerford commented that Follett Access proposed the program in Spring of 2025. The program has a number of pros and cons that need to be evaluated as well as feedback from the faculty.
- Senator Sandstorm asked and commented if Follett Access was the only program as of now and if anyone has talked about procurement or legal to see if it has to go through RFP process.
- Senator Manz asked how long the students would have access to the textbooks, the answer is students would have access to the textbooks permanently, only problematic thing would be for early college high school, they would no longer have access due to them purchasing the books for students. Part-time students have the option of paying the entire fee or opt-out. The opt-in opt-out option is per semester not yearly due to the classes taken in that semester.
- Senator Boutsen asked and commented if Follett Access has been compared to other sources, for example, Amazon due to having savvy students where they can obtain textbooks online. Also, will the program provide access to alternatives like used books, since that was another way to reduce price on books.
- Follett Access did not do any analysis in that case because a flat fee is being paid, they would pretty much be obliged to stick with Follett’s plan. Students may also be spending more time looking elsewhere and not guaranteed for textbooks to be available.

- Alamogordo - faculty cannot opt-out. There was really no input on whether the faculty wanted it or if it was the best option. They found that students had a difficult time understanding the process, they didn't understand the opt-in opt-out. There was a lack of transparency, it was more forced on them, students didn't have time to explore if it was best to opt-in or opt-out and there wasn't a robust campaign information to tell them exactly how the process was going to work and how they could use it to their benefit.
- b. Sending Alternates when Senators are Absent – Chair, Gaylene Fasenko**
- Chair Fasenko pointed out that when absolutely necessary when Faculty Senators must miss meetings, in the FS Constitution there is a mechanism to appoint an alternate. The alternate must be someone who is a current senator, and that person can be designated to have full participation including voting rights on behalf of the absent Senator.
  - Chair Fasenko asked Senators to think about this policy, and propose possible alternate solutions that could be revised in the Constitution.
- c. Nominations for Faculty Senate (FS) Chair for 2024/2025 – December 2023 FS Meeting**
- At the December meeting nominations for Faculty Senate Chair will be made. The election will be ongoing for 2 weeks at the beginning of January.
  - The requirements to be nominated are that the individual needs to be a Senator and they have to be committed to staying on the Senate for the full 2024-2025 academic year.
- d. Support for Homeless Students**
- Senator Bronstein brought discussion regarding a fund that existed to assist students who are having transitional housing problems or aging out of foster care. It seems that the transition to Sodexo managing all of the University housing might be a inhibitory factor in identifying students who are in need
  - Vice President of Student Success Dr. Renay Scott commented that her division obtains money from the soda machine/vending machines as well as donations. A portion of that money was used. Due to COVID and no one being on campus, that pool of money dried up. This fund will take time to build back up.
  - Chair Fasenko commented that now that there is a new CEO at the NMSU Foundation (Dr. Acosta) there might be an opportunity to create a fund for this purpose. If the Faculty Senate wishes to pursue this issue, a more comprehensive discussion can be made to generate ideas then approach the Leadership to see how they can assist.

## **11. Remarks and Announcements**

### **a. FS Chair, Gaylene Fasenko**

- Keep a lookout for dates/times when the candidates for the Graduate School Dean will be on campus (projected to be early December)
- There is a mechanism to nominate people as candidates in the search for the next NMSU President. If you know of a candidate, nominations can be made here: <https://nmsu.edu/president-search/>

**b. FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Vimal Chaitanya**

- No announcements, just a remark. Would like to perhaps attend the monthly meeting where some of the colleges have with the Senators that are serving from that college and possibly with the Deans. If they feel it is appropriate, someone can send him an invite. He will be happy to attend and visit with Senators for the particular college in that kind a meeting where there should be more time to discuss things at that time.
- Has not establish a good time for office hours, but anyone is welcome to reach out. Through email or even a phone call, the cell phone is pretty much open, and it can be found at the bottom of the signing of the email.
- The same goes for FS Chair, Gaylene. If anyone need to reach out, she does have 1 hour of office hours a week, that information can easily be found at the bottom of her email signature.

**12. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

**Present:** FS Chair Fasenko, FS Vice-Chair Chaitanya, H. Baek, S. Beck, C. Bond, F. Boutsen, J. Bronstein, W. Walker, T. Allred, G. Duff, D. Edgar, S. Elliss, M. Elshinawy, C. Erickson, K. Finlator, J. Flora, E. Gamboa, R. Gioannini, S. Gordon, I. Hansen, T. Hearn, L. Hermanson, R. Lavoie, E. Lehnhoff, K. Lopez Gallagher, S. Lynch, T. Manz, L. Olivas, G. Pina, S. Ramos, J. Rice, A. Romero, L. Saiki, J. Sandstrom, J. Schulz, P. Skelton, P. Smoak, M. Valadez, S. Walker, RecSec. Cisneros, Parliamentarian LaPlue.

**Absent:** T. Aguirre, T. Price.

**Ex – Officio Members:** : Dean of HEST Yoshi Iwasaki, Provost Alan Shoho, Dean Engineering Bryan Ashenbaum, VP of Student of Success Renay Scott, VP of Research Luis Sifuentes, VP of EID Teresa Maria Linda Scholz, Dean of Engineering Lakshmi Reddi.