



Faculty Senate

MSC 3445
New Mexico State University
P. O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
575-646-2593
faculty senate.nmsu.edu

Faculty Senate Chair November Report for October 2023 Activities

Dr. Gaylene Fasenko

Chair Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-12 noon: Hadley Hall Room 20

To schedule an appointment: 575-646-3402 or gfasenko@nmsu.edu

Welcome to New Faculty Senate Recording Secretary.

Monday, October 30 was the first day for the Provost's new Senior Administrative Assistant, Ms. Maria (Mari) Cisneros. In this position Ms. Cisneros will be working at the front desk of the President/Provost's office suite. Her primary duties will be in support of Faculty Senate. Please welcome her and help her settle into this new role.

Chair Fasenko would like to express gratitude to the following people:

- Gloria Podruchny for her many years of service to Faculty Senate as the Recording Secretary. Gloria retired from NMSU on October 11, 2023.
- Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye for her leadership as Vice Chair of Faculty Senate (Dr. Kopera-Frye resigned from her position as Vice Chair at the September 28 meeting of the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee Meeting. She will remain as a Senator and a member of the Senate Leadership Committee.)
- Dr. Vimal Chaitanya for agreeing to take on the leadership role as Faculty Senate Vice Chair (Vice Chair Chaitanya was elected by acclamation at a Senate Leadership Committee Special Meeting on October 2)

Updates on Ongoing Searches (and faculty representation on each search committee):

Foundation CEO (hired mid-September)

- Dr. Sylvia Acosta hired as NMSU Foundation CEO
- You can read the press release [here](#) and peruse the Foundation Team members [here](#)
- As part of creating connections with the University, they recently hired 31 NMSU students to assist with a variety of tasks at the Foundation

1) University General Counsel

- Deadline for applications has been extended for one month
- Search committee is scheduled to meet ~November 13 to review applications
- Faculty Representative: Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye, Senator and Professor, Dept of Public Health Sciences

2) University Controller

- Search firm Academic Search is assisting with screening and selection of applicants
- Application deadline is Wednesday, November 15
- Faculty Representative: Dr. Cagla Yildirim, Assistant Professor, Department of Finance, College of Business

3) Director, Procurement Services

- Nothing new to report
- Faculty Representative: Dr. Victor Pimentel, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, College of Business

4) Dean, Graduate School/Associate Provost for International Affairs

- Position closed October 20 - over 50 applications received and there is a very competitive pool of candidates
- Tentative timeline:
 - semi-finalist zoom interviews by middle of November (~10 candidates)
 - on-campus finalist interviews (~3) during first week of December before faculty leave for break.
- Dr. Lakshmi Reddi, Dean, College of Engineering is the Search Committee Chair

5) NMSU President

- Search firm WittKieffer <https://www.wittkieffer.com/> is assisting with the search
- Search Committee Chair is Mr. Ben Woods
- To obtain information on the search (including the leadership profile, members of the search committee, or to nominate someone to be considered for this position) go to the Website [Selecting the Next President of the NMSU System](#)
- Next meeting of the search committee will be Wednesday, November 29
- Application deadline for full consideration is Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Highlights of Board of Regents (BOR) and Reoccurring Committee Meetings:

1) Board of Regents (Special Meeting, October 16)

- Primary purpose of meeting was to review and vote on approval of three proposed graduate programs (all proposals were approved by the BOR)
 - Master of Arts in Organizational Communication & Leadership (online), Communication Studies Department
 - Master of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology, Geography & Environmental Studies Department
 - Doctor of Philosophy – Food Science, Family and Consumer Sciences Department
- documents pertaining to this meeting as well as a webcast of the meeting can be found [here](#)

2) Regents Student Success

- Meeting scheduled for October 25 postponed until November 28

3) IT Strategic Planning Committee

- Dr. Thomas Bunton, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO) has resigned to take a position at Kansas State University
- Mr. Carlos Lobato (Chief Information Security Officer) will serve as the interim Chief Information Officer starting Nov. 1 until the position is filled
- Mr. Robert Doyle (Chief Privacy Officer) will serve as acting Chief Information Security Officer

Thursday, October 5

- Cybersecurity threats to campus continue to be of high concern – two large research units on campus were compromised but ICT managed to block entry

4) Policy Steering Committee

- No policy revisions submitted during October therefore bi-monthly meetings cancelled
- Chair Fasenko met with Interim General Counsel, Scott Field and Policy Administrator Ermelinda Quintela to discuss simplified policy revision process
- Ermelinda Quintela and her team continue to work on revision of policies revision to work on identifying discrepancies within portions of the ARP that have been listed as a priority by Interim President Gogue

5) University System Budget Committee

- Committee voted to approve program fee requests for i) Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology Program and ii) School of Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management class (HRTM 2120 – Lab Fees)
- Discussion regarding Equipment Renewal & Replacement (ER & R)
- Employee Health Insurance (Medical and Dental) premiums will go up January 1, 2024 by 10% with the possibility of another 10% increase in July 2024 – State of NM has a ~7.7 million dollar deficit due to freeze on health insurance premiums during COVID
- Information from NMSU Government relations indicates that the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) is thinking of a proposed 5% salary increase for faculty and staff with some potential for additional funds for targeted faculty salary increases – LFC has strongly indicated that they are not receptive to individual state funded higher learning institutions making requests for salary increases – LFC wants to receive single proposal for all state funded institutions of higher learning from the Council of University Presidents (CUP)x
- Very large budget surplus ~3.4 billion projected over last year; plans for NM legislators to save surpluses for future when oil and gas revenues drop

6) NMSU Campus Planning Committee

Wednesday, November 1

- Reviewed and voted on changes to improve way finding signage for DACC campus on Las Cruces Campus
- Committee informed that commercial building costs have escalated from ~\$350/square feet (pre-COVID) to ~\$700/square feet (current)
- NMSU Architect position closes Friday, November 3
- Discussed implications of street naming & renaming on NMSU Las Cruces campus and how to inform residents on campus of address changes
- Space optimization & migration plan in final stages – committee will be asked to review and vote on final plan
- Finalization of Campus Master Plan placed on hold until new NMSU President is on campus

Ad-hoc Meetings:

1) Central Advising (Friday, October 6)

- Chair Fasenko met with Central Advising Team to discuss improving communication between faculty and advisors – advisors meeting with departments varies between units – all advisors meet but sometimes just with department heads not faculty – faculty need to be at the table during these meetings to improve communication
- Plans to continue regular communication between faculty senate and the advising Team particularly with the Student Success Faculty Senate Standing Committee

2) Associate Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Tony Marin

- Continued discussion on Faculty “One Stop” Website targeted at directing faculty to resources to assist students

3) NMSU Global

- Discussion re: ways to improve communication between Global and Faculty
- Attendees (Chair Fasenko; Chancellor Kollmann, NMSU Global Campus; D’Anne Stuart, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance; Senator Chris Erickson)