

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report for October 2023 Activities

Dr. Vimal Chaitanya

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Change of Faculty Senate Vice Chair. October 2, 2023

Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye resigned from her position as Vice Chair at the September 28 meeting of the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee Meeting. Dr. Vimal Chaitanya was elected as Faculty Senate Vice Chair by acclamation at the Senate Leadership Committee Special Meeting on October 2. Vimal would like to express his gratitude to the FSLC for the confidence shown and promises to serve earnestly.

Change of Faculty Senate Recording Secretary. October 30, 2023

Provost's new Senior Administrative Assistant, Ms. Maria (Mari) Cisneros, joined the provost's office on October 30, 2023, and will provide support to Faculty Senate's administrative requirements. Welcome and thank you, Mari. Gloria Podruchny after her many years of service to the Faculty Senate retired from NMSU on October 11, 2023, but not before sending information she thought was pertinent for accomplishing my new role as vice chair. Thank you and best wishes, Gloria.

Participation in Meetings

1) University System Budget Committee (USBC). October 19, 2023.

The first topic on agenda included approval of fee for Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology Program and School of Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management class (HRTM 2120). These were approved.

Second topic was the amount and allocation method of Equipment Renewal & Replacement (ER & R) funds. The total allocation amounted to \$1,404,769 calculated by a funding formula, which involves annual equipment depreciation, I&G salary, indirect cost (IDC) recovery, and centrally scheduled classroom use. The allocation includes \$400,000 for special requests. Additionally, \$600,000 from student fees must be for equipment used in instructional purposes. Decision to be made for allocation methodology and set aside for special requests.

The third topic was informational about Higher education's legislative priorities. This includes recurring funds such as general operation, student support, campus safety, employee benefits, and % compensation increase (currently at 5%). Other categories include non-recurring, statewide priorities (Building, Equipment, and cyber security), financial aid, and capital outlay. The Higher Ed Department has recommended F&A to approve \$44.7 M in capital outlay for Las Cruces campus, \$3 M for Grants, \$2 M for Dona Ana, and \$7.6 M for Alamogordo.

Finally, the higher education department is hearing the RPSP (Research and Public service Projects) funds increase requests from NMSU. The biggest increase in requests is for the College of ACES (about \$12 M), Athletics (\$2M), and produced water consortium (\$1M).

2) University Program Approval Committee (UPAC). October 19, 2023.

The agenda for the meeting included UPAC approval of Secondary Biology Education – Bachelor of Arts, Individualized Studies (Pre-Pharmacy) – Bachelor of Individualized Studies, and Electrical Engineering (Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, & Data Science) - Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. These were approved. This was followed by several program modifications with more than 25% changes. These included UG minor in HRTM, Chicana/o studies, Information Security Technology, and G/UG minor in Native American Studies. Also, Engineering graduate certificates in digital communication, digital signal processing, electrical energy systems, and telemetry. Plus, Master of Arts programs in HEST such as bilingual education, curriculum and instruction, early childhood education, TESOL, and Graduate certificate in HEST Special Education Alternative Licensure. There were 72 other program modifications that were not of concern because the modifications were less than 25%.

3) Academic Dean's Advisory Council (ADAC). October 23, 2023.

After approval of minutes from October 9, 2023, some old business was followed up. This included mental health resources. For the title V grant, Deborah King has agreed to come on as an external grant writer. She will be setting up a meeting in early November. This was followed by a financial aid Q&A. In general, a student's Financial Aid is dependent on several factors, and not all affect the student in the same way. Factors include: letter grade, "W"s, "RR"s, GPA and completion rate. There will be an ADAC leadership succession, and a vote will be conducted at the November 13th meeting. This was followed by a roundtable of comments/announcements. Carol Flinchbaugh thanked college reps who helped with two credit scholarship awards. Anne Hubbell announced a very successful research and creative activity program last week.

4) Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee (FSBRC) October 24, 2023.

Chaired the FSBRC meeting, where invited guests D'Anne Stuart, Associate VP for finance and business services and Kimberly Rumford, chief budget officer provided updated information on Higher Ed's legislative requests for I&G (recurring and non-recurring) and non-I&G funds (capital outlay). More details are available in the uploaded minutes of the FSBRC meeting.

5) Senior Leadership Committee (SLC) October 26, 2023.

After the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, three proposed legislations were discussed and assigned to Senate standing committees for review. These are

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

b) 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 proposed by Bronstein (A&S), and Bond (NTT Alamogordo) was assigned to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

c) Proposition 04-23/24 Memorial Urging the NMSU Administration to Respect Faculty Rights Under the Public Employees Bargaining Act proposed by 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), and Susan Beck (Library) was assigned to Faculty Success.

Full propositions are available on the faculty senate web site.

In other business, following standing committee reports, several issues were discussed, such as

- a) Status of Faculty Talk 2.0
- b) Senator Absences
- c) 10% Increase (potentially 20%) in State Medical and Dental Premiums
- d) Change in three Standing Committee meeting dates for December 2023
- e) Solicit nominations for FS Chair – December Meeting
- f) Support for Homeless Students.

This discussion was followed by remarks and announcements from Chair and Vice-Chair of the faculty Senate.