

## **Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report, August-September 2024** **Christopher Brown, filed 9.27.24**

Below, I share highlights of work I have completed as Vice Chair in August and September of 2024. In consideration of peoples' time, I have kept this short, but I am very happy to visit with anyone who would like to gain more data on activities reported.

**Meetings with President Torres and Provost Reddi** – Chair Chaitanya and I continue to enjoy excellent access to President Torres and Provost Reddi through our weekly meetings, and I share data on issues discussed below.

- **Data on P&T and FGRB files** – Possible issues with P&T cases being heard that may in turn generate FGRB cases have been raised in FSLC meetings. Chair Chaitanya and I are working to obtain data to further discussion on P&T and FGRB cases.
- **Data on benefits for part time employees** – NMSU policy on this has been raised in FSLC meetings, and President Torres is working with Vicki Taggart on pulling data from NMSU, UNM, CNM, San Juan CC, and NM Tech to see what the 3 research universities and largest institutions in NM are doing.
- **President Torres and Provost Reddi attending Senate meetings** – We all agreed that the President and Provost attend when they have something to share; they will present, then leave so we can have frank discussions as needed.
- **Discussions on where IDC funds are distributed** – President Torres has instructed D'Anne Stuart to work on pulling needed data, and D'Anne and Kim Rumford will be meeting with Budget and Resources over the next few months to share these data.

**Meetings of the FSLC with President Torres and Provost Reddi** – The FSLC continues to meet with President Torres and Provost Reddi once per month, and here are the issues we have discussed:

- **Executive Searches** - President Torres and Provost Reddi updated us on the searches for President, CIO, and Deputy Provost, and we will hear news as these searches conclude.
- **Benefits for part time faculty** – Senator Burkardt shared great slides on the background of how part time employees lost benefits and made a very good case that this is not fair to these employees. We will have future discussions with President Torres and Provost Reddi to ID data needed to explore this issue and work on policy to address this.
- **Adoption of Chegg by NMSU Global as a manager of homework assignments** – Senator Erickson expressed concerns with the Global pilot on Chegg that Global is running; Chair Chaitanya and Senator Badawy shared these concerns Robbie Grant attended the meeting, and we are working on bringing Robbie Grant, Sherry Kollman, and select Senators together for discussion on issues of concern. Senator Aguirre invited Sherry and Robbie to the next Student Success meeting, and we will hear an update after this meeting. I express my thanks to Senator Aguirre for making this happen.

I also attend Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), University Program Approval Council (UPAC), and the Policy Steering Committee (PSC) meetings as Senate Vice Chair, and I share highlights below:

- **ADAC** – Discussions have focused on the following:
  - **NM Fire Marshall audits of NMSU and very specific guidance on not propping fire doors** - Guidance will be given to Deans to share with Departments.
  - **English language deficiency of some int'l GAs** - We also discussed issues with English language deficiency of some int'l GAs that is related to NMSU accepting Duolingo test results as evidence of proficiency. I noted that the Senate should be involved in discussions and ADAC asked if the Senate would like to lead discussions. The FSLC declined the invite, noting that people with expertise in language acquisition would be better suited to leave this.
  - **Decisions from the University Curriculum Committee** – These were discussed in the meeting of the UCC that followed the ADAC meeting, but I stepped out of the meeting as I am not on the UCC. Details of these decisions can be obtained from the UCC Co-Chairs, Rick Marlatt or Katherine Terpis.
- **UPAC** – In the last few months, we have had many proposals:
  - Teaching Spanish for Heritage Language Learners – Graduate Certificate – approved
  - Agribusiness – Graduate Minor – approved
  - Communication Disorders – Graduate Certificate – approved
  - American Sign Language – Undergraduate Minor – approved
  - MS and PhD in concentrations Biochemistry – approved
  - 4 TPAL programs are proposed to be reactivated as online programs – these come back to UPAC in October
    - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages – Master of Arts
    - Bilingual Education – Graduate Certificate
    - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages – Graduate Certificates
    - (Bilingual Education) - Master of Arts
  - Food Science and Technology, online Master of Science – approved
  - Online MS in CS – this will come back to UPAC in October
- **PSC** – no formal drafts are currently in play, but we have had much discussion on the following:
  - ARP 3.63 - Freedom of Expression
  - ARP 16.79 – Sponsored Youth Programs/Minors on Campus
  - 2024.04\_ARP 10.60 – Review of Faculty Grievances
  - 2024.07\_ARP New - Professional Licensure and Certification
  - 2024.08\_ARP 3.63 - Freedom of Expression

In discussions on these issues, General Counsel noted that a future Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with NEA-NMSU may impact proposed policy changes on P&T and

Faculty Grievances and suggested going slow on these. Chair Chaitanya, Senior Associate Provost McAteer, and I all strongly urged that we **NOT** wait on the CBA process to work on revising policy in these 2 areas, and we will work with the PSC to make sure that policy in these 2 areas moves over the rest of fall semester.