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Proposition: 01-25/26

Proposal Type: ☐ Bill ☐ Resolution ☒ Memorial ☐ Joint Proposition ☐ Other

Title: A Memorial in Honor of Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza

Date Submitted: [to be completed on submission]

Sponsor(s):), O. Bello (Engineering), K. Finlator(A&S), J. McAteer (A&S; Deputy Provost), V. Pimentel (Business)

Proposed Committee: Emergency Legislation

Prior Approvals: N/A (Memorial)

Proposal:

Whereas, New Mexico State University established the position of Provost Fellow for Faculty Success to strengthen the mentoring of faculty, promote consistency and transparency in the promotion and tenure process, and foster a positive and inclusive academic environment across all disciplines; and

Whereas, Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, Professor in the Department of Languages and Linguistics, was appointed the inaugural Provost Fellow for Faculty Success and carried out this role with distinction, dedication, and a characteristic generosity of spirit; and

Whereas, Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza brought to this work more than a decade of experience chairing promotion and tenure committees and mentoring colleagues, together with her service as the Teaching Academy's Promotion and Tenure Fellow and Digital Faculty Fellow and her recognition as a Mentoring Award recipient; and

Whereas, as an accomplished scholar of sociolinguistics, Spanish as a heritage language, bilingualism, and the education of linguistic minorities, Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza has advanced the University's research mission and modeled the union of scholarly excellence and service to others that distinguishes the finest of our faculty; and

Whereas, in her role as Provost Fellow, Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza worked across disciplinary and institutional boundaries to promote greater consistency, transparency, and fairness in promotion and tenure, guiding faculty through processes that are too often opaque and daunting; and

Whereas, her leadership took the form of workshops, individual guidance, faculty development programming, and thoughtful engagement with Faculty Senate committees on the evolving ways universities recognize scholarship, innovation, teaching, and service; and

Whereas, Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza consistently went above and beyond the formal duties of her position, giving freely of her time and counsel to faculty who might otherwise have navigated these challenges alone, and doing so with warmth, patience, and unfailing collegiality; and

Whereas, through her example, Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza has demonstrated that faculty success is not merely a matter of individual achievement, but a collective institutional responsibility grounded in mentorship, fairness, and meaningful support;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, on this ____ day of _____, 2026, that the New Mexico State University Faculty Senate expresses its profound and lasting appreciation to Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza for her distinguished service as the inaugural Provost Fellow for Faculty Success, for her

tireless mentorship of colleagues across the University, and for her enduring commitment to the advancement and well-being of the NMSU faculty; and

Be it further resolved, that the Faculty Senate commends her as a model of the dedication, generosity, and excellence to which the entire faculty aspires, and extends to her the sincere gratitude of her colleagues throughout New Mexico State University.

Rationale:

The Faculty Senate has considered establishing a named award to recognize Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza's contributions. Because no precedent exists for such an award, however, creating it would require the Senate to resolve a substantial number of governance questions, including eligibility, selection criteria and authority, frequency, funding, and how to handle years with no eligible candidates or multiple equally qualified candidates. While the Senate may still pursue a named award in the future, a Faculty Senate Memorial is the appropriate and expedient vehicle for recognizing Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza's exceptional service now, without imposing continuing obligations on future senates.

As the inaugural Provost Fellow for Faculty Success, Dr. MacGregor-Mendoza materially advanced faculty mentoring, greater consistency and transparency in promotion and tenure, and a more inclusive academic climate. Her willingness to go well beyond the formal duties of her role, often on behalf of colleagues whose efforts might otherwise go unrecognized, exemplifies precisely the kind of service the University depends upon. Formally recognizing that service affirms the Senate's shared values and encourages others across campus to contribute in the same spirit.