

**Access, Opportunity and Outreach Committee
Report
September 16, 2026, 4:00 pm on Zoom**

Attending: Cynthia Fabrizio Pelak, Roxanne Schumacher, Rebecca Joyce Garay, Ilhuiyolitzin Villicana Pedraza, Husna Memon, Veronica Murga, Jason Bengtson, Justin Klockslem, Susana Johnson, Kim Lopez Gallagher

I. Call to order – A quorum was present.

II. Guests:

a. Dr. Linda Scholz, Vice-President for Office of Land-Grant Excellence, Access, and Partnership; K.T. Manis, Chair, University Planning Committee

i. Dr. Linda Scholz presented the reorganization of the Office of Land-Grant Excellence (formerly Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity), outlining four key pillars: cultural communities' engagement, tribal engagement, rural to urban socioeconomic engagement, and transformative civic engagement. She explained changes to program staffing, including the elimination of director and coordinator positions in favor of a single director overseeing five program specialists across different cultural communities. Dr. Scholz also discussed ongoing tribal engagement efforts, including visits to 12 of 23 tribes in New Mexico to develop more comprehensive support agreements beyond the current single-student tuition waiver model. The committee discussed reviving the LEAP Council (formerly the DEI Council) to support this new strategic direction. Dr. Scholz stated that she would continue to communicate with the AOO committee, as her office makes further progress.

ii. A question was raised regarding student gender-based violence. Dr. Scholz shared information about existing programming through the Dean of Students office and Aggie Health and Wellness, including educational groups and a doctoral student providing counseling support.

b. K.T. Manis, Chair, University Planning Committee

- i. K.T. Manis shared information on Prop. 03-26/27, amending Proposition 5-23/24, establishing a voting Faculty Senate Seat on the NMSU Global Faculty Advisory Council, clarifying the chair's authority to designate a Faculty Senate member and voting rights of said Faculty Senate member.

III. Old Business

- a. Proposition [11- 25/26](#) Request to Central Administration to Provide Resources to Part-Time Faculty – Update
 - i. Chair Kim Lopez Gallagher provided an update on Proposition 11-25/26 regarding part-time faculty resources, noting that Faculty Senate Chair Bello plans to address it in the next Faculty Senate Leadership Committee meeting.

IV. New Business

[3-26/27](#): A Bill to Amend Proposition 05-23/24 to Establish a Voting Faculty Senate Seat on the NMSU Global Faculty Advisory Council

- i. Motion made by Cynthia Pelak and seconded by Rebecca Garay. **The committee voted unanimously to recommend Do Pass of 03-26/27.**
- b. Faculty Senate [“Elevator” Speech document –](#) Members will review the document and provide revisions at the October Meeting.

04- Next meeting date: October 21, 2026

05- Adjourn Meeting – Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm