

NMSU Faculty Senate
April 3, 2025; 4:00 p.m.
Hadley Hall Rm 130 and [Zoom](#)

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

Agenda approved.

3. **Recognition of Guests**

10 Minutes

University Policy Admin Ermelinda Quintela-Follett Access, Colin King Market Leader Follet, Krista Quinones NMSU Bookstore Manager.

Colin King

Colin presented his experience with the NMSU bookstore, which he joined in 2011 as a student, and discussed the integrated course materials program launched in 2015-16. This program has expanded, now operating at NMSU, DACC, and NMSU Alamogordo, and they aim to extend it across the system. DACC has successfully been part of this program since 2021. The program, known as "Books for Success," aims to reduce the achievement gap by incorporating course materials into the fee structure, separate from tuition.

Instructors can deliver materials through Canvas, charging students a fee with potential discounts. The materials are usually available to students on or before the first day of classes, allowing them ample time to prepare. The program prioritizes digital materials, with the option for physical copies if necessary. Students have the choice to opt-out of the program. If the new model is adopted, students would pay a credit hour rate per course.

The program preserves academic freedom, allowing faculty to submit their own material requests. It ensures equal access to educational resources, making it easier for students to get materials without worrying about finances. Currently, over 24,000 unique students are involved system-wide, with high digital usage rates. If implemented system-wide, the fee would be \$28 per credit hour. Compared to traditional costs of \$1,250 for books, this represents a significant savings estimated at \$410 – the difference between the \$840 annual fee for “Books for Success” vs traditional costs for 15 credit hours.

The program in play has been reviewed yearly, and the opt-out rate is low at 1%. The initiative aligns with the university's mission of accessibility and affordability. Students can utilize financial aid to cover costs, and if they lack financial aid, they can use the university's payment plan.

Contact Information:

For further inquiries, Colin and his team, including Krysta Quinonez and Marvin Paz, are available via the provided contact information.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

4. **Approval of Minutes of 6 March 2025, meeting**

Moved and seconded to approve minutes.

Minutes approved and submitted by the Senate Leadership.

5. **Reports of Officers**

FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya

03 Minutes

Chair Chaitanya reported on two key issues. The first focuses on the future of

international students and scholar services, specifically helping graduate and international students understand which insurance plans are appropriate and which could violate immigration regulations. The second issue involves a task force created by President Ferme to examine the impact of Trump Executive Orders on NMSU, which Chaitanya and Karen Kopera-Frye are part of. This task force has six groups: one on equity and civil rights, another on U. S. Department of Education functions related to financial aid, a group focusing on immigration, a team addressing the repeal of previous administration actions, one concerned with managing the federal workforce, and a group dealing with matters affecting children and families. The task force will meet both individually and as a whole.

Full Chair Report is on the FS website.

FS Vice-Chair, Christopher Brown

03 Minutes

- Vice Chair Brown gave a brief report stating that the U. S. Department of Education is enforcing a rule where financial aid can only fund courses that count toward degrees. NMSU is working how best to implement this rule, and Vice-Chair shared a slide deck related to it.
- The policy review process is facing challenges, with consultations with the University General Counsel due to concerns about potential complaints regarding faculty working conditions and collective bargaining agreement negotiations. Efforts will be made to move forward with non-controversial items.
- In meetings with The President, Provost, and Senate Chair, we also discussed options for graduate student health insurance, with clear guidance expected from the Provost's office before the early May decision deadline.
- Patrick Turner will be leaving the university, and Provost Reddi is seeking ideas on how to adjust the Vice Provost for Academic Success position.
- There's an acknowledgment of the need to explore part-time employee benefits similar to those at another university. Research is being conducted, and results are expected by the May meeting.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the distribution of a 4% faculty raise passed by the legislature.
- There is also a proposal to remove the credit limit for students with below 3.0 GPA. Additionally, a graduate grade change replacement policy is under consideration, along with plans to streamline registration paperwork. The full report and slide deck related to U. S. Department of Education funding are available online.
- Full Vice-Chair Report is on the FS website.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

18 Minutes

- Budget and Resources – Chair, Stephen Hanson
Chair Hanson reported that the committee met but did not have a quorum and no business was conducted.
- University Planning – Chair, Erik Lehnhoff
Chair Lehnhoff reported that the committee met and discussed Proposition 11-

24/25 to amend the Faculty Senate Constitution, and they voted a “do pass as amended.” Full UP report is on the FS website.

*The Senate moved and seconded to accept University Planning Committee report.

The Senate voted in the affirmative to accept University Planning Committee report as presented.

- Curriculum and Planning - Chair, Gustavo Piña
Chair Piña reported that the committee did not have new business and did not meet. CP report is on the FS website.
- Research and Creative Activity – Chair, Paul Tian
Chair Tian gave a brief report, the committee met on 18th March and VPR Cifuentes was there. They discussed lots of questions and new ideas, the report is submitted.
Full RCA report is on the FS website.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye
Chair Kopera-Frye gave a short report, the committee met on 26th March. They had a guest speaker, Dr. Catherine Jone from Gender and Sexuality Studies, and they talked about some possible places they might like to make it their home. Nothing was voted on.
- Student Success – Chair, Tawny Aguirre
Chair Aguirre gave a report the committee meet on 20th March. They had quorum and had a guest, Chair Chaitanya, who shared concerns from new graduate students. He requested a survey for new international graduate students, and Kristian Finlator agreed to collaborate with the Graduate Student Union on it. Chair Aguirre also mentioned that Dr. Fowler is now responsible for handling requests from NMSU students who want to take classes at community colleges. Full SS report is on the FS website.

7. New Business

- **Proposition 12-24/25** – Task force to assess and reconsider faculty performance and promotion & tenure evaluation criteria in light of recent cuts to federal funding and reduction in IDC rate. **Sponsor (s):** Glenn Duff (College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences), Erik Lehnhoff (College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences), Kellie Sharp-Hoskins (College of Arts and Sciences)
Proposition assigned to Research and Creative Activity. Chair Tian announced that the committee will be discussing the proposition at their next upcoming meeting.
- **Proposition 13-24/25** - Bill in support of policy related to grade changes for graduate students, moving forward in the policy review process. Sponsors: Brown (A&S), Badawy (ENG), Chaitanya (ENG), DeBlieck (HEST), Hanson (ACES), Kopera-Frye (HEST), Lehnhoff (ACES), Lopez-Gallagher (NMSU-A), and others to follow.
Vice-Chair Brown, also a sponsor, gave a brief presentation about a proposition from ADAC and the Grad Faculty Council, which have been discussing it for a few months. This idea was brought to Faculty Senate leadership, who decided it should go to the full Senate. The posted policy is from discussions with ADAC, the Graduate Faculty Council, and Senate

leadership. Senator Aguirre will lead the discussion on this topic at the Student Success Committee meeting.

8. Unfinished Business-

05 Minutes

- **Proposition 11-24/25** – Amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution.

Sponsors: Erickson (CoB), Walker (Extension)

Proposition assigned to University Planning.

No discussion.

VOTE:

YES: 47 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-

Motion passes; Proposition approved by the Senate.

9. Other Business –

- **Open discussion of issues related to Online Advisory Committee called for in Senate Bill 05-23/24 – Vice Chair Brown**

Vice-Chair stated that in April 2024, this bill was moved through the Senate and was signed by interim President Gogue, who specified that only faculty teaching for Global should be on the committee. However, this was not communicated to the Vice-Chair, and the matter was not addressed over the summer. In the fall, Mark Lawrence, the committee chair, held several meetings to establish bylaws and a roster, but only Senator Erickson, the bill's author, seemed aware of the situation. Last week, the Senate Leadership Committee proposed using this online advisory committee to discuss global issues with Sherry Kollman. FSLC members involved in these discussions wanted to ensure representation from community colleges and library faculty, as those were outlined in the original bill but were not included when the committee was formed. The FSLC also proposed including a member from the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee. An email was drafted and sent to Mark Lawrence to request these additions, and the Vice Chair is waiting for a response. An update will be provided during the March 24th meeting and the next full Senate meeting.

- **President Ferme Inauguration – Chair Chaitanya**

Chair Chaitanya provided a brief comment on the upcoming President's inauguration event, which will last for three days. He mentioned that all senators should have received invitations to functions related to this event. If anyone has not received it, they should check their junk box and contact him if needed. He encouraged participation unless there was a major conflict. He also informed that the Senate Leadership Committee, led by Vice Chair Brown, will sit in the front row of the Thursday morning event. While senators are not required to wear legal attire, it is appreciated if they do. Chair Chaitanya has been allotted 5 minutes to speak on the podium and acknowledged the importance of the Faculty Senate and faculty participation in the event.

10. Remarks and Announcements

- a. FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya**

02 Minutes

NONE

- b. FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown**

02 Minutes

Vice-Chair Brown provided an update on the elections of senators. He contacted all senior senators and electing groups. Senator Arslan in the College of Business is organizing elections for a replacement, while Senator Tomaka is doing the same for HEST. Hameed Badawy, the senior senator for engineering, is also working on this for ENG. Elizabeth Gamboa from DACC has managed the elections for two outgoing senators. Amanda Ashley has successfully recruited five candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences. Senator Lehnhoff is overseeing elections for the College of Aces. John Sandstrom has made plans for the non-tenure track election. A full update will be provided at the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee meeting in April.

11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Present: FS Chair V. Chaitanya, FS Vice-Chair C. Brown, S. Hanson, E. Lehnhoff, J. Cook, M. Burkardt, C. Erickson, K. Kopera-Frye, J. Rice, S. Lynch, K.T Manis, G. Piña, P. Tian, S. Gordon, J. Tomaka, C. Bond, L. Saiki, A. Ashley, D. Overstreet, R. Figueroa, L. Grant, S. Walker, O. Bello, T. Conner, J. Bronstein, E. Oskey, F. Arslan, J. Sandstrom, R. Gioannini, Z. Shen, K. Lopez-Gallagher, O. Holguin, R. Li, T. Aguirre, E. Gamboa, T. Cleveland, H. Badawy, L. Hermanson, K. Sharp-Hoskins, D. McDonald, K. Filantor, K. Grover, T. Manz, P. Smoak, W. Stem, C. DeBlieck, M. Elshinawy, A. Romero, J. Hunter, W. Walker, F. Boutsen, R. Jayaraman, Parliamentarian LaPlue, RecSec. Cisneros.

Guest: Ermelinda Quintela, Colin King, Krysta Quiñonez, Adam Cavotta.