

Curriculum and Planning Committee Minutes of ZOOM Meeting

Date/Time: April 9, 4pm

Chair: Oladayo Bello

Location: ZOOM

Attendance:

- **Present:** 7 committee members
- **Absent:** 4 committee members unable to attend
- **Invited visitor:** Dean Koodali and Associate Dean Kopera-Frye
 - Dean Koodali attended but Associate Dean Kopera-Frye could not due to another Graduate School engagement

Quorum: Achieved

Discussion:

The Curriculum and Planning committee met to discuss and vote on bill 12-25/26. The bill requests that the Faculty Senate review a draft proposal for a Doctoral Accelerated Pathway (DAP) program at NMSU. The bill is **not a request to support the proposal itself**, but that Faculty Senate attend to and review the proposal in the interest of shared governance. In other words, the bill is asking the question: Is the proposal worth giving attention? (Yes or No) OR Is the proposal worth giving an audience? (Yes or No).

Dean Koodali presented extensively on the following points elaborated below.

1. **The rationale for proposing DAP:** It was inspired by Dean Pontelli, to create new graduate study pipelines for domestic students. Dean Koodali mentioned that the program's aim is to retain students that have been identified as high achievers at undergraduate level.
2. **The opportunity associated with the DAP:** It would allow such students (mentioned in 1) to take graduate level courses that would count toward both their undergraduate and doctoral degrees. It would potentially enable these students to complete a bachelor's and PhD in 8 years. Dean Koodali also noted that the DAP program would build upon the existing Master's Accelerated Program (MAP) framework. The proposed pathway would allow students to earn both a bachelor's and PhD in approximately 8 years, saving time and money, most especially for students who need to maintain their Opportunity Scholarships.
3. **Extent of participation by various NMSU programs:** While the program could benefit selected PhD programs, not all programs may choose to participate, as some have opted out of the MAP.
4. **Pathways:** The graduate courses can count towards multiple credentials, including graduate certificates, master's programs and an outlined process for undergraduate students to transfer courses to a master's program if needed.

5. **The GPA requirements for the program:** While the original proposal suggested minimum of 3.25 GPA, the Graduate Faculty Council approved a minimum of 3.0 GPA. There is also a suggestion of a higher required GPA of 3.50.
6. **Eligibility and admission:** Advisor's approval would be crucial in determining eligibility. Advisors would evaluate students' performance in relevant courses on a case by case basis. The application process would mirror existing procedures for MAP, though separate applications and graduate school approval would be required for admission.
7. **Rigor and risk:** A committee member raised a concern about the level of rigor and potential risk. The Dean explained that the accelerated program would maintain the same level of research rigor as the standard PhD program. Students will offer 12 graduate level courses for credits instead of undergraduate courses. He clarified that high achieving undergraduate students with a 3.0 GPA could continue at NMSU and take graduate courses toward both undergraduate and PhD preparation. It is estimated that only 5-10 students per department might benefit from this pathway, thus making it a carefully managed program rather than a broad alternative to traditional academic progression.
8. **Additional testing requirement:** A committee member asked about additional testing requirements like Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT), and the Dean confirmed that such requirements would typically be waived for identified high achieving students of NMSU.

Conclusion

The committee deliberated on concerns about GPA requirements, advising processes (noting that careful advising would be crucial for student success), eligibility and admission requirements and potential risks. Other points of deeper scrutiny included implementation details and resource requirements. In addition, the committee expressed concerns about potential challenges, such as students' misconceptions about doctoral admission. However, committee members agreed that the DAP program was worth initiating and pursuing as it could help retain talented students. The bill is set to move to the full Faculty Senate for further discussion.

To reiterate, this bill, which was to be voted on by the Curriculum and Planning committee is not about the DAP proposal in itself, but that the Faculty Senate should consider if the proposal for a Doctoral Accelerated Pathway program in NMSU is worth considering and given attention for further review. With the background information and rationale given by Dean Kodaali, he was able to convince the committee to pass the bill. The committee voted unanimously to pass the bill and recommended further discussion of the stated questions and concerns about the proposal if the bill is passed at the next full Faculty Senate meeting.

Adjournment:

The ZOOM meeting was adjourned at 5:01:33pm on April 9th, 2026.