

Curriculum and Planning Committee Minutes of ZOOM Meeting.

Date/Time: November 13th, 4pm -4:53pm

Chair: Oladayo Bello

Location: ZOOM

Attendance:

- **Present:** 9 committee members.
- **Absent:** 2 committee members unable to attend.
- **Visitors:** Vice Chair, Christopher Brown and Senator Kristian Finlator, Chair Student Success committee.

Quorum: Achieved.

Discussion:

The committee was tasked with the bill to lower the minimum high school GPA required for admission to New Mexico State University (NMSU) from 2.75 to 2.5, which was brought forward by Senator Finlator and his co-sponsors. NMSU's admission GPA was previously 2.5 until 2016. **VC Christopher Brown** provided the background on the bill and explained that the provost had identified the current GPA requirement of 2.75 as a barrier for hundreds of potential students.

Senator Kristian Finlator joined the meeting at about 4:30pm to provide more context on the bill. He explained that the proposal that led to the bill was based on data showing minimal impact of the 2016 GPA increase on retention rates. He presented the data, which shows that while the GPA change had little impact on one year retention rates, NMSU's four year graduation rate increased from 13% in 2009 to 34% by 2021.

Other points raised and briefly discussion during the meeting are:

- The holistic admissions approach used by NMSU and its success.
- The funding of remedial classes. A member clarified that these classes are still counted in the state's funding formula.
- Changes to admissions standards and their impact on student success.
- Maintaining existing support programs for students with lower GPAs.

Concerns and questions raised by committee members include:

- Potential risks for marginalized students who might struggle to meet federal funding requirements.

- Availability of data on early performance grades of students admitted through the holistic process,
- Retention rates before and after the GPA change to show evidence of improvement and support for students.
- Suggestion to compare University of New Mexico (UNM) and NMSU's admission outcomes.
- What are the general practices that accompanies and are put in place for the implementation of any admissions requirement changes?
- What proactive measures would be put in place to support low GPA students that are admitted from enrolment until completion?

After reviewing the data presented by Senator Finlator (evidence of student performance and retention rates), a member made a motion to approve the bill as it is. The committee approved the GPA requirement reduction bill with recommendations including:

- Continued support transition for programs.
- Freshman seminars.
- Financial aid awareness workshops.
- Scholarship tracking.

Committee members expressed support for the bill as it would open more admission opportunities for high school students. They unanimously acknowledged that it would aid the institution's mission to give low performing marginalized and minority students a chance at higher education. However, members noted potential risks as the GPA reduction may likely lead to lower retention rates despite supportive measures.

Conclusion:

The 9 committee members present at the meeting voted in favor of passing the bill without any amendments.

Adjournment:

The ZOOM meeting was adjourned at 4.53pm on November 13th, 2025.