

AGENDA
NMSU Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC)
January 30, 2025
Zoom (<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/86052805269>) and Hadley 130

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. **Recognition of Guests**
Deputy Provost James McAteer.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved and seconded to approve agenda.
Senate Leadership approved the agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 19 December 2024 meeting (Posted to Website)**
Moved and seconded to revise the corrected minutes sent by email after recording secretary posts them on the Faculty Senate website. They will be approved by email.
Moved and seconded to approve minutes by email.
Minutes approved by email on February 11, 2025 and submitted.
5. **Reports on Legislation (posted to Website)**
 - **07-24/25 – Resolution to allow NMSU main campus students to enroll in and receive credit for NMSU system branch courses.** Sponsors: R. Gioannini (NTT), T. Aguirre (DACC), K. Lopez Gallagher (Alamogordo), and K. Finlator (A & S). **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning, bill was passed at 1.9.25 full Senate meeting.**
 - **08-24-25 - Changes to ARP 4.46.** Sponsors: K. Finlator, J. Rice, M. Elshinawy, D. Magoc, S. Lynch, R. Gioannini, K. Finlator (A & S). **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning, bill was passed at 1.9.25 full Senate meeting.**

****Propositions have been routed to President Ferme and Provost Reddi for signature on January 21, 2025.**
6. **Proposed Legislation (posted to Website)**
 - **09-24/35 – Memorial in Appreciation of Dr. Monica Torres for serving as Interim President.** Sponsors: T. Aguirre (DACC), K. Gallegher-Lopez, C. Brown (A&S), and others to follow.
FSLC members approved that the proposition 09-24/25 will be considered as Emergency Legislation.
 - **10-24/25 - Proposal for name change from the “Department of Civil Engineering” to the “Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.”** Sponsor(s): Runwei Li (College of Engineering), Michaela Buenemann (College of Art and Science), Christopher Erickson (College of Business), Tawny Aguirre (Doña Ana Community College), Dylan McDonald (Library), Omar Holguin (College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences), Geoffrey Smith (College of Art and Science), Kristian Finlator

(College of Art and Science), and Christopher Brown (Arts and Sciences).

Senator Li gave a brief introduction on the Proposition. The proposition was assigned to Curriculum and Planning.

7. Other Business

- a. Discussion of items for Faculty Senate Agenda for 2.6.25 Full Senate meeting
Recording secretary Cisneros will work with Chair Chaitanya to elaborate the agenda in a timely manner.

- b. **Standing Committees Reports**

- Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson
Chair Hanson reported that he wants to discuss some upcoming items at the next committee meeting. They plan to propose two memorials. The first would ask administration to create a 3 to 5 Year Plan to balance the athletic budget, eliminate the current deficit, and ensure athletics operates within a balanced budget, like other departments. The second memorial will request President Ferme to continue studying the growth of administrative, faculty, and staff positions, a project started by Interim President Torres.

Additionally, Senator Hanson recently attended the first meeting of a new committee, where he was the only faculty member among about a dozen attendees. The group is open to suggestions for improving business processes. During the meeting, they asked for ideas to enhance faculty life, and Senator Hanson offered to gather a list of suggestions related to Aggie Mart, travel, training central, and hiring. He believes the group is genuine in their willingness to address these issues and plans to collect suggestions from others to propose improvements in various processes. The next few months are expected to be busier than before.

[Full BR report on FS website.](#)

- University Planning Committee Chair, Erik Lehnhoff
Chair Lehnhoff gave a brief report and said the committee completed recommendations for the P. and T. ARP last year. They met last week, had no ongoing business, and brainstormed ideas to pursue without reaching any final conclusions.
[Full UP report on FS website.](#)
- Curriculum and Planning Chair, Gustavo Pina
Chair Piña reported that the committee did not meet in January.
- Research and Creative Activity Chair, Paul Tian
Chair Tian reported that 10 Senators from the committee were present for a productive discussion. The main topics focused on three key issues. First there was a need for a technician in the Arts Department. However, since the Senator who proposed this idea was absent, the discussion was limited. It was decided not to continue this topic in the future meeting, and another Senator will inform the proposer about this decision.

Second, the issue of summer salary compensation from Lisanne Grant was briefly discussed. It was decided to put this aside until more information is available from the administration. The Senators acknowledged that faculty salaries are lower compared to peer institutions and suggested working towards increasing salaries, with potential union involvement.

Lastly, the committee discussed startup packages for new faculty, noting the importance of this issue, and one Senator will gather more information for the next meeting.

[Full RCA report on FS website.](#)

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye
Chair Kopera-Frye was not available to give a report.

 - Student Success Chair, Tawny Aguirre
Chair Aguirre reported that the committee met during the first week of school to discuss this year's goals. They have two speakers scheduled for the next meeting: Melissa Magnusson, the director of Financial Aid, and Kari Cena, Program Manager for Education Abroad. The aim is to learn more about institutional scholarships and funding for study abroad programs. The next meeting is on February 20th.
[Full SS report on FS website.](#)
- c. Review of data on apportionment of Senators (Christopher Brown)
Vice-Chair Brown provided an update that he is analyzing data to see if any Senators need to be reapportioned. He has the data, but its release was delayed. He will share his initial review at the Senate meeting on the 6th. He doubts there will be changes in the apportionment but will confirm. Additionally, this will be added to the Faculty Senate meeting agenda under other business.
- d. Issues with classes with multiple cross lists (Erik Lehnhoff)
Senator Lehnhoff brought up an issue that was more of a question to see if other departments face similar issues. In his department they have many courses cross-listed with other departments like horticulture, biology, and agronomy. A recent class was cross-listed with four others, causing problems with student registration. Many errors occurred, with students unable to enroll or getting into non-existent sections. The class had varying credit options, leading to confusion. It seems there's a history behind cross-listing for departmental credit. Is this a common issue in other departments? There were errors in data entry for this new class, and this has been a long-standing problem in my department. Discussion followed by other Senators and Vice-Chair Brown suggested that this question is probably best directed to Renita Hicks since she is the University registrar.
- e. Guidance on ICE agents seeking data and entering classrooms (Tawny Aguirre)
Vice-Chair Brown shared that concerns have arisen among faculty about ICE agents potentially coming to campus, entering classrooms, dorm rooms, and checking students' papers. There is currently no evidence that this has happened, but the worry remains significant. Three main issues are highlighted. First, classrooms, labs, and dormitories are private spaces, and federal agents cannot enter without permission; if they do, legal counsel should be contacted. Second, the New Mexico State University Police Department will not assist federal agents in their enforcement efforts. Third, the university will not share sensitive personal information about students, faculty, or staff, including immigration status, without a

warrant or court order.

Deputy Provost James McAteer shared key points from the Academic Affairs meeting attended by Vimal and the Deans. The President gave three important pieces of advice: regardless of the situation, never assist them in any way; we are not obligated to assist; and always call NMSU police and NMSU legal counsel for any issues. This is a sensible approach that applies broadly. Discussion followed.

Senator Badawy expressed concern about Global's hiring practices, noting that they are focused on hiring faculty to attract more students. He mentioned an advertisement that called for hiring in social work, psychology, and another field, which raised questions about department ownership and control over classes. He emphasized that faculty should be hired as part of their respective departments, so departments retain control over hiring and course offerings. This situation is troubling, especially in engineering, where faculty independence is valued. Additionally, Badawy pointed out that the hiring indicates available funds, leading to questions about whether this financial support is ongoing or a one-time occurrence, and what might happen if the funding decreases. Discussion followed and Deputy Provost James McAteer shared details about a committee formed last year by the Senate to work with Global. This committee consists of a mix of Senators and faculty members. The committee was established to facilitate discussions on relevant issues. Chris Erickson was lead sponsor on this proposition, and it is suggested to ask him about its members and to direct any related questions to the committee for answers. (Note – since the FSLC meeting, Vice Chair Brown learned of the details of the committee and can share details at the next FSLC and Senate meetings.

8. Remarks and Announcements

- FS Chair Vimal Chaitanya

Vice-Chair Brown shared comments from Chair Chaitanya, who could not present his report as he was in Santa Fe. Chair Chaitanya mentioned that the President requested faculty representation for the Chief of Staff Search. A select group from the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee attended meetings, participated, and provided input; they are now awaiting updates from that process.

Additionally, Chair Chaitanya is chairing the Vice President of Research Search Committee, which is working on a profile. The University has engaged Witt/Kieffer as an external search firm to finalize the position description, distribute it, and have finalists on campus before the summer break. Chair Chaitanya will provide updates soon.

Lastly, there was a discussion about the safety of faculty, staff, and students regarding possible negative impacts of executive orders on research. It was advised to contact the University Council Office and the police department if agents appear in classrooms, labs, or dorms.

- FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown
NONE

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Vice-Chair C. Brown, T. Aguirre, K. Finlator, E. Lehnhoff, J. Cook, M. Burkardt, C. DeBlieck, K. Lopez-Gallagher, P. Tian, O. Holguin, G. Piña, D. McDonald, H. Badawy, S. Hanson, L. Saiki, L. Grant.

Guest: Deputy Provost James McAteer.

Absent: Chair V. Chaitanya, K. Kopera-Frye, J. Sandstrom.