

**MINUTES**  
**NMSU Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC)**  
**April 24, 2025**  
**Zoom (<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/86052805269>) and Hadley 130**

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

**2. Recognition of Guests –**  
Deputy Provost James McAteer.

Deputy Provost James McAteer provided an update on international student issues, mentioning that there are currently 9 students with revoked I-20s, 6 of whom are on the main campus and 3 are OPT students who have already graduated but still have service records. Since April 10, there have been no new cases, indicating a sudden surge followed by a plateau. The data shows no connections between the revoked statuses and factors like gender, race, ethnicity, major, country of origin, demonstrations, or social media activity. Nationwide, 99% of students facing similar issues have arrest records, although these are not serious offenses. For each student who had their service record removed, they were referred to Dean Goodman's care team, which provides support for various personal issues. There have been delays for two students outside the country due to visa renewals, but one has since returned. Overall, the situation has remained stable with a total of 9 affected students, including those abroad. Questions and discussion followed.

**3. Approval of Agenda**  
Moved and second to approve agenda.  
Senate Leadership approved the agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes of 27 March 2025 meeting (Posted to Website)**  
Moved and seconded to approve minutes.  
Senator Finlator proposes friendly amendments to correct a few typos, Christian to Kristian, Gouge to Gogue, corporate center to Corbett Center and in light if recent cuts to in light of recent cuts.  
Moved and seconded to approve minutes with the friendly amendments.  
Minutes approved and submitted by the Senate Leadership.

**5. Reports on Legislation (posted to Website)**

- **Proposition 11-24/25** - Amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution. Sponsors: Erickson (CoB), Walker (Extension), Hanson (ACES), Badawy (ENG).  
**Proposition was assigned to University Planning Committee, where it received a “do pass as amended,” and the Full Senate passed amended language at the April Senate meeting. Now, this is headed to NMSU faculty for approval.**  
Recording Secretary Cisneros will send out an email with the information to vote for the changes to the Constitution.
- **Proposition 12-24/25** – Task force to assess and reconsider faculty performance and promotion & tenure evaluation criteria in light if 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 was assigned to Research & Creative Activity Committee, where it received a “do pass as amended,” and Full Senate will consider this at May meeting.**

Will go to Full Senate meeting for a vote.

**Proposition 13-24/25** – Bill in support of policy related to grade change for graduate students, moving forward in the policy review process. **Sponsor (s):** Brown (A&S), Badawy (ENG), Chaitanya (ENG), DeBlieck (HEST), Hanson (ACES), Kopera-Frye (HEST), Lehnhoff (ACES), Lopez-Gallagher (NMSU-A), and others to follow.

**Proposition was assigned to Student Success Committee, where it received a “do pass as amended,” and Full Senate will consider this at May meeting.**

Senator Aguirre gave a report on the changes that were made. After a few questions and discussion, FSLC Chair Brown suggested that as the FSLC they will provide some guidance to the Student Success Committee to put language back in the already discussed proposition. Senator Tawny and Senator Burkardt will work with Student Success Committee to prove and amended bill by Monday.

## **6. Proposed Legislation – NONE**

## **7. Other Business**

- Discussion of items for Faculty Senate Agenda for 5.1.25 Full Senate meeting  
Recording secretary Cisneros will work with Chair Chaitanya to elaborate the agenda in a timely manner.
- Standing Committees Reports
  - Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson  
Chair Hanson reported that the committee met as planned and had a quorum. They had a productive discussion and will continue to talk about process improvements over the summer and next year. [Full BR report is on the FS website.](#)
  - University Planning Committee Chair, Erik Lehnhoff  
Chair Lehnhoff reported that the committee met. They had no old or new business but discussed topics for next year. [Full UP report is on the FS website.](#)
  - Curriculum and Planning Chair, Gustavo Pina  
Chair Piña was not available to report. Senator Sandstrom gave a brief report and said that the committee did not meet.
  - Research and Creative Activity Chair, Paul Tian  
Chair Tian said they meet on April 15th with 9 members and 2 guests, one being VPR and Erik. They discussed proposition 12, made small changes to test components, and addressed issues. [Full RCA report is on the FS website.](#)
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye  
Chair Karen noted that Jamie chaired the April 16 meeting due to her attendance at the President's Task Force meeting. They received an update on the Gender and

Sexuality Studies program and decided to reconvene all four faculty members in that group in the fall to address pending issues. There was also significant discussion around concerns that the committee's name—linked to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—might make members, especially international ones, vulnerable due to executive orders and AI surveillance of web content. Some members are pushing for a prompt name change. However, when Karen raised this with Dr. Scholz (involved in renaming the University DEI Committee), the response was to wait until upper administration finalizes a suitable new name. This puts the Faculty Senate standing committee's name change on hold, though concerns remain urgent among its members. Karen emphasized the need for quick action or recommendations. Discussion followed.

- Student Success Chair, Tawny Aguirre  
Chair Aguirre reported that the committee met on April 17th and held a quorum with four guests: Vice Chair Brown, Dave Rutledge, Dean Marlatt, and Dean Koodali from the graduate school. The entire meeting was focused on discussing Proposition 13. [Full SS report is on the FS website.](#)
- Update on Open Access Publication Fund Advisory Committee – John Sandstrom  
Senator Sandstrom gave an update on the Open Access Publication Fund Advisory Committee, highlighting that the main issue is clarifying where to send approved items for payment - this is expected to go to James, and a meeting is scheduled with him next week to confirm details. The committee hopes to begin accepting applications by the end of the semester, with plans to launch the program more fully in the fall. A key discussion point was whether the funds could be used for non-open access journals. Based on their understanding of the enabling legislation, the funds are restricted to supporting publication in open access journals only.

**Definition of what the Open Access Publication Fund: Journal should be fully open access or hybrid and peer reviewed and listed on the Directory of open access journals, or other database of legitimate non-predatory journals before funding is awarded. Review of the publisher may be completed to ensure it is not a predatory journal. Previously published. Articles converted to open access are eligible, green, open access shall be excluded.**

- Discussion of whether open access funds could extend to non-OA journals – Christopher Brown or John Sandstrom – As noted above open access funds are limited to supporting publication in open access journals, as stated in the legislation that the Senate passed to create a means to accept funds from Central and distribute to faculty.
- Do we want to meet with Admin over the summer?  
Senators came to an agreement to meet with Admin over the summer.
- Update on Global Advisory Committee - Christopher Brown  
Chair Brown provided an update on the Global Advisory Committee, noting that a bill from the last Senate term established an online advisory committee, which was signed by Alan

Shoho and Jay Gogue. This committee, now led by Mark Lawrence, was formed over the summer without prior awareness. Discussions have taken place regarding library and community college representation, and negotiations are ongoing with Chancellor Kollman and President Ferme. The goal is to facilitate discussions on global issues, with meetings planned weekly with the President and Provost. Discussion, questions and answers followed. Chair Brown stated he will work closely with Vimal to strongly advocate Central for fulfilling the original request as closely as possible. He acknowledged a willingness to withdraw the request for an FSLC member on the Global Advisory Committee, since it's not specified in the bill, and sticking to the bill's language is key to the argument. The issue remains under discussion, and with summer meetings now agreed upon, the conversation will continue, and updates will be provided.

## **8. Remarks and Announcements**

- FS Chair Vimal Chaitanya  
Faculty Senate Chair Chaitanya announced that VPR (Vice President for Research) candidates will be visiting campus soon. There will be open forums—important for all faculty to attend—as well as lunch meetings with each candidate. The open forum and lunch dates are:

\* April 29

\* May 1

\* May 7

\* May 12

Chair Chaitanya will send out an email with details and encourage everyone to mark their calendars.

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

## **9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.**

**Present:** Vice-Chair C. Brown, Chair V. Chaitanya, K. Finlator, E. Lehnhoff, J. Cook, M. Burkardt, C. DeBlieck, K. Kopera-Frye, P. Tian, O. Holguin, D. McDonald, H. Badawy, S. Hanson, L. Grant, S. Gordon, K. Lopez-Gallagher, J. Sandstrom, T. Aguirre.

**Guest:** Deputy Provost James McAteer.

**Absent:** G. Piña, L. Saiki.

***Revised and finalized by:  
Vice – Chair Brown on June 10, 2025***