

# NMSU Faculty Senate

May 1, 2025; 4:00 p.m.

[Zoom](#)

## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:06 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda** –  
Moved and seconded to approve agenda.  
Agenda approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** –
  - Deputy Provost James McAteer.
4. **Caucusing by Continuing and Incoming Senators only**
  - Chairs of Senate Standing Committees (2025-2026)  
Each incoming Standing Committee caucused and elected its committee chair.

### 2025-2026 Standing Committee Chairs:

Budget & Resources:	<b>Stephen Hanson</b>
University Planning:	<b>Stephanie Walker</b>
Curriculum and Programming:	<b>Oladayo Bello</b>
Research and Creative Activity:	<b>Omar Holguin</b>
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:	<b>Karen Kopera-Frye</b>
Student Success:	<b>Kristian Finlator</b>

- Representatives to Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (2025-2026)  
**2025-2026 Senate Leadership Committee**

Voting Group	SLC senator Allocation	2024-2025 Senate Leadership Committee
A&S	3	Jonathan Cook Christopher Brown Kellie Sharp-Hopskins Jaime Bronstein
Library	1	Elena Karshmer
ACES CES	2	Marcel Montanez Kelly Knight
Business	1	Chris Erickson
Engineering	1	Hameed Badawy
HEST	2	Conni DeBlieck Frank Boutsen
Alamogordo DACC Grants	2	Kim Lopez Gallagher Lisanne Grant
Non-Tenure Track	2	Michaela Burkardt John Sandstrom

- **Chair of Faculty Senate Leadership Committee / FS Vice-Chair (2025-2026)**  
Newly elected members of the 2025-2026 Senate Leadership Committee caucused to elect its chair.  
Christopher Brown was elected chair of the Senate Leadership Committee and as a result will also serve as Vice-Chair of the Senate.

**For the following agenda, Incoming Senators are not eligible to vote**

**5. Approval of Minutes of 3 April 2025, meeting**

Moved and seconded to approve minutes.

Minutes approved as submitted by the current 2024-25 senators.

**6. Reports of Officers**

FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya -

Chair Chaitanya reminded FSLC members, many of whom are involved in the VPR search, that two candidates have already visited campus and two more are upcoming. He urged all senators to attend the open forums in person or via Zoom—or at least watch the recordings and submit their votes. He emphasized that President Ferme will review all input, so everyone’s participation truly matters.

FS Vice-Chair, Christopher Brown –

Vice Chair Brown mentioned that due to time constraints, he will not present his full report. Two more VPR candidates are coming on the 7th and 12th. Participation in person or via Zoom is welcome. He agrees with Chair Chaitanya that Valerio Ferme will read the comments, as he did for the HEST search Dean, and they are actively reviewing input. [Full FS Vice-Chair report is on the FS website.](#)

**7. Reports of Standing Committees**

**18 Minutes**

- Budget and Resources – Chair, Stephen Hanson  
Chair Hanson reported the committee met, had a quorum, and did not vote on anything. [Full BR report is on the FS website.](#)
- University Planning – Chair, Erik Lehnhoff  
[Full UP report is on the FS website.](#)
- Curriculum and Planning – Chair, Gustavo Piña  
Nothing to report.
- Research and Creative Activity – Chair, Paul Tian  
Chair Tian reported that the committee discussed proposition 12-24/25, made minor changes, and then submitted it. [Full RCA report is on the FS website.](#)  
Moved and seconded to accept committee recommendation.

**VOTE: YES: 44 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-**

Approval/acceptance of Research and Creative Activity Committee report.

Moved and seconded to accept Research and Creative Activity report.

The Senate votes in the affirmative to accept Research and Creative Activity committee report.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye

No report.

- Student Success – Chair, Tawny Aguirre  
Chair Aguirre reported that the committee met on April 17th, had a quorum, and discussed Proposition 13. Proposition 13- Allows graduate students to retake a class and replace the old grade in their GPA. The proposition supported the ADAC policy, passed with amendments, and received seven yes votes. [Full SS report is on the FS website.](#)  
Moved and seconded to accept committee recommendation.

**VOTE: 44                      YES: -0-                      ABSTAIN -0-**

Approval/acceptance of Student Success Standing Committee report.

Moved and seconded to accept Student Success report.

The Senate votes in the affirmative to accept Student Success committee report.

## **8. New Business- NONE**

## **9. Unfinished Business-**

**05 Minutes**

- **Proposition 11-24/25** – Amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution. Sponsor (s): 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 approval.**

**ICT ballot is open for voting until 8 May.**

- **Proposition 12-24/25** – Task force to assess and reconsider faculty performance and promotion & tenure evaluation criteria considering 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.**

Moved and seconded to approve.

Discussion followed.

Senator Lopez-Gallagher sought clarification that the task force in question applies specifically to Las Cruces campus faculty, noting that community colleges have their own promotion and tenure committees and policies. She wanted to confirm who is included in the task force.

Vice Chair Brown noted that the bill posted on the Senate website does not specify whether the task force is system-wide. He suggested that, if the bill passes, the Senate should ask the sponsors for clarification. He also mentioned that existing ARP guidelines may limit the task force to the main campus. Senator Lopez-Gallagher added that community colleges have their own processes and clarified that the bill simply asks Central to create a task force to study the issue—clarifying inclusion would be part of that study.

Senator Lehnhoff clarified that the intention was to keep the task force composition flexible, allowing the administration some control over appointments. This proposal is just the first step to initiating the process and starting a conversation. He emphasized that it does not modify the ARP regarding promotion and tenure—it's solely about forming a task force.

**VOTE:                      YES: 44                      YES: -0-                      ABSTAIN: -0-**

Motion passes: Proposition 12-24/25 is approved.

- **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.**

Moved and seconded to approve.

Discussion followed.

Senator Burkardt addressed a question about special topics courses, explaining that there are two key requirements:

1. The course numbers must be identical.
2. If it is a topics course, the titles must also be identical.

Senator Badawy explained that during the FSLC discussion, Senator Jon Cook had raised a point about a part of the bill that had been removed. Senator Michaela Burkardt confirmed it was removed, not realizing its potential impact. Senator Badawy highlighted that while undergraduates at NMSU can retake classes, graduate students previously did not have this option. This lack of policy particularly affected international students, as falling below a 3.0 GPA triggered complex paperwork and status issues. The proposed policy, originating from the Graduate Faculty Council and Graduate School, went through ADAC and the Senate. Senator Badawy supported it, noting it will help students and significantly reduce administrative burdens for advisors.

**VOTE:        YES: 44        NO: -0-        ABSTAIN: -0-**

Motion passes: Proposition 13-24/25 is approved.

## **10. Other Business – NONE**

## **11. Remarks and Announcements**

- a. FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya - **NONE**
- b. FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown –  
Vice-Chair Brown thanked everyone for their patience and cooperation throughout the process and wished them a great end of the semester.

## **12. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.**

**Present:** FS Chair V. Chaitanya, FS Vice-Chair C. Brown, O. Holguin, S. Walker, S. Hanson, C. Erikson, E. Lehnhoff, C. DeBlieck, L. Grant, P. Tian, J. Bronstein, E. Karshmer, S. Lynch, Z. Shen, L. Saiki, G. Piña, H. Baek, P. Smoak, I. Hansen, M. Montanez, K. Finlator, R. Gioannini, A. Ashley, C. Bond, J. Sandstrom, R. Ghimire, F. Arslan, M. Burkardt, R. Figueroa, R. Figueroa, B. Hampton, I. Pedraza, R. Li, T. Aguirre, R. Jayaraman, D. Overstreet, D. Fuqua, T. Conner, KT. Manis, T. Aguirre, A. Cox, E. Oskey, M. Darapuneni, K. Knight, K. Sharp-Hoskins, A. Romero, T. Manz, K. Kopera-Frye, G. Necochea, K. Grover, J. Cook, E. Gamboa, M. Elshinawy, F. Boutsen, O. Bello, S. Mikkelsen, H. Badawy, P. Smoak, J. Bronstein, V. Murga, RecSec Cisneros.

**Guest:** Deputy Provost James McAteer.

*Revised and finalized by:  
Chair Chaitanya on June 4, 2025*