

NMSU Faculty Senate Meeting (Special + Regular)

**Zoom ONLY**

**Minutes for the Special Meeting**

**May 7, 2026, 3:00 p.m.**

**Note: only continuing and incoming senators are eligible to vote**

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.
  
2. **Guest – Deputy Provost and Acting Interim Provost James McAteer**  
Deputy Provost and Acting Interim Provost James McAteer wished all candidates success in the Faculty Senate elections and encouraged those who would serve as senators in the coming year to consider the roles they might play in shared governance. He reviewed the compensation and support available for Senate leadership positions. Committee chairs may choose either a course release or equivalent funds for approved professional purposes, such as professional development, travel, or technology purchases. Committee chairs receive one course release distributed over two semesters. The Senate Leadership Chair and Vice Chair each receive one course release per semester, for a total of two course releases during the academic year. He noted that the newly elected Senate Chair, Christian, will receive a four-course release during the following academic year. In addition, both the Chair and Vice Chair receive summer compensation, with those commitments beginning in the current summer. Dr. McAteer thanked senators for their service and contributions and expressed his appreciation for those who will serve in the coming year. He stated that he looked forward to working with the newly elected Senate leadership and members.
  
3. **Approval of special meeting Agenda**  
Moved and seconded to approve the special meeting agenda.  
Special meeting agenda approved.
  
4. **Caucusing by Continuing and Incoming Senators only**
  - **Chairs of Senate Standing Committees (2026-2027)**  
Each incoming Standing Committee caucused and elected its committee chair.  
**2026-2027 Standing Committee Chairs:**

Budget and Resources:	<b>Chris Erickson</b>
University Planning:	<b>K.T. Manis</b>
Curriculum and Planning:	<b>John Sandstrom</b>
Research and Creative Activity:	<b>Omar Holguin</b>
Access, Opportunity, and Outreach:	<b>Kim Lopez-Gallagher</b>
Student Success:	<b>Rebecca Campbell</b>

- Representative to Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (2026-2027)  
**2026-2027 Senate Leadership Committee**

<b>Voting Group</b>	<b>SLC senator Allocation</b>	<b>2026-2027 Senate Leadership Committee</b>
A&S	4	Jonathan Cook Paul Tian Matthew Sievert Rodrigo Figueroa
Library	1	Jason Bengtson
ACES CES	2	Steven Hanson Susann Mikkelson
Business	1	Victor Pimentel
Engineering	1	Abdul Abdelkefi
HEST	2	Rebecca Joyce Garay Rebecca Palacios
Alamogordo DACC Grants	2	Veronica Murga Paul Kemp
Non-Tenure Track	2	Crystal Anaya John Sandstrom

- **Chair of Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (2026-2027)**

Newly elected members of the 2026-2027 Senate Leadership Committee caucused to elect its chair.

Oladayo Bello was elected chair of the Senate Leadership Committee and as a result will also serve as Vice-Chair of the Senate.

**5. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA for the Regular Business Meeting  
May 7, 2026, 4:00 p.m.**

**Note: only currently serving senators are eligible to vote**

**1. Recognition of Guests**

- Karen Kopera Frye – Associate Dean, Graduate School  
Karen Kopera-Frye, Associate Dean Graduate School is in attendance for questions on the DAP.
- Marlene Chavez-Toivanen - Campus Executive & Academic Officer, Grants  
Marlene Chavez-Toivanen, Campus Executive and Academic Officer for

Grants, expressed appreciation to Faculty Senate leadership, Dr. Chaitanya and Dr. Brown, for organizing the memorial and providing an opportunity to honor and remember Eric Oskey, a valued member of the Grants community. She reflected on Mr. Oskey's contributions as an automotive instructor and mentor, noting his dedication to teaching, commitment to student success, and lasting impact on the automotive trades. She stated that his sudden passing was a significant loss to students, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of learning from or working with him. Ms. Chavez-Toivanen remarked that Mr. Oskey shared not only technical knowledge but also lessons in discipline, confidence, and pride in one's work. She noted that his guidance, humor, generosity, and commitment to excellence helped shape numerous careers and inspired many students. She extended her thoughts and condolences to Mr. Oskey's family, friends, coworkers, and students and stated that his legacy would continue through the many lives he influenced and the students he helped succeed. She concluded by thanking the Senate for honoring Mr. Oskey's memory.

**2. Approval of regular meeting Agenda**

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

Vice Chair Brown proposed an amendment to the agenda to add an Emergency Legislation to honor Mr. Eric Oskey.

Agenda was approved.

**3. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2026, meeting**

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes.

Minutes approved and submitted by the current 2025-2026 senators.

**4. Request to introduce emergency legislation (Vimal Chaitanya)**

**Memorial Honoring the Service to the NMSU Faculty Senate of Eric Oskey and Sharing Condolences with his Family on his Passing.** Chair Chaitanya moved to reclassify the Emergency Legislation as Unfinished Business. The motion was properly seconded. The motion passed, and the Emergency Legislation was moved to Unfinished Business.

**5. Reports of Officers**

- FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya

Chair Chaitanya stated that, due to time constraints, he would not present his report during the meeting. He indicated that the report would be uploaded to the Faculty Senate website for members to review and then invited the Vice Chair to present his report.

- FS Vice Chair/SLC Chair, Christopher Brown

Vice Chair Brown reported that, due to the challenges associated with preparing meeting agendas, administering the election, and addressing the emergency legislation regarding the passing of Senator Eric Oskey, his report was not yet complete. He stated that the report would be finalized by the close of business the following day and posted to the Faculty Senate website. [Full Vice Chair Report.](#)

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

- Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson  
Chair Hanson reported that the Budget and Resources Committee met with a quorum present and considered legislation 11-25/26. The committee voted to recommend the legislation as due pass as amended.
  - The Senate moved and seconded to approve the Budget and Resources Committee report with the vote on Proposition 11-25/26
  
- University Planning Chair, Stephanie Walker  
Chair Walker reported that the University Planning Committee met on April 10 with a quorum present and considered Bills 08-25-26 and 09-25-26.  
Bill 08-25-26, which proposed amendments to Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution regarding eligibility requirements for the Faculty Senate Chair and Vice Chair, was not approved by the committee.  
Bill 09-25-26, which proposed removing the official names of standing committees from the Faculty Senate Constitution to allow for more flexibility in committee naming, was amended and approved by the committee. The committee recommended the bill be forwarded for a full faculty vote.
  - The Senate moved and seconded to approve the University Planning Committee report with the vote on Proposition 09-25/26.
  
- Curriculum and Planning Chair, Oladayo Bello  
Chair Bello reported that the Curriculum and Planning Committee met on April 9 with a quorum present to consider Bill 12-25-26. The bill was described as a request for Senate review of a proposed Doctoral Accelerated Pathway Program rather than approval of the program itself.  
The committee heard a presentation from Dean Koodali outlining the program's purpose of creating a direct pathway for high-achieving undergraduates to doctoral study, allowing completion of both degrees in approximately eight years through shared graduate-level coursework. The committee discussed academic standards, advising capacity, eligibility, and program rigor. Following discussion, the committee voted to approve the bill and forward it to the full Senate for consideration.
  - The Senate moved and seconded to approve the Curriculum and Planning Committee report with the vote on Proposition 12-25/26
  
- Research and Creative Activity Chair, Omar Holguin  
Chair Holguin reported that the RCA Committee met on April 21 at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present. No formal business was conducted. Chair Holguin noted that committee discussions are available on the Faculty Senate website.
  
- Access, Opportunity, and Outreach Chair, Kim Lopez-Gallagher  
Chair Lopez-Gallagher reported that the committee met on April 14 with a quorum present. No legislation was assigned to the committee. The report has been posted to the Faculty Senate website.

- Student Success Chair, Kristian Finlator  
Chair Finlator reported that the committee received an update from the Vice President of the Student Success Office regarding the successful implementation of CPOS requirements and noted that implementation has been relatively unobstructive for students. The committee also discussed the level of guaranteed financial support offered by academic units to incoming international graduate students. The full report is available online.

## 7. New Business – NONE

## 8. Unfinished Business

- 17-25/26 – Memorial Honoring the Service to the NMS Faculty Senate of Eric Oskey and Sharing Condolences with his Family for his Passing. Sponsor (s): C. Brown (A&S), K. Finlator (A&S), V. Chaitanya (ENG), S. Walker (ACES), O. Bello (EBG), J. McAteer (Provost Office), T. Allred (NMSU-A), J. Sandstrom (NTT), K. Sharp-Hoskins (A&S), C. Erickson (CoB), M. Burkardt (NTT), S. Hanson (ACES), J. Bengtson (Library), K. Lopez-Gallagher (NMSU-A), P. Kemp (NMSU-Grants), T. Aguirre (DACC), and other to follow. **Emergency Legislation.**

Vice Chair Brown introduced the memorial resolution as a co-sponsor. He noted that Faculty Senate leadership had only received news of Eric Oskey's passing from Marlene late Tuesday evening. Despite the short timeframe, sponsors worked quickly to prepare the memorial and gather support. Vice Chair Brown stated that if the resolution passed, additional senators wishing to join as sponsors could email him directly and be added, noting that no committee review or prior approval was required. The memorial recognized the sudden and unexpected passing of Eric Oskey, a valued member of the NMSU Grants community and the NMSU Faculty Senate. The resolution stated that Faculty Senate members offered the memorial to honor his service to the Senate and the University and to extend condolences to his family. The resolution noted that Oskey joined the Faculty Senate in October 2023 and served on the Student Success Standing Committee throughout his tenure. During that time, he contributed to discussions on a broad range of student issues, including institutional access to tutoring software, textbook acquisition costs, undergraduate admissions requirements, and graduate student welfare. He was described as a quiet but reliable voice representing NMSU Grants and advocating for students. The memorial further highlighted Oskey's excellence in teaching as Associate Professor of Automotive at NMSU Grants. Recognized for combining deep technical expertise with a commitment to student success and service learning, he received the Roush Teaching Excellence Award in 2023. The resolution also acknowledged his advocacy for career and technical education through his leadership as Automotive Program Manager and faculty advisor, as well as his partnership with the ACE Ford program, which strengthened workforce readiness and expanded opportunities for students in the automotive field in Cibola County. The memorial recognized Oskey's dedicated service to NMSU Grants and the University through his Faculty Senate service, committee work, and active

participation in community events such as Spokes on 66 and Coffee and Cars, where he promoted both the automotive program and NMSU Grants. These efforts reflected his commitment to collaboration, outreach, and student opportunity.

The resolution concluded that Eric Oskey would be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and genuine care for others. He leaves a lasting legacy at NMSU Grants and will be deeply missed by students, faculty, and staff. He will be remembered not only for his contributions to education but also as a valued colleague and friend.

Therefore, on May 7, 2026, the members of the NMSU Faculty Senate offered this memorial to honor Eric Oskey's service to the Faculty Senate and to extend their sincere condolences to his family.

Moved and seconded to approve.

**VOTE: YES: 41 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-**

Motion passes: Proposition 17-25/26 is approved.

- 09-25/26 – Updating the Names and Functions of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees. Sponsor (s): K. Finlator (Astronomy), C. Brown (Geography), K. Lopez-Gallagher (NMSU-A). **Assigned to University Planning,** Chair Chaitanya introduced Proposition 09-25/26, regarding obtaining the names and functions of the Faculty Senate standing committees. He noted that the proposal had been assigned to the University Planning Committee and that the committee chair had already provided its recommendation in support of the proposal. Senator Finlator explained that Proposition 09-25/26 accomplishes two primary objectives. First, it removes the names of all Faculty Senate standing committees and subcommittees from the Constitution and instead refers to them in the bylaws. Second, it incorporates the names of all standing committees and subcommittees into the bylaws, including several requested committee name changes. The proposal also updates the purviews of committees whose names have been changed. Senator Finlator noted that, if approved by the Faculty Senate, the bylaw changes would become effective only if the faculty subsequently approved the related constitutional amendments.

Vice Chair Brown raised a point of order regarding the implementation process. He stated that approval of the legislation by the Faculty Senate would constitute the Senate's vote to move committee names from the Constitution to the bylaws. He explained that constitutional changes would still require approval through an all-faculty vote. Vice Chair Brown indicated that, if the proposition passed, he would work with Chair Chaitanya, Mari, and Senator Finlator to organize the faculty-wide vote during the current semester. He noted that the Constitution does not specify a minimum time period for such a vote and expressed the intent to work with ICT to distribute the ballot as soon as possible. He further stated that if the all-faculty vote approved the constitutional amendments, the Constitution would be amended and the bylaw changes approved by the Faculty Senate would take effect.

No discussion.

Moved and seconded to approve.

**VOTE: YES: 39 NO: -0- ABSTAIN: -0-**

Motion passes: Proposition 09-25/26 is approved.

- 11-25-26 – Request to Central Administration to provide resources to part time faculty. Sponsor (s): I. Villicana-Pedraza (DACC), Kim Lopez-Gallagher (Alamogordo), Jason Bengtson (NMSU Library), C. Brown (A&S, Senate Vice Chair), and other to follow. **Assigned to Budget and Resources.**

Sponsor Senator Lopez-Gallagher presented the bill, which requests that central administration allocate funding to provide facilities and resources for part-time faculty across the NMSU system. He explained that reports from both the main campus and community colleges indicate that some part-time faculty lack adequate office space, secure storage for their materials and belongings, and access to institutional computers. As a result, some faculty members must carry their materials with them throughout the day and use their personal computers for work-related responsibilities. Senator Lopez-Gallagher stated that the bill asks the administration to prioritize funding within the budget to improve facilities and resources for part-time faculty system-wide.

Moved and seconded to approve.

**VOTE: YES: 40 NO: 1 ABSTAIN: -0-**

Motion passes: Proposition 11-25/26 is approved.

- 12-25/26 – Request for Faculty Senate to review DRAFT proposal for a Doctoral Accelerated Program submitted by the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC). Sponsor (s): C. Brown (A&S), O. Bello (ENG), D. Rutledge (HEST and GFC Chair), J. Tomaka (HEST), and others to follow. **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning.**

Vice Chair Brown explained that the proposal originated in the Graduate School and was brought before the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), on which he serves as Faculty Senate Vice Chair. He noted that the proposal received extensive discussion within ADAC and that a draft version, advanced by Associate Dean Copra Frye, was reviewed and approved by the council. Following ADAC's approval, Vice Chair Brown brought the proposal forward to the Faculty Senate as a bill for consideration.

Vice Chair Brown stated that he was serving as the lead sponsor, although he had some reservations about the proposal. He noted that the university continues to face enrollment pressures and that the proposal could create an important pathway for highly qualified undergraduate and master's students to advance academically. However, he expressed concern about the prospect of undergraduate students moving directly from a bachelor's program into a doctoral program. He characterized these concerns as points for consideration and then returned the floor to the Chair for discussion and a vote by the Faculty Senate.

During discussion, Chair Chaitanya commented that many universities offer programs that allow exceptional students to progress directly from a bachelor's degree into a doctoral program without first completing a master's degree. He stated that the proposal could provide a valuable pathway for outstanding students and could help attract high-achieving students to NMSU.

Discussion followed regarding the purpose of the proposal and the Faculty Senate's role in its review. Senator Finlator expressed uncertainty about whether the Senate was being asked to approve the proposed Doctoral Accelerated Program (DAP) or simply to review the concept for future consideration.

Vice Chair Brown clarified that the proposal was being presented for review and endorsement. Referring to the language of the bill, he explained that the sponsors were

asking the Senate to review the draft proposal and either formally endorse its continued development and submission to the University Program Approval Committee (UPAC) or identify concerns that should be addressed before moving forward. He stated that a positive vote would indicate support for advancing the proposal through the approval process, while a negative vote would signal that concerns remained unresolved.

Associate Dean Kopera-Frye provided additional context from the Graduate School's perspective. She explained that the proposal had already been reviewed by both the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC) and the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC), and that feedback from the Faculty Senate was being sought as part of the broader review process. She emphasized that the Graduate School intended to incorporate input from all constituent groups before finalizing the policy.

Senator Manz raised concerns about maintaining the quality and competitiveness of doctoral programs. He asked what safeguards would be in place regarding GPA requirements, GRE scores, and other admissions criteria to ensure that students entering through the accelerated pathway would be as competitive as those recruited through traditional admissions processes. Associate Dean Kopera-Frye responded that while the proposal established a minimum GPA requirement, individual departments would retain authority over admissions decisions. Departments would determine whether applicants were sufficiently prepared for doctoral study and could admit or reject students as they deemed appropriate.

Senator Cook stated that he remained uncertain about what the Senate was being asked to approve. He questioned whether the vote constituted endorsement of the DAP concept or a request for additional review by the Faculty Senate. Vice Chair Brown reiterated that the Senate had already completed its review through discussion and that the vote would indicate whether the Senate supported the proposal moving forward to UPAC. He noted that the Senate no longer has a formal role in the program approval process beyond representation through the Vice Chair's membership on UPAC. Vice Chair Brown further explained that the draft memorandum provided by the Graduate School was intentionally brief and outlined only the basic framework of the proposal, including minimum GPA requirements, coursework, and credit-hour considerations. He stated that substantial additional work would occur before the proposal reached UPAC, including completion of the Program Inventory Management System (PIMS) documentation and further policy development. He noted that concerns identified during that process could still be addressed, but that the Senate was being asked to provide an up-or-down vote on whether the proposal should proceed.

Senator Campbell expressed support for the proposal and suggested that programs adopting the accelerated pathway consider incorporating a master's degree milestone on the route to the Ph.D. He stated that such milestones could be beneficial for students and families, provide motivation toward degree completion, and ensure that students who did not complete the doctorate would still receive a graduate credential.

Senator Sandstrom stated that the limited detail provided in the proposal made him uncomfortable supporting its advancement. While not opposed to the concept, he indicated that he would prefer to review a more fully developed proposal before offering support and suggested that the matter may have been brought to the Senate too early in the process.

In response, Associate Dean Kopera-Frye noted that many of the concerns raised during the discussion had also been discussed within the Graduate Faculty Council. She stated that the proposal had already been reviewed and revised by both ADAC and GFC. To improve communication and faculty input going forward, she requested that a representative from the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee serve as an ex

officio member of the Graduate Faculty Council. She explained that GFC meets on the first Thursday of each month and that faculty senate representation would help ensure that Senate perspectives are included as policies and procedures are developed. She noted that the absence of a Faculty Senate representative on GFC had been identified as a gap in the shared governance process and expressed a desire to address that issue beginning in the upcoming academic year.  
Moved and seconded to approve.

**VOTE: YES: 22 NO 5 ABSTAIN: 1**

Motion passes: Proposition 12-25/26 is approved.

**9. Other Business – Reports of External Committees on Which Senators Sit**

- Task force to Improve Evaluation of Deans– Chuck Creusere and Kellie Sharp-Hoskins

Senator Creusere reported on the committee's review and revision of the existing evaluation instrument. He explained that the primary goal of the revisions was to increase faculty participation in the evaluation process by eliminating unnecessary questions and focusing on items that faculty members are reasonably able to assess. This included removing questions that asked faculty to evaluate aspects of a dean's performance for which they may not have sufficient information. Senator Creusere stated that the committee also made several organizational improvements to the evaluation. He noted that the details of the revisions had been provided to Chris for posting and expressed the hope that the streamlined and revised survey would encourage greater participation from faculty members in future evaluation cycles.

- Task Force in impacts of AI on Pedagogy – Chris Erickson and Kellie Sharp Hoskins  
Vice Chair Brown reported that a list of 15 names had been submitted to Acting Interim Provost James McAteer. He noted that McAteer had shared the list with Provost-designate Joe Bull and indicated that the matter would be included among the items to be addressed as the new provost assumes his responsibilities. Vice Chair Brown stated that he did not anticipate significant progress before the fall semester but emphasized that the issue had been acknowledged by central administration and would remain under consideration moving forward.
- Open Access Publication Fund Advisory Committee – John Sandstrom  
Senator Sandstrom provided an update on the Open Access Publishing Fund Committee. He explained that the committee was formed in Spring 2025 to develop a process for allocating funds made available by Acting President Monica Torres to help offset open access publishing costs for faculty. The initiative was established pursuant to Proposition 07-23/24, as amended by Proposition 05-24/25. The committee began accepting applications during Summer 2025, with the full program rollout occurring in Fall 2025. As of March 31, 2026, the committee had received 30 requests for funding or reimbursement and had approved 28 of those requests. Additional applications had been received during April and May, so the reported figures were not yet

final. Of the original \$100,000 allocation, approximately \$44,000 was awarded. Senator Sandstrom noted that it was unclear whether the lower-than-expected expenditure reflected limited awareness of the program or a lower level of need among faculty. While the funds are eligible to roll over and are not at risk of being lost, he emphasized that demonstrating continued demand may be important for securing future funding.

Senator Sandstrom reported that some confusion remains regarding the reimbursement process. Some applicants have expected direct cash payments, whereas the committee's goal has been to create a seamless process in which recipients submit their award letter along with their publication payment request and the reimbursement is handled administratively. He noted that the exact process remains under review and has been moving through the Provost's Office. He acknowledged the significant contributions of Associate Dean Kopera-Frye, who served as co-chair during the committee's first year and has since stepped down. Senator Sandstrom also announced that he would be stepping down as chair. He reported that Dr. Farouk Aslan and Dr. Abu Abdel-Kafi had agreed to serve as the committee's new co-chairs and that a new committee member had also been appointed.

Looking ahead, Senator Sandstrom emphasized the continued importance of supporting open access publishing for faculty. He noted that the committee's standard award of \$2,000 typically covered only 50–60 percent of publication costs, indicating that future consideration may need to be given to increasing funding levels. He stated that the committee would focus on improving communication, expanding outreach efforts, and ensuring that faculty remain aware of and able to access the available funding.

- Task Force on International Graduate Students – Vimal Chaitanya and Kristian Finlator

Senator Finlator reported on the work of the Task Force on International Graduate Students, which was convened at the request of Interim Provost Reddi. He explained that the task force was charged with surveying international graduate students to identify key pressure points and sources of difficulty affecting their ability to arrive at NMSU and begin their studies successfully. The task force administered a survey that received approximately 169 responses. These responses were analyzed and synthesized into a report containing 12 consolidated recommendations, which have been made available online.

- Faculty Senate Library Advisory Committee – Kim Lopez Gallagher

Senator Overstreet reported on behalf of Kim, who was unable to remain in attendance. He shared a summary of the Faculty Senate Library Advisory Council (FSLAC) report for 2025–2026, which he had posted in the chat, and noted that the minutes from the four council meetings will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

The FSLAC met four times during the academic year and provided support to the NMSU Libraries by serving as a forum for sharing ideas aimed at increasing student engagement with the libraries. The council also served as a channel for

communication, allowing the ASNMSU representative to bring forward student concerns related to library services. The council will continue its work in the following academic year.

Topics discussed during the year included the Open Access Publication Fund, the Books4Success program, and library engagement strategies. The council's meeting minutes for 2025–2026 will be submitted to Ms. Cisneros for posting on the Faculty Senate website.

- Program Sustainability Plan Ad Hoc Committee – Oladayo Bellow and Jonathan Cook

Senator Cook reported on the work of the committee, noting that he and Senator Bello served as representatives but were not responsible for leading the committee. He explained that the committee, comprised primarily of Provost's Office staff and other members, identified 16 bachelor's programs, 12 master's programs, and 1 doctoral program that met the criteria for low-performing programs. He stated that a request had recently been sent to the relevant departments asking them to prepare evaluations and action plans for these programs, with responses expected over the summer. These submissions will then be reviewed, with follow-up likely occurring in the fall semester.

Chair Chaitanya thanked Senator Cook and noted that this work is a high priority for the Board of Regents, expressing appreciation for the contributions of both Senator Cook and Senator Bello to the sustainability planning effort.

Senator Boutsen added that the discussion was related to broader considerations of academic program development, including proposed accelerated programs, and emphasized the importance of documenting program sustainability. He referenced concerns about potential "mission creep" or "program creep" and noted this as a relevant consideration in ongoing program planning.

## **10. Remarks and Announcements**

- FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya  
Chair Chaitanya offered closing remarks, expressing appreciation for the service of all Faculty Senate members and for the work of the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee. He stated that he had been fortunate to work with a highly engaged and committed group of senators dedicated to serving the university. He also expressed particular gratitude to the Vice Chair for his attention to detail and advisement, noting that he valued the collaboration throughout his term. Chair Chaitanya indicated that he would be stepping down on May 19 and encouraged senators to remain engaged with new leadership and to continue the work of the Faculty Senate. He thanked the body for its service and contributions.
- FS Vice-Chair/SLC Chair, Christopher Brown  
Vice Chair Brown thanked the Chair, the Faculty Senate, and the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee, echoing appreciation for their service. He spoke about shared governance and the ongoing collaboration between Faculty Senate leadership and central administration, noting that regular meetings of the "group of four" (G4) occur weekly, during which pressing issues are brought forward and addressed directly with senior leadership.

Vice Chair Brown stated that this structure has enabled progress on several initiatives, including preventing the mandated implementation of Books for Success on main campus and the mandated implementation of Simple Syllabus. He also noted that requests for increased accountability in central operations have been raised and addressed through these discussions.

He expressed appreciation that all representative groups are now fully staffed within the Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Leadership Committee, and standing committees. He further noted that Dr. Joe Bull, incoming Provost from Portland State University, is expected to bring strong experience in shared governance and engagement with faculty leadership.

Vice Chair Brown closed by expressing gratitude to all participants in the governance process and extended best wishes to continuing and newly elected senators. He stated that at 5:01 p.m. on May 19, he and the Chair would conclude their terms and transition leadership to the incoming officers, expressing confidence in the future leadership of the Faculty Senate.

11. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

**Present:** FS Chair V. Chaitanya, FS Vice Chair C. Brown, K. Finlator, I. Pedraza, L. Grant, M. Talipov, M. Sievert, I. Garcia-Bryce, S. Hanson, J. Bronstein, M. Chavez Toivanen, R. Jayaraman, K. Sharp-Hoskins, C. Creusere, P. Tian, S. Way, M. Burkardt, G. Piña, S. Walker, V. Pimentel, K. Lopez-Gallagher, S. Oskey, M. Durapuneni, R. Campbell, C. Mitchell, C. DeBlicke, J. Dalager, I. Hansen, G. De Necochea, L. Hermanson, J. Cook, E. Erickson, R. Li, V. Murga, R. Figueroa, K. Knight, R. Villegas-Arguelles, C. Pelak, M. Montañez, K.T. Manis, R. Schumacher, A. Krohn, T. Manz, T. Conner, J. Kloksiem, P. Kemp, R. Ghimire, T. Allred, J. Sandstrom, H. Baek, S. Mikkelson, I. Johnson, H. Memon, J. Bengtson, R. Garay, O. Bello, F. Boutsen, Z. Klein, R. Palacios, S. Lynch, C. Garcia-Anaya, A. Cox, V. Murga, A. Abdelkefi, O. Holguin, T. Miller-Tomlinson, J. Kenney, Rec. Sec. M. Cisneros.

**Guest:** Acting Provost James McAteer, Associate Dean of Grad School Karen Kopera-Frye, Campus Executive & Academic Officer, Grants Marlene Chavez-Toivanen.

Revised and finalized by:  
Vice Chair Brown 6/8/2026