

Faculty Senate Chair's Report for November 2025

Report on Various Searches

The search for **Vice President of Administration and Finance (VPAF)** has been successfully concluded under the chairmanship of outgoing VPAF, Chris Kinsley. Three finalists visited the university. The FSLC had the opportunity to interview the candidates, share thoughts, and provide confidential input. As the only faculty representative on the committee, I represented the faculty view and qualities we would seek in our next VPAF. I met with the finalists several times during their day long visit and provided my input to the President both in writing and verbally. Our offer has just been accepted by one of the finalists and a campus-wide announcement is awaited pending final negotiations.

The new **Athletics Director**, Joe Fields, took charge from October. He has expressed interest in engaging with the faculty senate and faculty in general in deciding Athletics matters. I served on this search committee and emphasized that need. I will get back to you for thoughts and ideas as to how we engage with the Athletics.

The search for the **Director of Assessment Services** is on-going. Both I and vice Chair Brown have an hour of lunch with the three finalists. We have met with two candidates already. The third candidate will be on campus next week. I will provide final update in my December activity report.

Dean Ranjit Koodali is looking for an **Associate Dean of Graduate School**. Upon his request, we have provided name of a very experienced FSLC member, senator Jonathan Cook, to volunteer his service as a member of the search committee for this internal search. The search is underway. I will update the senate with more details in next report.

The search for the **provost** is underway. This search is co-led by vice Chair Christopher Brown. It is in the preliminary stage and applications are being collected. I will keep you updated and it progresses.

Now that the VPAF search is over and the permanent Provost is expected to be selected by the end of Spring 2026 semester, I will be requesting President Ferme to constitute a search committee and launch a search for permanent **VP of Research**, quickly to be followed by a search for **Director of Arrowhead Center** and **Director of PSL**, two positions which likely will continue to report to the VPR.

Report on Policy Steering Committee

Vice Chair Brown, who serve on this committee with me has filed a very detailed report about the proceedings of this committee and I don't have anything to add except to say that when faculty senate or faculty opinion at-large is sought as important stakeholders, please provide your input on the steering committee web site within two weeks (that is 10 working days). Your input

is important and is discussed thoroughly during the committee meetings before proceeding further.

Weekly Meetings with Provost and President

Both I and vice Chair Brown have continued to meet with the Provost and President through the month of November. Again, Vice Chair Brown has summarized select important discussion points. I would only like to add that we find these weekly meetings to be the most important exercises for the principle of shared governance.

New NMSU Strategic Plan

Justin Bannister has held several meetings with stakeholders to get feed back for President Ferme's new NMSU strategic plan as the Vision 2025 will be winding down soon. There was also an open forum to seek input. If you did not have the opportunity to participate and would like to contribute your views, here are the topics considered.

1. What are the needs of the State, what is the purpose and mission of NMSU, what new programs we can offer that relate to state's STEM and other requirements
2. Where do we want to be, how we can build better bridges, how can we be the institution for tribal land legacy, make community colleges and Trades integral part of NMSU's offerings
3. Where we want NMSU to be in 5 years, how to provide and measure community impact, impact to Agriculture industry, provide experiential learning to students
4. How do we measure NMSU success, student employment, student loan debt, NMSU partnering across the State, entrepreneurship

Other Concerns and Opportunities

- Foreign travel for legal non-immigrants
- Export control issues when traveling abroad with NMSU property such as laptop
- Declining interest among foreign students to seek higher education in the US
- Declining external funding opportunities and proposal submissions
- Handling AI in classrooms
- Faculty working remotely, majority of times (COVID effect)
- Automation and less paperwork and duplication impacting efficiency
- HR Issues and resolution, in touch with Bill Dial, AVP of human Resources
- Experiential learning
- Multi-disciplinary building on campus
- RPSP requests and Federal Priorities