Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report – Activities for November 2025
Christopher Brown, filed 12.2.25

Below, I share highlights of work I have completed as Vice Chair in November of 2025. As always, I am very happy to visit with anyone who would like to gain more data on activities reported.

Meetings with President Ferme and Provost Reddi – Chair Chaitanya and I continue to enjoy access to the President and Provost through our weekly meetings, and I share data on issues discussed below.

- **Adoption of Grammarly for University-wide licenses -** Early ideas were from Enrico Pontelli and Sherry Kollman, they engaged with AI Council, Robbie engaged as this discussion moved forward, and this happened outside of the normal IT purchasing process. New IT process will be more intentional and rigorous. Enrico's read is that he had adequate faculty input via AI Council.
- **Deans' evaluation issue -** I shared my read that if deans and DHs use ordinal ranking (soft quantitative data) data to rate faculty, with a rating of NME leading to post tenure review, why did Provost not lean towards the 30% unsatisfactory data point on one of the Deans recently reviewed? We explored the idea of a task force or working group convened by Provost's Office to explore term limits, a better instrument, and more timely reviews. Can we look at peers to see how they handle these 3 issues? We may see a formal proposal from The Provost's Office on this idea.
- **Exp/Coop Ed -** Provost would like to see more engagement from faculty on this, the idea is out to DH Academy and ADAC, and Central REALLY wants to see an expanded Exp/Coop Ed effort happen. We are doing much now, and we need to see Central coordinating this so not to dump more work on faculty.
- **Int'l student issue** – Int'l student took NMSU laptop abroad, both export control and general visa issues were in play, computer was seized, and student was detained but released. We need to up the message to all faculty and grad students on taking NMSU property abroad. Recent memo from Central highlighted this need - we need to have this message go out to Senate, and NMSU PD Chief Justin Donavan will join us and share best practices.
- **Intl grad apps and enrollment -** Much of this is out of our hands, but we can do things on our end. Specific ideas are to provide messages to DHs, faculty, and Senate about the MAP opportunities and accompanying funding; can the best of our UG students be given automatic admission for grad degrees? Vimal notes app review process is flawed, nothing moves until all letters and documents are in, and slow-moving files get to departments too late. We explored flooding the same channels as with the above message to advise departments and colleges of things to help increase apps and enrollment. We also would like to visit with Dean Koodali to see about revising policy on incomplete apps.

Meetings of the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), University Program Approval Council (UPAC), and the Policy Steering Committee (PSC)

- **ADAC** – We met twice during November, and discussions have focused on the following issues (some of this detail comes directly from ADAC minutes, with permission of ADAC Chair Ben Widmer):
    - **Enrollment Headcount (Widner) -** Discussion covered the enrollment headcount list James McAteer had distributed to the associate deans. The list was intended to help with being proactive regarding class demand for high-enrollment courses for the fall.
    - **CCA (Lakey/McAteer)** - Joe Lakey provided an overview of the Complete College America (CCA) initiative. CCA is focused on institutional transformation aimed at graduating as many students as reasonably possible. A survey was conducted, followed by a sense-making convening. Four focus areas were identified based on a combination of scores, areas where NMSU can improve, and areas where NMSU has the capacity to improve - Pathways, Leadership and Culture, Institutional Policy, and Advising. Cecilia Hernandez and Tony Marin confirmed they, along with James McAteer, are the overall leads for the CCA initiative. The overall leads (James, Tony and Cecilia) are traveling to the national convening soon to gather more information.

- **UPAC** – UPAC met in November, and we spent our time on 2 tasks:
    - **Reviewing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document** - The committee reviewed existing draft and proposed changes, we had extensive discussions that led to revisions, and the committee was tasked with a final review prior to Thanksgiving break. All edits came in, Co-chairs Brown and Lakey reviewed them with Carley Casey of Provost's office, and the final draft was put to rest. Anyone with interests in details can contact me for a final draft.
    - **Discussing the Program Sustainability Plan** - UPAC reviewed both the draft plan we have all seen and an extensive Template document that Cecilia Hernandez drafted that that outlined how this plan could be advanced. I noted that a Senate committee reviewed the draft Plan and provided a report, and the full Senate will formally review the report and provide a formal opinion on the plan after the January 2026 Senate meeting.

- **PSC** –Thanks to the leadership of Donna Ottaviano, the new University Policy Officer, we are regularly meeting, and things are moving. Several changes to the ARP are proposed, proposals are in various stages of the review process, and details are provided at the NMSU Policy Hub - https://policy.nmsu.edu/. Donna has started posting changes in play in Hotline, and interested parties are encouraged to review progress and also submit proposed changes at The Policy Hub. Below are tables noting things currently in play, this detail pulled directly from the November agenda:

1. Proposed Policy Actions   Donna/Lisa

Record #	ARP	Title
2025.08	4.69	Academic Rules for Distance Education
		Stakeholder Vetting completed. Feedback received and a revised draft has been prepared incorporating the feedback and reviewed by Dr. Kollmann.
2025.13	16.12	Clery Act Compliance
		Initial submission reviewed by PSC on 10/27. PSC requested additional information from the sponsor and requested a review by AVP-HRS.
2025.19	3.45	Assistive, Service, and Companion Animals on University Premises.
		Submitted in July 2025 and withdrawn. New submission received Oct 31 with draft.

2. Status Report

Record #	ARP	Title	Status
2025.01	New	Professional Licensure and Certification	**President Review**
2024.09	New	Digital Accessibility	**President Review**
2025.10	4.81	Degrees, Majors, Minors and Other Academic Programs of Study	**President Review**
2024.05	16.79	NMSU Sponsored Youth Programs (proposed title: Programs Involving Minors)	**Community Wide Review**
		Review period ended 11/11.	
2025.09	4.55	Grade Reports	**Initial Draft Being Prepared**
		Waiting for draft from proposal sponsor.	
2024.02	3.10	COI: Prohibitions in Procurement	**See Note**
		Initially sent to the President's Cabinet for review and discussion at their Meeting on October 13. On Oct 7 it was pulled from the agenda by the sponsor.	
2024.03	14.92	Sales and Solicitation	**See Note**
		Initially sent to the President's Cabinet for review and discussion at their Meeting on October 13. On Oct 7 it was pulled from the agenda by the sponsor.	
2024.08	3.63	Freedom of Expression (proposed title: Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly)	**See Note**
		Process paused for further evaluation by the proposal sponsor. FOE committee met and another version being prepared.	
2025.07	New	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Meeting Assistants	**See Note**
		Community Vetting completed – Sponsor asking for additional time	
2025.06	11.01	Research Funding and Research Institutes	**See Note**
		Pulled by the Proposal Sponsor for further review.	