Please ensure the proposition is ADA compliant or will be edited for compliance by the Faculty Senate Recording Secretary.

Proposition: 12-26/27

Proposal Type: ☐Bill ☐Resolution ☒Memorial ☐Joint Proposition ☐Other

(If Joint proposition, also select type)

Title: Memorial Honoring the Service to the NMSU Faculty Senate of Frank Boutsen and Sharing Condolences with his Family for his Passing

Date Submitted: 11/10/2026

Sponsor(s): K. Finlator (COAS); O. Bello (COE)

Proposed Committee: n/a

Prior Approvals: n/a

Proposal: NMSU Faculty Senate leadership recently learned that Prof. Frank Boutsen, a member of the NMSU Department of Communication Disorders since 2020 and a former Faculty Senator, passed away on October 15, 2026. Members of the NMSU Faculty Senate offer this memorial to honor Frank's service to his field, to NMSU, and to the NMSU Faculty Senate and to share condolences with his family for his passing.

Whereas, prior to arriving at NMSU, Frank co-authored a landmark textbook teaching MATLAB programming to speech-language pathologists, providing the first exposure to programming for two current NMSU Communication Disorders faculty who, though carrying out their graduate studies at a different university, anchored their successful careers as quantitative scientists in fundamentals that were developed while working through his text;

And whereas, Frank served actively and faithfully on the NMSU Faculty Senate from October 2023 through May 2026, where he was always unafraid to ask probing questions and entertain new ideas;

And whereas, Frank is remembered at NMSU for making careful efforts to support students as they presented their work, reliably offering constructive guidance and even extra time and encouragement to students who appeared exceptionally nervous;

And whereas, Frank is remembered by his colleagues for investigating mechanistic explanations of motor speech disorders implicated in neurodegenerative diseases and stroke, and characterizing the efficacy of a voice therapy approach called "SPEAK OUT!" for individuals with Parkinson's disease;

And whereas, Frank is more generally remembered for his lifelong commitment to his field, as evidenced by his decision to present two novel methods workshops as recently as spring 2026 in a series hosted by NMSU's College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation's Associate Dean for Research that (i) addressed the identification of speech deepfakes and (ii) promoted web-based scientific collaborations in Speech-Language Pathology through a platform that addresses data workflow gaps using computationally intensive data analytic techniques, building bridges between different institutions and analysis platforms;

Therefore, on this day of 3 December 2026, members of the NMSU Faculty Senate offer this memorial to honor the service to the NMSU Faculty Senate of Frank Boutsen and share condolences with his family for his passing.