

NMSU Faculty Senate Student Success Subcommittee Chair Report

Meeting: 2/19/2026

Submitted by: Kristian Finlator

Committee Attendance: Eight committee members attended; two were absent

Guests: none

I. 16:02 Quorum Established and Agenda Approved

With no official business, Student Success discussed the items on its agenda.

II. Update on Task Force for International Graduate Students

KF summarized for the committee the progress made by the Task Force for International Graduate Students.

III. Guaranteeing GAs for International Graduate Students

KF explained that not all Departments that offer graduate degrees guarantee Graduate Assistantships (GAs) for incoming students. Without a GA, *international* graduate students do not easily get onto the NMSU payroll, which is a prerequisite for obtaining a social security number. The committee agreed that this is a student success issue. Senator Magoč asked what percentage of admitted international graduate students are offered GA positions and how this varies by college. KF replied that HEST has provided a detailed report on this to Dean Koodali, but no effort has been made to obtain data from other colleges. Senator Figueroa emphasized that many international students may not appreciate how important it is to obtain GA support. Later on, he added that admitted internationals should be informed of these issues. After discussing options, Student Success decided that a letter should be drafted soliciting more information from each academic college regarding the practices of their respective units. KF will lead this effort.

IV. Promotion of Athletics

Senator Aguirre expressed concern that one or two of NMSU's varsity athletic programs (in particular, men's football and men's basketball) are promoted far more aggressively than others. Given that the New Mexico State Legislature has proposed allocating \$5 million to NMSU athletics with few specifics in SB 243, it is timely to reconsider funding and promotion within NMSU's various athletics programs. Sen. Aguirre proposed drafting a memorial asking directly for the \$5 million to be distributed equitably, but Sen. Burkardt voiced concern that this would be a complicated ask. The conversation then broadened into a discussion of how many other events occur at NMSU (such as musical, theatrical, or dance performances) that are *not* centrally promoted. The cost and benefit of establishing and promoting a central calendar were debated but without clear resolution. It was decided that KF should consult about inviting a representative from Athletics to discuss Sen. Aguirre's original concern.

V. Discussion of Faculty Talk 2.0

KF observed that Faculty Talk 2.0 has been essentially dormant since it was moved to Yammer following the Faculty Senate's adoption of Prop 03-21/22, and that part of the weak uptake may reflect the lack of promotion. After some discussion, including poignant reminders from Sen. Burkardt of the dangers of unmonitored listservs, it was decided that Faculty Senate Leadership should simply be reminded to promote FT 2.0 as originally stipulated by Prop 03-21/22.

VI. 16:50 Adjourned