

University Planning Committee Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm, adjourned at 1:58pm

Guests included: Christopher Brown, Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Walker, K.T. Manis, Brian Hampton, Rajan Ghimire, Tanya Allred, Don Fuqua, Joe Tomaka, Susann Mikkelsen, Raja Jayaraman

Old Business:

Senator Walker provided an update on the committee assignment of tracking progress by departments in reviewing their P&T guidelines and initiating revisions if needed per proposition 12-24/25. Following a nudge by Deputy Provost McAteer, sixteen departments have now reviewed their documents and provided their assessments. None of the reporting departments indicated that modifications were needed to address federal funding challenges. An inquiry was made regarding inclusion of branch campuses in this review; we will reach out the Deputy Provost McAteer to obtain clarification.

In response to last month's inquiry into plans for the condemned student housing, Senator Walker reached out to Senator Finlator who in turn received an update from President Ferme. His response is "To keep it brief: the wrecking ball will start its work in December on Cole Village. We have the money, and we will pull it down. As for the future, we are weighing different options, including building a mixed use community in partnership with the county and city. TBD, however, depending on what we agree with others."

New Business:

The UPC was forwarded Bill 02-25/26 for a pass, do not pass, or amend vote. Bill 02-25/26 was submitted by the 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee' who wished to rename their committee 'NMSU Engagement & Service'. Senator Mikkelsen motioned, Senator Fuqua seconded a vote on allowing a name change, which passed with a majority of the committee in approval. Discussion was then opened. While most of the committee agreed to allow a name change, committee members strongly felt that the new proposed name didn't fully cover the committee's function and suggested a different new name of 'Access, Opportunity, and Belonging'. The committee approved the amended bill with a majority of the vote.

Concerns were raised regarding training for newly installed Department Heads and other promoted personnel, especially those that begin a position responsible for supervising individuals who were previously peer colleagues. The committee wants to know if training for these individuals can be developed.

Minutes submitted by S. Walker, University Planning Committee Chair