

Hello to all from your Senate Vice-Chair. At the beginning of the summer, Chair Fasenko and I were able to negotiate a little bit of summer pay for the Chair and Vice-Chair. This will carry into the future for all Chairs and Vice-Chairs who are 9-month faculty.

Over the summer, as Vice-Chair, I attended various meetings, including ADAC meetings and meetings of UPAC (University Program Approval Committee). We also have monthly meetings with the university's "executive team" consisting of the interim provost, the vice-chancellor, and the chancellor. If I wrote notes for every meeting I went to, this would be a very long communication, so I'll just hit the high notes of the executive committee meetings.

Executive Committee Meeting, July 25, 2022

Streamlyne

All the modules in streamlyne are online but all the Argis stuff is still available, but only to a very few people. Maestro, which was the previous system, had some security issues. The Streamlyne implementation group wrote a memo with what we need to do over the next few years. Then we will be discussing how to create an entity that will ensure that we move forward with implementation of the recommendations, says Luis Cifuentes. Banner doesn't like to communicate with other programs. Streamlyne can report daily expenditures, but Banner can't give that information to Streamlyne.

The decision to move forward with Streamlyne happened as a result of UNM moving to that system. There was no consultation with faculty. This lack of consultation is an ongoing problem.

Hiring of Dave Maddox

Dave Maddox, the new NMSU financial guy, was hired from an interim position without an advertised search.

Chancellor: There are times when we depart from standard practice and this is one of them. We need to figure out how to understand the budget process and how to move forward. We eliminated Andy Burke's position and distributed his responsibilities to various other individuals acting under Ruth Johnston. Dave Maddox was working on an interim basis . . . I made the executive decision to waive the posting of an individual position.

It was mentioned that there was no consultation with faculty senate and that there would be less pushback if the administration would consult with or at the very least explain to faculty senate leadership the need to make an end-run around the policies.

The university controller search was unsuccessful last summer so the associate controller Ross Justus took on additional duties. Ross might be made interim university controller.

Increasing contract length for faculty

The interim provost is in favor of hiring more college-track faculty. They recognize that hiring P/T faculty at the last minute causes problems.

Chancellor: The next budget cycle is going to be difficult because it's just going to be one-time money. They want to hold everyone flat.

Executive Committee Meeting August 24, 2022

We were held to 25 minutes today because the Regents were going into a closed session for some reason at 9:30, but we did have a chance to discuss faculty salaries in the midst of great economic projections for the coming year. The executive team supports the idea of Faculty Senate sending a letter to the legislature and/or the governor emphasizing the importance of recurring funding rather than one-time funding (the Chancellor has told us that the governor doesn't want to spend recurring dollars). So that is something we will be working on early in the FS calendar.

Another plan the executive team has is to deposit some of the one-time funding into the endowment and use the interest from that as recurring funding, but the problem there is the historically fraught relationship between the NMSU Foundation and the NMSU administration. It's kind of a long story but the Foundation doesn't really work for NMSU, and the MOU signed with the Foundation in 2021 means the Foundation scoops 2 percent off the top of the endowment's earnings rather than closer to 1 percent which is the norm elsewhere.

In summary, faculty salaries will only be a priority if we make them one.