

**Draft Minutes (Via summary from AI Companion in Zoom)
Meeting of the Faculty Senate Library Advisory Committee
(FSLAC)**

October 17, 2025

11:00 am

Zoom: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/5536053453>

Meeting ID 553 605 3453

Attending: Kim Lopez Gallagher (Chair), Kevin Comerford, Emily Anderson, Saul Hernandez, Margaret Goehring, Christopher Brown, Rich Pratt, Elana Karshmer, Sofia Ugarte, Jason Bengston

- **Meeting called to order at 11:03 am.**
- **Approval of the minutes of May 5, 2025 – Minutes were approved with corrections. An update on Open Access was added to the agenda under “Other items.”**
- **Introductions – All members introduced themselves.**

A summary of the meeting from AI Companion with edits from Kim Lopez Gallagher, Chair, follows.

- **Updates from Dean Comerford on Library Activities**
 - Dean Comerford provided updates on library improvements, including a new reference desk, carpeting, and painting projects at Branson and Zuhl libraries, with plans for further upgrades next year. He also highlighted outreach activities such as popcorn Fridays, Banned Books Week events, a faculty lecture series, and an upcoming quantum computing workshop, emphasizing the library's engagement with the campus community.
- **Update from Community College Directors Representative, Emily Anderson, Director, Alamogordo Branch Townsend Library on activities at the community college libraries**
 - Emily Anderson provided updates on several community college libraries, including new 3D printers, a music recording room, and a graphic novel book club at Grants. She reported that DACC is interviewing candidates for their last open library position and has increased their acquisitions budget. Emily also shared updates on Alamogordo, including a new multimedia lounge with gaming consoles, a multi-sensory studio for people experiencing anxiety, and plans for a podcast room. The library at Alamogordo is also considering extending hours with a new employee, though this may not happen until spring semester.
- **Updates on Books4Success – Dean Comerford**
 - Dean Comerford discussed the upcoming Books for Success program, noting its potential benefits for students in technical fields but concerns about its cost impact without inflation controls. He highlighted the library's efforts to reduce student costs and promote open access materials, including the Digital Commons repository launch and hiring an institutional scholarship librarian. The

program is planned for a summer 2026 pilot on main campus, with full implementation the following fall, and Kevin requested the committee monitor its effects on the library.

- **Follett Bookstore Proposal Postponed**
 - The meeting also discussed concerns about Follett's bookstore proposal, which has been postponed due to lack of engagement with ASNMSU and the Faculty Senate. Christopher emphasized the need for proper consultation and a cost-benefit analysis, while Saul planned to inform senators and ASMSU about the situation. The group also touched on the importance of sharing information campus-wide to prevent similar issues in the future.
- **Ideas on getting people back into the libraries**
 - The group discussed strategies to increase library usage and engagement, with Kevin mentioning a scheduled meeting with the new Vice President for Marketing and Communications to enhance promotional efforts for campus programs. Christopher suggested ideas like Midnight Pizza Party and scavenger hunts to attract students, while Emily highlighted the library at Alamogordo's initiatives, including a free coffee bar and a new school supply shelf. Saul proposed hosting events like movie nights and sleepovers to make the library more inviting.
- **Library Engagement Strategies Discussion**
 - The committee discussed strategies to increase student engagement, both physically in the library and through online resources. Saul proposed connecting with the Spooky People Club to organize events and raise awareness about library offerings, while Rich highlighted the importance of web interface accessibility for online students.
- **Other topics - Open Access Update**
 - Margaret updated the group on the open access initiative, noting challenges with application notifications and reimbursement for faculty fees, and mentioned ongoing efforts to streamline the workflow.
- **Next meeting date**
 - The group agreed to hold another meeting in November to plan for the upcoming semester, with Kim planning to send out a poll for scheduling. The committee also discussed the availability of library workshops and tutorials, with Elena offering to assist faculty in navigating the process.