

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

November 18, 2025

2:00 pm

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

Meeting ID 553 605 3453

Attending: Karen Kopera-Frye (Secretary), Christopher Brown, Kevin Comerford, Ellen Bosman, Faruk Arslan, Saul Hernandez, Elana Karshmer, Sofia Ugarte, Margaret Goehring, Emily Anderson, Jason Bengston, Rich Pratt, Kim Lopez Gallagher (Chair), Ermalinda Quintela (Guest), John Sandstrom (Guest)

- **Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm.**
- **Introduce guests: John Sandstrom, Karen Kopera-Frye, Co-Chairs Open Access Publication Fund Advisory Committee**
 - An update was given on the Open Access Publication Fund Advisory Committee. Karen Kopera-Frye and John Sandstrom reported that the committee has approved 20 applicants and granted \$30,995 out of the \$100,000 first allocated by then Interim President Monica Torres. John Sandstrom and Karen Kopera-Frye also provided updates on the application process, funding distribution, and the need for continued submissions to demonstrate the fund's value and secure future funding. A discussion ensued on the process for handling requests, including the inability to reimburse fees already paid with grant money. John Sandstrom mentioned ongoing efforts to address this issue. Out of the original \$100,000, \$70,000 remains to be spent. Faculty are encouraged to apply for funding.
- **Approval of the minutes of October 17, 2025 meeting** - Christopher Brown moved to approve the minutes. Ellen Bosman seconded. Motion carried.

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 reported that the re-carpeting project at Branson Library was completed, and two faculty lectures were held with large audiences. The group discussed a potential book deposit box on campus, which Dean Comerford stated was still in the works.
- **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 each community college library. The highlights are as follows. Grants is utilizing a new 3-D printer. DACC is enjoying many new additions to their campus libraries. Alamogordo is hosting writing events to help students with research papers, is extending hours for final exam week, as well as waiting on the completion of upcoming capital projects including new doors, windows and a new roof.
- **Update on Books4Success** – Guest: Ermalinda Quintela, Chair, Books4Success Committee
 - Ermalinda Quintela provided an overview of program with a slide presentation.
 - The program would cost \$27 per credit hour, with students able to opt in or out within a 6-week period. Ermelinda Quintela noted that the next steps involve presenting the program to the University Budget Committee and the Board of Regents for approval.
 - A discussion ensued regarding the roll-out of the program and its implications for NMSU students.
 - Christopher Brown shared that the Faculty Senate recently passed a bill requesting NMSU to conduct cost estimates instead of the vendor, which has been sent to Central.
 - Concern was raised by several committee members about the clarity of the opt-out process. Ermelinda explained that if approved, the rollout would be in fall 2026, with a focus on educating students about the option and the steps to opt out. Concern was also raised about the opt-out business model. Making the program opt-in rather than opt-out was suggested.

- **Ideas on getting people back into the libraries** – Tabled to next meeting.
- **Other topics** – Tabled to next meeting.
- **Next meeting date** – The committee agreed to meet twice next semester, in Spring 2026. February and March meetings were suggested by Kim Lopez Gallagher. Kim will send polls to set the meeting dates.
- **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Karen Kopera-Frye, seconded by Christopher Brown. Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm