



**Faculty Senate Transmittal and Administrative Action Routing Form**

To: Office of the President  
From: Faculty Senate Chair, Julia Parra *JP*  
RE: **Proposition: 07-20/21**  
Date: November 11, 2020

Please find enclosed Faculty Senate Legislation [No. 07-20/21](#) entitled, "[Memorial to Request the Restoration of the Practices of Shared Governance](#)", approved by the Faculty Senate on, [November 5, 2020](#).

**Please Route for Approval:**

<b>Faculty Senate Request</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your review and approval. Based on Policy 1.70 B. 2. b., your action is due within 40 working days from receipt of this transmittal, or <a href="#">January 20, 2020</a> . <input type="checkbox"/> A previous veto of legislation affecting academic policy has been overridden by 2/3 vote of the Faculty Senate; pursuant to the timeline provided in Policy 1.70 B. 2. c., your action to rescind that veto is requested within five business days of receipt. <input type="checkbox"/> Please indicate your availability to meet with Faculty Senate leadership to discuss. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For your review and acknowledgement, approval/veto not required (memorial).
<b>President Action</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge receipt of the above. <input type="checkbox"/> I will respond further at a later date. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I approve this legislation, and will process according to NMSU Rules & Policies. <input type="checkbox"/> I approve this legislation on a provisional basis. It will become effective immediately, and I will place it on the Agenda for a future meeting of the Board of Regents. <input type="checkbox"/> I veto this legislation. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
	<p>_____ Date: _____  <b>Carol Parker, NMSU Provost</b></p> <p>_____ Date: _____  <b>John D. Floros, NMSU President</b></p>

**Please return form to:**  
Gloria Podruchny  
Faculty Senate Recording Secretary  
MSC 3445 President's Office  
Email: [glopodru@nmsu.edu](mailto:glopodru@nmsu.edu) / Phone: (575)646-2593

**Chancellor Review:**  Required  **Optional**  
*Dan E. Arvizu*  
**Dan E. Arvizu, Chancellor** 1/15/2021  
Date



## Office of the Chancellor

MSC 3Z  
New Mexico State University  
P. O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
575-646-2035, fax: 575-646-6334  
[chancellor.arvizu@nmsu.edu](mailto:chancellor.arvizu@nmsu.edu)

January 15, 2021

It is noted with respect that the Memorial to Request the Restoration of the Practice of Shared Governance has been received. The Memorial is accurate in illustrating the considerable risk to the NMSU system in carrying out its mission in light of the pandemic and an oil and gas crises that reduced our state funding at an alarming rate. In that context, decisions were made that alleviated financial stress at all campuses by reimagining how the system could become more efficient in accomplishing goals, and providing a more direct and robust line of communication among branch institutions.

**We acknowledge the importance of the principles of shared governance** and collegiality, and we look to Regents Policy Manual (RPM) RPM 1.70—Shared Governance and the Role of the Faculty Senate—for guidance regarding how this is implemented at NMSU: *The faculty shall have primary responsibility for curriculum and subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status and those aspects of student life which related to the educational process. Faculty shall have primary responsibility for developing and applying policies affecting the university's academic mission in regard to education, research, and service, subject to the authority of the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, and the executive vice president and provost.* As we move forward, we pledge to continue to engage faculty in these areas of shared governance.

In response to concern about the structure of the NMSU-Alamogordo; NMSU-Carlsbad; and NMSU-Grants campuses, the Office of the Chancellor is currently doing the following things in support of each community college:

- Building partnerships with local entities for workforce training
- Providing opportunity and support for economic development
- Sharing system wide strategies for enrollment and retention
- Regular Systemwide Finance and Business interaction
- Improving communication among campuses to promote student success and build a robust system
- Sharing recruiting resources in attracting students to the NMSU system

  
Dan E. Arvizu  
Chancellor

  
Ken Van Winkle  
Branch Executive Director

**Proposition:** 07-20/21

**Title:** Memorial to Request the Restoration of the Practices of Shared Governance

**Date Submitted:** October 20, 2020

**Sponsor(s):** Harris (Carlsbad), Al-Nouman (Carlsbad), Abdaljalil, (Carlsbad), Villaverde (Alamogordo), Cavalcante (Alamogordo)

NMSU Carlsbad Faculty Council: Lacy Davis, Zane Biebelle, Jon Strahan, Pam Titus, Samantha Villa

**Proposed Committee:**

**Assigned Committee:** Scholastic Affairs

**Prior Approvals:** N/A, this is a memorial.

**Proposal Type** (please check one):

Memorial

**Rationale:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated multiple crises, some of which pose considerable risk to NMSU in carrying out its mission of Teaching, Research & Creative Activity, Service, and Outreach. In addition, the State of New Mexico Legislature has reduced funds to support the core mission of NMSU by approximately \$11M.

In an attempt to meet these challenges, NMSU Central Administration has made the unilateral decision to eliminate the campus president positions at NMSU-Alamogordo, NMSU-Carlsbad, and NMSU-Grants. The presidents' roles as connections between their colleges, the business communities, and local industries assured that the many-faceted needs of each individual community were being served in an efficient and productive manner. With the elimination of these campus president positions, the resultant void is detrimental to the well-being of these institutions, and therefore each aforementioned college's administration, faculty & staff, students, and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the lack of transparency in making the decision left the colleges without explanation to accrediting bodies, financial institutions, and local school districts for a decision in which they had no part.

The charge to manage this budget crisis lies with NMSU Central Administration; however, the principles of Shared Governance should be used as a guiding principle for the culture, policies, and procedures of the NMSU System. According to Regents Policy Manual (RPM) 1.70, A. Shared Governance: *Shared governance refers to the governance of the university in which responsibility is shared among the Board of Regents, the faculty and the administration.... Shared governance shall remain a central tenet of academic decision making at New Mexico State University.* The merits of Shared Governance are vital to the interest of the entire NMSU System, its administrations, faculties, staffs, students, and other stakeholders.

Discussions among faculty and the Central Administration are most productive and effective when they occur in a mutually respectful manner. However, recently made major structural changes to meet current budgetary challenges without adequate faculty input have been counterproductive and contrary

to RPM 1.70 A.,2.: *Consistent with the principles of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the faculty, represented through the Faculty Senate and other faculty representatives, shall be involved in personnel decisions, selection of administration, preparation of budget, and determination of educational policies. Additionally, the NMSU Faculty Senate has legislative jurisdiction over policies affecting the university's academic mission in regard to education, research, and service, including the definitions of purpose and objectives (RPM 1.70 B).*

Moreover, the NMSU System includes the Main Campus and its branches, and all NMSU campuses should be treated as such. The recent prohibition of allowing Main Campus students to register for courses at any campus in the system has been detrimental to enrollment at the community colleges. Community college courses should not be considered as competition to Main Campus courses; NMSU is one system.

In Summary:

**Whereas**, the history, culture, policies, and procedures of the NMSU System reflect the principles of Shared Governance, and

**Whereas**, the merits of Shared Governance are vital to the interests of the NMSU system, its faculties and entire college communities and stakeholders, and

**Whereas**, recent unilateral decisions by NMSU central administrators regarding, but not limited to, the restructuring of the NMSU System, its budget, and course presentation do not reflect the principles of Shared Governance,

**Therefore, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, the NMSU Faculty Senate issues this resolution calling on NMSU's Central Administration to restore the practices of shared governance to ensure that substantive and meaningful faculty input is included in all system structure, budgetary and academic discussions and decisions that will affect the two-year branches within the NMSU system.**

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