

**Proposition:** 06-23/24

**Proposal Type:**  Bill  Resolution  Memorial  Joint Proposition  Other  
*(If Joint proposition, also select type)*

**Title:** Resolution to Formalize New Senator Onboarding/Orientation

**Date Submitted:** October 23, 2023

**Sponsor(s):** Kellie Sharp-Hoskins (A&S), Gaylene Fassenko (ACES), Kim Lopez-Gallagher (Alamogordo), Collen Bond (NTT-Alamogordo)

**Proposed Committee:**

**Prior Approvals:** N/A

**Proposal:**

Whereas Faculty Senators are elected with term limits and thus new Senators are continually joining the body,

Whereas new Faculty Senators are unfamiliar with the operating procedures and culture of the NMSU Faculty Senate,

Whereas we are educators committed to creating learning structures using practices that serve their intended audiences,

And whereas New Faculty Senator orientation has been a long-standing but undocumented practice of previous Senate administrations,

Thereby we propose a change to Bylaws of the NMSU Faculty Senate to include instructions and procedures for orienting and welcoming newly elected Faculty Senators to the body.

Proposed Changes to the New Mexico State University Faculty Senate Bylaws:

Section B.2 Faculty Senate Chair

*\*Add following item to list of responsibilities:*

n. Conduct orientation for new Senators.

Section C. Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate

*\*\*Add following item to list of rules*

15. Prior to the last Faculty Senate meeting of the spring term of each academic year, the Chair will conduct an hour-long orientation for newly elected Senators, introducing them to the organization, policies, procedures, and resources of the Senate as well as to expectations for participation (in Faculty Senate and Standing Committee mtgs).

16. In the first meeting of the Fall Semester of each academic year, new Senators will be sworn in; thereafter, a primary focus of the meeting will be on introductions of new

faculty, introductions to and reminders of the organization, policies, procedures, and resources of the Senate as well as to expectations for participation (in Faculty Senate and Standing Committee mtgs).



## Faculty Senate

MSC 3445  
New Mexico State University  
P. O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
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facultysenate.nmsu.edu

### **Dear New Faculty Senator,**

Congratulations on your election to NMSU Faculty Senate! It is a pleasure to welcome you and the Senate Leaders are very grateful you have decided to serve in this leadership capacity on behalf of your academic peers at NMSU.

The Faculty Senate at New Mexico State University serves as the representative voice of NMSU's faculty and has a significant role to play in the shared governance of the University. NMSU's Faculty Senate consists of 68 Senators and the Senate holds the legislative power to review and advise on policies that impact the academic mission of NMSU.

The Chair of the Senate is elected by the full faculty every year and is responsible for representing the Faculty of the NMSU system in all meetings and interactions. The Vice-Chair is elected by the Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC). The FSLC is comprised of Senators elected to represent each caucus of the Senate (system campuses, Las Cruces campus colleges, NTT, and part-time faculty).

The Senate Chair and Vice Chair represent the full faculty Senate at many meetings with campus administrators and groups and report their activities each month. The Chair and Vice Chair meet with the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee once per month to set the agenda for full Faculty Senate Meetings. The monthly Faculty Senate meetings (first Thursday of every month) are conducted using the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (and thus questions and comments are directed to the Chair, rather than to the body). Faculty Senate appoints a Parliamentarian who provides advice regarding procedures outlined by Robert's Rules of Order.

In addition to this leadership structure, the Senate uses Standing Committees to introduce and review the "business" of the Senate, which is put forward in 4 types of propositions (explained [here](#)). Each Senator is assigned to a Standing Committee each year, which also meets monthly. Standing Committee meetings are usually less formal than full Senate meetings. They are conducted in a manner determined by each of the respective Standing Committee Chairs (who are elected by the committees themselves).

## **Senator Duties and Responsibilities** (partially taken from the NMSU Faculty Senate Bylaws):

- a. Regularly attend and actively engage in Faculty Senate meetings and meetings of the standing committee to which you have been assigned, whether in-person or through appropriate electronic media. For Senators that are located on or near the Las Cruces Campus, your in-person attendance would be appreciated and is highly encouraged so you have more of an opportunity to get to know the Senate Leadership and your Senator peers.
- b. Represent faculty from your home college or electing group.
- c. Actively participate in Faculty Senate discussions and deliberations, sharing ideas, information, and concerns.
- d. Report Faculty Senate activities to your home college or electing group.

Attending meetings and representing your faculty constituents is critical to creating shared governance in the University and is expected of all Senators.

### **General Information for Onboarding:**

While the [NMSU Faculty Senate Website](#) has more information that will be pertinent to your role as a Senator, and you are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the information posted there, the information below will help you get started. Faculty Senate Leadership are also available and more than willing to answer any questions you may have about your responsibilities and participation in the Senate. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Here are some important informational items from the Faculty Senate Website. Click on the headings to follow the links to the information:

#### **1) [Senate Leadership:](#)**

Chair, Faculty Senate

Gaylene Fasenko, Ph.D.

Professor, Companion Animals

(575) 646-3402

[gfasenko@nmsu.edu](mailto:gfasenko@nmsu.edu)

Senate Chair office hours: Tuesdays, 11am-12 noon, Hadley Hall Room 20 (Faculty Senate Office) or by appointment

Vice Chair, Faculty Senate

Vimal Chaitanya, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Director of Manufacturing and Systems Research Programs

(575) 646-2481

[vimalc@nmsu.edu](mailto:vimalc@nmsu.edu)

#### **2) [Senate Roster](#)**

#### **3) [Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Members](#)**

- 4) [Upcoming Meetings](#)
- 5) [Monthly Meeting Calendars](#)
- 6) [Senate Constitution and Bylaws](#)

### **Specific Information Needed to Attend and Participate in Faculty Senate Meetings:**

Faculty Senators may attend full Senate meetings in person or via Zoom. Irrespective of whether they attend Faculty Senate meetings in-person or virtually via Zoom, in the interest of providing a relatively easy and secure mechanism for voting, all voting will take place via Zoom. We highly encourage Senators to attend meetings in person so you can get to know the Senate Leadership and your peers in the Senate, but please bring a laptop. To date, we have yet to figure out a better way for conducting and counting votes when the meetings are hybrid. Any input/advice on this would be most welcomed.

### **A Few Days Prior to the Faculty Senate Meeting:**

Meeting invitations are sent out to all Faculty Senators via email. You will be asked to register in advance for the Faculty Senate meeting. Just follow the instructions in the email in order to receive the meeting Zoom link.

Review the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for the [upcoming meeting](#) on the Faculty Senate Website.

### **A Few Minutes Before the Faculty Senate Meeting:**

1. Make sure that before you enter the Zoom meeting you *sign in to your NMSU Zoom account through SSO.*
  - On your computer click on the Zoom icon, then click “sign in”, then click “SSO” at the bottom of the window where it says “or sign in with”
  - **If you are not sure if you have activated your NMSU email to NMSU at Zoom, below is a link to get your NMSU email activated.**

<https://inside.nmsu.edu/learning/zoom-at-nmsu/activate-your-nmsu-zoom-account/>

2. After you have signed in to Zoom using SSO, click on the zoom link to enter the meeting.

**\*\*Complete this Simple but Important Task Once You Are in the Meeting in Zoom\*\***

Once in the Zoom meeting, before the meeting starts, please change your name so it says “SENATOR” in front of your name. To do this:

- Click on “participants” at the bottom of your screen
- Find your name in the list and click on your name
- Click on the three horizontal dots beside your name then click “rename”

- Type SENATOR in front of your name and click on the “change” button

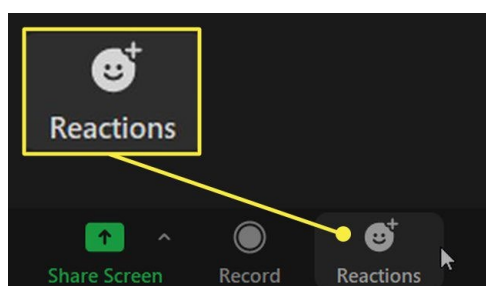
Having Senator beside your name helps the Faculty Senate recording secretary to count all the Senators present to 1) determine if quorum for the meeting has been met, and 2) to also count the votes when voting occurs.

### **Instructions on How to Vote During Faculty Senate Meetings:**

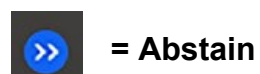
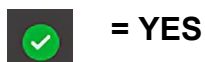
At various times throughout the Faculty Senate meeting the Chair of Faculty Senate (who Chairs the meetings) will ask Senators to vote. Senators vote on items such as the acceptance of the meeting agenda, and the acceptance of the previous meeting’s minutes, as well as voting on various propositions as they come through Faculty Senate.

Voting is conducted using the “Reactions” button at the bottom of the screen.

When a vote is called for by the Chair, click on the “Reactions” button.



Senators can then cast their vote by clicking on the emojis as follows:



**\*\*Please leave your selection up as it takes time for our Faculty Senate Recording Secretary to count and record the votes.** Once the vote counting is complete the Chair will indicate for you to remove the emoji by clicking on it.

### **Asking a Question or Providing Input During the Meeting:**

If you wish to ask a question or contribute information on the agenda topic being discussed, please raise your hand (if attending in person) or use the “raise hand” button at the bottom of the screen (if attending via Zoom). The Chair will do their best to call on each Senator in the order in which hands were raised. Please click on “lower hand” after your question has been answered and/or after your valued input has been provided.

### **Chat:**

When in person, please avoid side conversations that impede the progress of the meeting. If attending via Zoom and using its chat feature, please focus questions, comments, and information on relevant issues. And remember that if you do not select a specific individual to message directly that everyone will be able to see your message. Please be courteous and professional when using the Chat function of Zoom. We regularly have guests or ex officio Faculty Senate members attend meetings (Ex officio members of the Faculty Senate include members of NMSU leadership such as the President, Provost, or the Board of Regents.)