

**Proposition:** 05-23/24

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

**Title:** A Proposition to Create the Online Learning Council to advise the Chancellor of NMSU-Global

**Date Submitted:** TBD

**Sponsor(s):** Erickson (CoB); Beck (Library), Sandstrom (Library)

**Proposed Committee:** University Planning

**Prior Approvals:**

Associate Deans Academic Council Academic Deans Council

**Proposal:**

Preamble: The role of the Online Learning Council is to serve as an advisory body to the Chancellor of NMSU-Global.

Membership: The Online Learning Council is composed of eighteen members. Eligibility to serve shall be the same as that for serving in the Faculty Senate. Terms shall be for two years and members may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members shall be appointed by the deans of their respective colleges. The eighteen members shall be as follows:

- Four (4) from among the faculty of College of Arts and Sciences; two (2) of whom shall be graduate faculty
- Two (2), one (1) of which shall be a graduate faculty, each from among the faculty of the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; the College of Business; the College of Engineering; and the College of Health, Education and Social Transformation.
- One (1) from Doña Ana Community College faculty at large.
- One (1) from Alamogordo Community College faculty at large.
- One (1) from Grants Community College faculty at large.
- One (1) from the Library.
- One (1) from the Honors College.

The Online Learning Council may add ex-officio members; however, ex-officio members do not have standing to vote.

Function: The Online Learning Council shall advise the Chancellor of NMSU-Global on curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and aspects of student life which affect the educational process as these issues relate specifically to online education. The Online Learning Council will advise the Chancellor on other issues as the Chancellor may request.

The Online Learning Council shall elect a chair from among its members. The Online Learning Council shall create its own bylaws, which shall be adopted by a majority vote.

The special role of the Online Learning Council in shared governance related to online learning does not change the role in shared governance of the Faculty Senate, nor does it change the role in shared governance of the faculty of individual colleges and departments.

Meetings: The Online Learning Council shall meet once a month. At each meeting, the Chancellor or their designee shall report on events relevant to online learning since the previous meeting.

Enablement: The Office of the President in consultation with Faculty Senate leadership shall insert language into the ARP necessary for the execution of this proposition within 90 days of passage.

**Rationale:**

The Online Learning Council is designed as a mechanism of shared governance by which faculty input is systematically solicited regarding online learning. Specifically, it is meant to bring together faculty who are interested in online learning with the administrators responsible for online learning to create policies that promote student success with online learning.

The Online Learning Council will serve as mechanism for collaborative decision making between administration of NMSU-Global and the faculty by creating a pool of faculty who over several years have been involved in the development and implementation of online policies, so have both buy-in and knowledge of the policies. Members will thus be able to answer their colleagues' questions about the plans and policies of NMSU-Global.

Further Comments:

1. Shared governance includes but is not limited to giving faculty a primary responsibility for curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and aspects of student life which relate to the educational process (see [shared governance at AAUP](#)). These issues arise routinely in the context of NMSU-Global, hence, justifying creation of a dedicated institution to promote shared governance within NMSU-Global.
2. The Graduate School, HEST, ITC, the Library and CoB have advisory bodies similar to the one proposed here.
3. The leadership of NMSU Global supports the creation of the Online Council. Chancellor Sherry Kohlman presented the proposal to Academic Deans Council, which she reports was supportive of the proposal.
4. The proposal has been recommend for passage by the Associate Deans Academic Council (ADAC) by unanimous vote, although they recommended a number of changes (see above).