



Faculty Senate Transmittal and Administrative Action Routing Form

To: Office of the President

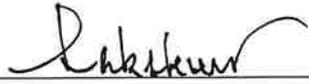
From: Faculty Senate Chair, Vimal Chaitanya

RE: Proposition: 03-25/26 Bill Resolution Memorial Joint Proposition Other

Date: December 15, 2025

Please find enclosed Faculty Senate Legislation No. 03-25/26 entitled, “**Recommending Support for Lowering the Minimum Cumulate GPA for NMSU Admission**” approved by the Faculty Senate on December 4, 2025.

Please Route for Approval:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Faculty Senate Request | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your review and approval. <input type="checkbox"/> Please indicate your availability to meet with Faculty Senate leadership to discuss. <input type="checkbox"/> For your review and acknowledgement only (approval/veto not required for memorials and some resolutions). |
| Administration Action | <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: |
| | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <hr/> Lakshmi Reddi, Interim Provost </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> Date: <u>1.5.'26</u> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <hr/> Valerio Ferme, President </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> Date: <u>01/12/2026</u> </div> </div> |

Please return form to:

Mari Cisneros

Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Email: maricis@nmsu.edu / Phone: (575) 646-3417

Proposition: 03-25/26

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

Title: Recommending Support for Lowering the Minimum Cumulate GPA for NMSU Admission

Date Submitted: 10.21.2025

Sponsors: K. Finlator (A&S), R. F. Obregon (A&S), E. Oskey (NMSU-G),

Proposed Committee: Curriculum and Planning

Prior Approvals: N/A, none needed.

Proposal: We ask the NMSU Faculty Senate to *support* the proposal to lower the minimum cumulative high school grade point average (cGPA) for admission to undergraduate study at NMSU from the current 2.75 down to 2.5. We also *request* that the NMSU Central Administration prepare for this change and track its effects in the following ways:

1. Work with the Colleges to develop programs analogous to the “University Transition Program” of the early 2000s and the Arts & Sciences College’s “Aggie Jump Start” program so that students whose high school cGPAs fall in the 2.5-2.75 range will benefit from extra support in transitioning to undergraduate education. The challenge is that such support must avoid imperiling financial aid eligibility by remaining congruent with each student’s Course Program of Study.
2. Continue to support small (≤ 30 students) “Freshman Seminar” classes.
3. Track the impact of scholarship losses on student retention.
4. Encourage incoming freshmen to apply for financial aid through Scholar Dollars early and often.

Background and Rationale: In 2016, NMSU raised the minimum cGPA for admission from 2.5 to

2.75. This change was implemented to improve student retention. Interim Provost Reddi now proposes¹ to reduce the minimum cGPA back to 2.5. While this change would expand the pool of high school graduates that NMSU can serve, it also raises the question of whether NMSU can adequately prepare them for success. The following evidence² is cited to address this concern:

- NMSU’s one-year retention rate did not change significantly in response to the increased minimum cGPA in 2016.
- NMSU’s slowly increasing four-year graduation rate did not show a significant change for the class that matriculated in 2016. Rather, the steady growth recorded for the

¹ https://faculty senate.nmsu.edu/meetings/Memo---GPA-Requirement---09122025_Signed.pdf

² <https://oia.nmsu.edu/nmsudata/grad-ret-reports/FALL-2025-Ret-Grad-Multi-Categories---20251006.pdf>

2009-2018 entering classes continued uninterrupted, suggesting that other factors such as improvements to student support and reduced curricular complexity³ dominate.

- UNM has retained a cGPA minimum of 2.5 throughout 2016-2025, and a direct comparison⁴ between UNM's and NMSU's first-year retention rates does not indicate that NMSU's increased minimum cGPA improved student retention.

There is good reason to believe that NMSU's ability to serve New Mexico's high school graduates will expand, provided that additional support and tracking are implemented for the anticipated increased incoming class resulting from a reduced minimum cGPA. While noting the suggestions above, we therefore ask the full Faculty Senate to endorse the proposed reduction to the minimum cGPA for admission to undergraduate study.

³ <https://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/blog/2022/01/19/how-reducing-curricular-complexity-can-help-boost-graduation-rates/>

⁴ <https://faculty senate.nmsu.edu/meetings/Student-Retention-data1.pdf>