

Please ensure the proposition is ADA complaint or will be edited for compliance by the Faculty Senate Recording Secretary.

Proposition: 08-25/26

Proposal Type: Bill Resolution Memorial Joint Proposition
Other

(If Joint proposition, also select type)

Title: Amendment to Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution to change the requirements for Chair and Vice Chair

Date Submitted: February 23, 2026

Sponsor(s): Erickson (Business) Chaitanya (Engineering)

Proposed Committee: University Planning – Not Passed

Prior Approvals: NA

Proposal: 1. Amend Article VI, Section 2 of the NMSU Faculty Senate Constitution to add the following sentence: “The current Faculty Senate Chair may not serve as a member of the NMSU-NEA leadership, nor participate in negotiations between the NMSU-NEA and the NMSU Administration.”

2. Amend Article VI, Section E of the NMSU Faculty Senate Constitution to add the following sentence: “A senator may not concurrently serve as Faculty Senate Vice Chair and as a member of the NMSU-NEA leadership, nor participate in negotiations between the NMSU-NEA and the NMSU Administration.”

Rationale:

The Faculty Senate and NMSU-NEA serve distinct institutional roles. NMSU-NEA negotiates salaries, benefits, and working conditions for represented faculty, while the Faculty Senate is responsible for matters concerning the academic mission of the University, upholding shared governance, and continues to represent faculty not covered by the bargaining unit. Because the two bodies have different responsibilities and constituencies, their institutional interests may at times diverge. Requiring separate leadership will reduce the potential for conflicts of interest while preserving the potential for collaboration on shared goals.

Redline version:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section. 1. The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Parliamentarian, and a Recording Secretary. The terms of the Faculty Senate Chair and

Faculty Senate Vice Chair shall begin on the first day following the end of the spring semester and end on the last day of the following spring semester. The Faculty Senate Chair shall not serve more than two consecutive terms but may serve as Faculty Senate Chair again after serving at least one year as a non-chairing senator. The Parliamentarian and the Recording Secretary shall be appointed by the Senate Chair with the approval of the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate Chair and Faculty Senate Vice Chair shall be elected members of the Faculty Senate, representing different senate representative groups. The Recording Secretary shall be a staff member, and the Parliamentarian shall be a volunteer faculty member, both of whom have non-voting status.

Section. 2. The current Faculty Senate Chair will appoint the Recording Secretary to oversee the election of the incoming Faculty Senate Chair. The Faculty Senate shall elect two nominees for the position of Chair at the December meeting, one of whom may be the current Faculty Senate Chair. The nominees must be current, elected members of the senate at the time of nomination and must intend to continue as active (nonretired) faculty during the following academic year. The current Faculty Senate Chair may not serve as a member of the NMSU-NEA leadership, nor participate in negotiations between the NMSU-NEA and the NMSU Administration. The current Faculty Senate Chair shall be considered to be a current, elected member of the Senate even if their original Senate term has expired. Within sixty (60) calendar days of these nominations, the Recording Secretary shall create a secure electronic ballot and notify all faculty as defined in Article I of its availability. The Recording Secretary will be responsible for tabulating the results and announcing the winner. The winner of the election, until assuming the office of the chair, will be designated the Chair-elect. The Chair-Elect shall not be from the same senate electing group as the Chair (except when the current Chair is re-elected). If the Chair-Elect is a standing senator at the time they assume the position, the representative election group shall elect a replacement. Should the Faculty Senate Chair become unable to perform their duties, the Faculty Senate Vice Chair shall fulfill the remainder of the Chair's term of office.

Section. 3. During the week prior to the last meeting of the senate year, the senators for the next year from each representative group shall caucus and elect their members to the Senate Leadership Committee. At the beginning of the last meeting of the year, the Senate Leadership Committee shall caucus and elect its Chair, who will also be Vice Chair of the Senate. A senator may not concurrently serve as Faculty Senate Vice Chair and as a member of the NMSU-NEA leadership, nor participate in negotiations between the NMSU-NEA and the NMSU Administration. These actions shall be reported in the minutes of the last Faculty Senate meeting. Should the office of Vice Chair become vacant, the Chair of the Faculty Senate shall call a special meeting of the Senate Leadership Committee to elect a new Chair of the Senate Leadership Committee.