Faculty Senate Transmittal and Administrative Action Routing Form

To: Office of the President

From: Faculty Senate Chair, Kristian Finlator Kristian Markwart Finlator Digitally signed by Kristian Markwart Finlator Date: 2026.10.06 14:22:01 -06'00'

RE: Proposition 02-25/26 ☐**Bill** ☐**Resolution** ☐**Memorial** ☐**Joint Proposition** ☐ **Other**

Date: October 2, 2026

Please find enclosed Faculty Senate Legislation No. 02-25/26 entitled,
"Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee Award Rules Amendment"
approved by the Faculty Senate on October 1, 2026.

Please Route for Approval:

Faculty Senate Request	□ Your review and approval. □ Please indicate your availability to meet with Faculty Senate leadership to discuss. □ For your review and acknowledgement only (approval/veto not required for memorials and some resolutions).
Administration Action	□ I acknowledge receipt of the above. □ I will respond further at a later date. □ I approve this legislation and will process according to NMSU Rules & Policies. □ 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. □ I veto this legislation. □ Other: Joseph Bull Digitally signed by Joseph Bull Date: 2026.11.06 13:21:04 -07'00' **Joseph Bull, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs** **Date:** _____ Valerio Ferme (Nov 13, 2026 15:39:13 MST) **Valerio Ferme, President** **Date:** _____

Please return form to:
Mari Cisneros
Faculty Senate Recording Secretary
Email: maricis@nmsu.edu / Phone: (575) 646-3417

Faculty Senate Transmittal and Administrative Action Routing Form
Additional Comments

Please use the following to provide additional comments if needed:

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

Proposition: 02-25/26

Proposal Type: ☒Bill ☐Resolution ☐Memorial ☐Joint Proposition ☐Other

(If Joint proposition, also select type)

Title: Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee Award Rules Amendment

Date Submitted:

Sponsor(s): Faruk Arslan (College of Business), Abdu Abdelkefi (College of Engineering), Kristian Finlator (College of Arts & Sciences)

Proposed Committee:

Prior Approvals:

Proposal:

Faculty Senate with the collaboration of the upper administration successfully established funds to support the open access cost of article processing/publication for tenured, tenure-track, and nontenure-track faculty, research scientists, research scholars, research center directors, and librarians. The Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee was established to administer the award distribution process.

Following the completion of the pilot implementation year, the Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee (OAPFAC) requests to amend the following Open Access Publication support award rules for the benefit of the NMSU's research community. The **current rules** per the 07-23/24 Bill are:

1. An application must be submitted and approved.
    a. The application approval process involves review by the committee which is composed of representatives from all Colleges across the University.
2. Up to 100% of the charge may be covered, not to exceed $2000.
3. The research must be completed in the capacity of employment at NMSU.
4. Statement saying there is no grant money or external funding to support open access publishing.
5. Applicants cannot have paid the publisher in advance, there will be no reimbursements.

6. The journal should be fully open access or hybrid and peer-reviewed and listed on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) or other database of legitimate, non-predatory journals. Before funding is awarded, a review of the publisher may be completed to ensure it is not a predatory journal.

    a. Previously published articles converted to open-access publishers are eligible.
    b. Green open access shall be excluded.

7. Only articles with a status of "accepted" or analogous “pending” status are eligible.
    a. Articles already published and articles still in the draft stage are not eligible.

8. Co-authors who work on different publication projects are only eligible for one publication per award year.

9. The article must acknowledge the University Fund using the following (or very similar) text: “The publication fees for this article were supported by the NMSU Open Article Fund.”

10. Applicants who receive funding are expected to submit a PDF copy of the published version to the NMSU University Library for inclusion of the article to NMSU repository at the time of publication.

The requested amendments to the rules are:

i. Increase the current maximum award from $2,000 to $3,000.
ii. Explicitly permit the award to fund NMSU student-led publications as long as students publish with their NMSU faculty advisor(s).
iii. Explicitly define that the applicants can be based in any academic college or on any NMSU branch campus.
iv. Explicitly define that the award funds can be used for open access journal article publication charges or copyright clearance (e.g. Artistic images published in journal, etc.).
v. Update the current rule 6.a. as follows: Converting the previously published articles into an open-access publishing format is eligible.
vi. Update the current rule 7.a. as follows: The articles, which have already been published in open access format or articles still in the draft stage are not eligible.

Rationale:

Amendment i: Based on the analysis of the available Article Publication Charge (APC) data from the accepted award submission, we find that the average publication charge is $2,714.24. The APC data is slightly negatively skewed ($g_1 = -0.26$); hence we find it appropriate to report the arithmetic average as a measure of central tendency. Furthermore, the analysis of histogram (Figure 1) reveals that most recurring APC frequency range is $2,726 and $3,503 further providing evidence for a $3000 maximum award limit rather than a $2,000 limit.

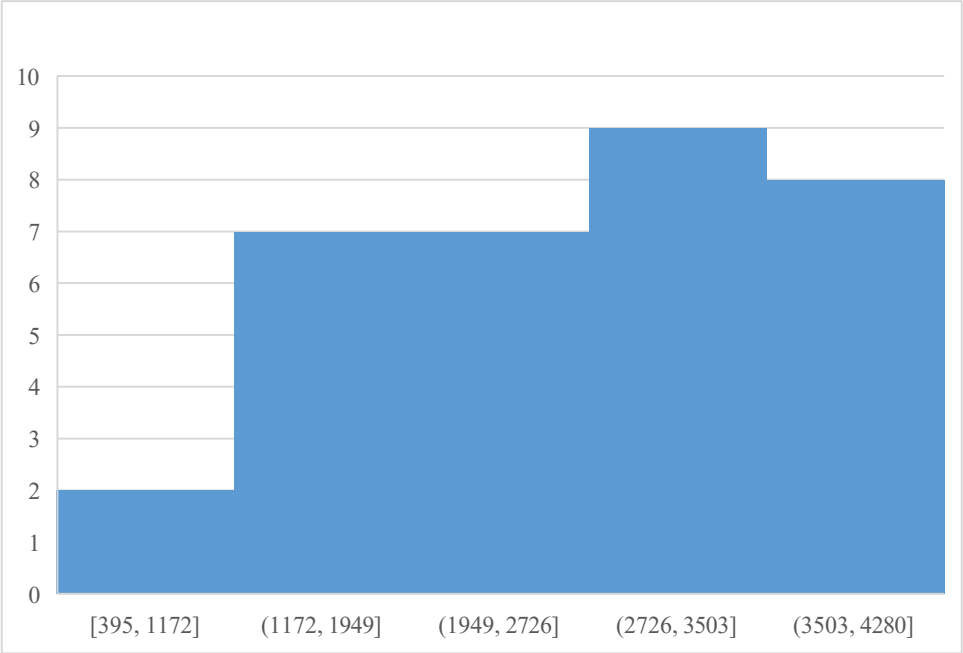

Figure 1. Histogram for Article Publication Charges ($)

Furthermore, we have only spent $76,045.87 out of the initial $100,000 allocated to the first year's pilot program (as of July 28, 2026). Given the additional $100,000 allocation to the open access award fund for the academic year 2026/27, we currently have $123,954.13 available for the open access award (Figure 2, see next page)

College	Total Award Amount
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences	$22,490.00
College of Arts and Sciences	$31,800.00
College of Business	$6,000.00
College of Engineering	$11,155.87
College of Health, Education and Social Transformation	$4,600.00
Total Award Disbursement	**$76,045.87**
Remaning Balance from the First Year (Pilot)	$23,954.13
Additional Allocation for the Academic Year 26/27	$100,000.00
Award Fund Balance (as of 7/28/2026)	**$123,954.13**

Figure 2. Open Access Award Fund Balance as of 7/28/2026

Amendment ii: The purpose of this amendment is to benefit the NMSU students, who are currently working with their NMSU Faculty advisors to publish in open access journals.

Amendment iii: To avoid any misperception that NMSU branch campuses are excluded from this award.

Amendment iv: Copyright clearance is an added cost to authors, which are required to make their publications available as open access or openly available.

Amendments v and vi: Added clarification to the current rules 6.a. and 7.a. respectively.

[Proposition 02-2627] - [Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee Award Rules Amendment] - Transmittal Administrative Action

Final Audit Report 2026-11-13

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"[Proposition 02-2627] - [Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee Award Rules Amendment] - Transmittal Administrative Action" History

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