

**MINUTES**  
**NMSU Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC)**  
**March 27, 2025**  
**Zoom (<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/86052805269>) and Hadley 130**

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m.
2. **Recognition of Guests** - NONE
3. **Approval of Agenda** –  
Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.  
Friendly amendments by Senators, to give an update on the OA Committee during “Other Business” and Chair Chaitanya will give an update on international and graduate student health insurance.  
Moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the friendly amendments.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 27 February 2025 meeting (Posted to Website)**  
Moved and seconded to approve minutes.  
Senator Kopera-Frye proposes a friendly amendment to correct Presidents name from Gereme to Ferme. Senator Finlator proposes a friendly amendment to correct Senator’s Cook name from John to Jon. Chair Chaitanya will send out a hard copy documents concerning growth or non-grown of admin work.  
Moved and seconded to approve minutes with the friendly amendments.  
Minute approved and submitted by Senate Leadership.
5. **Reports on Legislation (posted to Website)**
  - **Proposition 11-24/25** - Amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution. **Sponsors:** Erickson (CoB), Walker (Extension).  
**Proposition was assigned to University Planning Committee.**
    - Senator Erickson spoke briefly about the proposition and mentioned it was discussed at the last meeting. It’s a bill to correct and clarify the Constitution, which hasn’t been rewritten clearly in years. There are inconsistencies and difficulties in understanding the language. The goal is to clarify and arrange it for better readability without making substantial changes. Additionally, Hameed and Stephen Hanson want to be added as sponsors.
    - Vice-Chair Brown stated he prefers to have representation from various groups. He invites anyone interested in joining the bill to email Senator Erickson and himself, ensuring it will be included in the final version for the Senate website next week.
6. **Proposed Legislation**
  - **Proposition 12-24/25** – Task force to assess and reconsider faculty performance and promotion & tenure evaluation criteria in light if recent cuts to federal funding and reduction in IDC rate. **Sponsor(S):** Glenn Duff (College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences), Erik Lehnhoff (College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences), Kellie Sharp-Hoskins (College of Arts and Sciences).  
Senator Lehnhoff explained the proposition, stating that its title summarizes its intent. There have been changes to the proposed IDC levels and NIH Grants, leading to speculation that other funding agencies, like NSF and USDA, may also cut overhead

rates. This would reduce the funding available for faculty start-up packages. Some faculty have lost grants due to their research areas, such as climate change or gender equity. The bill proposes a task force to review how faculty are evaluated for annual assessments and promotions. The Proposition was assigned to Research and Creative Activity committee. Discussion followed.

## **7. Other Business**

- a. Discussion of items for Faculty Senate Agenda for 4.3.25 Full Senate meeting  
Recording secretary Cisneros will work with Chair Chaitanya to elaborate the agenda in a timely manner.
- b. Proposed Graduate Grade Replacement Policy, coming from ADAC – Vice Chair Brown  
Vice-Chair Brown discussed a proposed grade replacement policy for graduate students from ADAC. They have been considering changing the policy to allow graduate students to improve their GPA like undergraduates can. Currently, undergraduates can replace grades, but graduate students cannot, which may affect their chances of getting into PhD programs and job opportunities. Brown did not take an active role in creating the policy but noted it received 6 votes in favor and 2 against during discussions. The dissenting votes were concerned that the new policy would not impact previous grades like the undergraduate policy does. Brown is asking for a decision on whether to discuss the proposal here or send it to the full Senate. Discussion followed, and the FSLC decided this should go to Senate formally as a Senate bill. After discussion Vice-Chair Brown will write up a Proposition, a vote was conducted and the Proposition will be assigned to Student Success committee.
- c. Proposed change to Provisional Status Rule for Graduate Students, coming from ADAC – Vice Chair Brown  
Vice-Chair Brown discussed a proposed rule change from ADAC regarding graduate students. Currently, students with a GPA below 3.0 can only take 7 credits in the next semester, requiring memos from grad directors or department heads to allow registration for 9 credits, which is needed for maintaining assistantships and financial aid. The proposed change would let all graduate students under 3.0 take 9 credits without needing a memo. If they still struggle, they may face academic probation and lose their assistantship. The goal is to simplify the process and eliminate unnecessary memos. Brown asked if this should go to the full Senate or be sent back to ADAC as a good idea. Discussion followed, and the FSLC did not see a need to send this to the full Senate and approved this going back to ADAC for further processing. After discussion Vice-Chair Brown will advise ADAC there was no objection from the Senate Leadership team and will endorse it without having to go to the Faculty Senate.
- d. Standing Committees Reports
  - Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson  
Chair Hanson was not available to give a report. Senator Cook reported that they did not have a quorum. There was discussion with some administrators about more reports on staffing. They agreed to informal data reporting. Cook doesn't know the status of the discussions. Chair Hanson sent an email and gave a brief report saying B&R committee failed to make quorum at their March meeting, so no business was conducted. [BR report is on the FS website.](#)

- University Planning Committee Chair, Erik Lehnhoff  
Senator Lehnhoff reported that they met and held a quorum with three guests. Most of the discussion was about the Revised Constitution, which they recognized as mainly a cleanup bill. They made some minor changes and voted to pass it with amendments. They chose not to address three controversial issues to avoid delaying its passage this year. [Full UP report is on FS website.](#)
  - Curriculum and Planning Chair, Gustavo Pina  
Chair Piña reported that the committee did not meet. [CP report is on FS website.](#)
  - Research and Creative Activity Chair, Paul Tian  
Senator Tian reported that the committee met last Tuesday afternoon with 10 members and a guest, VPR Dr. Cifuentes. They discussed several topics, summarizing seven key items. These include: the need for a university-wide tenure and promotion committee; the importance of community engagement in research and its impacts; establishing a council of principal investigators focused on research issues; the effects of budget cuts, particularly on USDA funding; proposals for supplemental salary endowments for professorships; ideas for endowments to support staff in the arts; and various paths for NMSU to become an R1 research university. [Full RCA report is on FS website.](#)
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye  
Senator Kopera-Frye reported that the committee met on March 26 and discussed two main issues under old business. First, there is a reminder that someone will speak about sexual harassment at the next general meeting, as noted in the minutes. Second, Dr. M. Catherine Jonet from gender and sexuality studies requested support for their program, which has faced challenges since it was established 36 years ago. The program has moved between departments and currently falls under the English department, leading to feelings of invisibility among faculty. They have limited recognition despite their contributions, such as involvement in the International Film Festival. They are asking for help to find a better departmental home. A memorial will be prepared by Monday at 5. Discussion followed as if it should be Emergency Legislation.
  - Student Success Chair, Tawny Aguirre  
Senator Aguirre reported that the committee met on March 20th, had quorum, and had a guest, Chair Chaitanya. He suggested creating a study or survey for new international students, with Christian volunteering to assist with the graduate student union. Marissa Fowler, the director of Advising, is now the contact for NMSU students taking classes at community colleges and will be making decisions on this. Additionally, part-time employees are now eligible for timely care, as noted by Michaela Burkhardt. [Full SS report is on FS website.](#)
- e. Open discussion of issues related to Online Advisory Committee called for in [Senate Bill 05-23/24](#) – All

Vice-Chair Brown discussed the need for open conversations about the online advisory committee. He mentioned that he would start the discussion and then step back. There has been considerable focus on global and online course delivery issues. Brown reached out to James McAteer, who reminded him that last year the Senate approved a motion by Senator Erickson to form an online advisory committee. This motion was passed in March and signed by President Gouge, but he noted that it would only include faculty who teach for Global. Brown was not aware of these details earlier as he wasn't part of the Senate. The committee now has a chair, Mark Lawrence, and Bylaws, but concerns have arisen among Senators and faculty in intellectual property and reporting issues for faculty Global hires. Kim Lopez Gallagher, unable to attend, shared an email mentioning that the committee's structure differs from the original resolution and lacks clarity on faculty status. It limits membership to those who teach for Global, and there is no representation from the community college faculty or the library.

Senator Erickson discussed two main points. Firstly, he wasn't up to date on the situation and noted that he hadn't seen the member list until it was shared in March. He mentioned running into Sherry Kollmann and asked her about the committee's composition. The members are appointed by the Deans, but there seems to be a lack of representation for graduate and undergraduate students, the Honors College, community colleges, and the library. He spoke to Sherry about the library, and she agreed to add a library representative and reached out to Mark Lawrence for this. However, he expressed concern that the committee lacks members who might offer critical views on the direction of global initiatives. Vice Chair Brown will work up a list of proposed new members (CC and Library faculty and FSLC representation) and route with the FLSC for approval.

- f. Ideas to generate more interest among faculty on Senate activities – Chair Chaitanya and Vice Chair Brown

Vice-Chair Brown suggested that in the interest of time, to bring this item back on the next Faculty Senate meeting.

## **8. Remarks and Announcements**

- FS Chair Vimal Chaitanya

Chair Chaitanya mentioned that the foundation is organizing an inauguration for the president, with Kelley Coffeen as the main organizer from the committee. She has reached out for suggestions, which led to discussions about two key events. The first event is on Thursday, April 24th, featuring breakfast in the corporate center ballroom, primarily for faculty, where the chair will sit on the podium. The vice chair will lead the Faculty Senate leadership members in attendance, all dressed in regalia if possible. Most of the 68 senators, minus 22, are expected to attend, as the presence of politicians and donors is anticipated for significant donations. Chair Chaitanya will share the final agenda once available.

The second event is a get-together at the Farm and Ranch Museum, with an invitation for all faculty to attend. The schedule includes the Aggie Roundup reception on Wednesday, April 23rd, from 3 to 5 PM, followed by breakfast and formal investiture on Thursday, April 24th, where attendees will wear regalia. Invitations for these events will be sent out soon.

Discussion followed about Health Insurance that will be in the next Faculty Senate meeting

Chair report.

- FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown  
**NONE**

**9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.**

**Present:** Vice-Chair C. Brown, Chair V. Chaitanya, M. Burkardt, K. Finlator, J. Cook, E. Lehnhoff, K. Kopera-Frye, C. Erickson, G. Piña, P. Tian, L. Saiki, J. Sandstrom, C. DeBlieck, O. Holguin, H. Badawy, S. Gordon, T. Aguirre.