

NMSU Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC)
MINUTES
September 26, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Zoom (<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/86052805269>) and MH 185J

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:03p.m.
2. **Recognition of Guests - NONE**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved and seconded to approve agenda.
Senate Leadership approved agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 29 August 2024 meeting (Attached)**
Senator Cook proposes a friendly amendment to be added to the attendance list.
Moved and seconded to approve minutes with the friendly amendment.
Minutes approved and submitted.
5. **Reports on Legislation**
 1. 01-24/25 - Proposal for name change of the Department of Government to the Department of Political Science, Public Law and Administration. Sponsors = Thaddieus Conner (A&S), Timothy Cleveland (A&S), Jamie Bronstein (A&S), Chris Erickson (CoB), Neil Harvey (A&S), Shofiqur Rahman (CoB), & William Walker (A&S).
Vice-Chair Brown reported that the Proposition 01-24/25 passed as Consent Agenda.
 2. 02-24/25 – Proposal to repeal the Amended Senate Bylaws passed at the 5.2.4 Senate meeting. Sponsors = Chris Erickson (COB), Tawny Aguirre (DACC), Faruk Arslan (CoB), Nathan Brooks, (A&S), Christopher Brown (A&S), Thaddieus Conner (A&S), Kristian Finlator (A&S), Dylan McDonald (Library), John Sandstrom (Library), William Walker (A&S), and others to follow.
Vice-Chair Brown reported that Proposition 02-24/25 passed as Emergency Legislation at 9.5.24 Senate meeting. We are reverting back to the bylaws that were passed on May 21st.
 3. 03-24/25 - Clarifying Exceptions to Final Exam Requirements in ARP 4.50. Sponsors – K. Finlator (A&S); J. Burchett (A&S), M. Burkardt (A&S); and M. Prescott (A&S).
Assigned to Curriculum and Programming Standing Committee. Senator Piña, Chair of Curriculum and Programming will discuss the Proposition with his committee members at their next meeting.
6. **Proposed Legislation**
 1. 04-24/25 – Bill Clarifying data points on Senate Bill 07-23/24, “Call for NMSU leadership to establish a fund for open access article publishing/processing charges for tenured, tenure-eligible, and non-tenure-track faculty, research scientists, research scholars, research center directors, and librarians.” Sponsors – J. Sandstrom (NTT), K Finlator (A&S), and F Arslan (CoB).

Senate Leadership recommended that Proposition 04-24/25 go to the full Faculty Senate meeting held on October 3rd.

7. Other Business

- a. Discussion and approval of Faculty Senate Agenda for 10.3.24 Senate meeting
Senator Cook suggested to include estimate time on each item to be able to keep on track. Chair Vimal took in consideration the suggestion from Senator Cook and will work with Recording Secretary Cisneros to get the agenda uploaded in advance of the Full Faculty Senate meeting.
- b. Standing Committees Reports
 - Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson
Committee met on September 17th.
Chair Hanson reported that they met briefly to introduce themselves informally and set goals for the year as a group. They identified priorities and invited upper admin guests to provide information on budget and resources for future meetings.
Comments were made by Senators.
[Full BR report is on the FS website.](#)
 - University Planning Committee Chair, Erik Lehnhoff
Committee met on September 11th.
Chair Lehnhoff reported they had a good turnout, including 9 members and 2 guests. Guests included Chair Chaitanya and Senior Associate Provost McAteer. The committee talked about updating the P and T ARP. That is going to be the main thing the committee will be focusing on this year.
[Full UP report is on the FS website.](#)
 - Curriculum and Programming Chair, Gustavo Piña
Committee met on September 12th.
Chair Piña reported they had a good turn out 7 members out of 9 attended the meeting and they discussed Proposition 01-24/25. They had no guests.
[Full CP report is on the FS website.](#)
 - Research and Creative Activity Chair, Paul Tian
Committee met on September 19th.
Chair Tian reported they had 9 members present. The committee talked about the research impact and the salary increase and promotion.
[Full RCA report is on the FS website.](#)
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye
Chair Kopera-Frye had some issues with joining the Zoom meeting.
Vice-Chair Brown gave a brief report on behalf of the committee. In preparation for Indigenous Peoples Day in October, last term, the Senate passed a bill requesting resources from the Central Administration to support programming activities. Central Admin committed \$10,000 to support these activities, these funds going to VP of DEI, Michael Ray, director of American Indian Programs, has been actively collaborating with on and off-campus groups to plan events. Approximately \$6,500 of the funds have already been committed. Discussions are ongoing on how

to allocate the remaining amount, potentially providing support to Native American students for books or course fees. The Senate is committed to spreading awareness about the planned activities and ensuring a strong turnout by reaching out to departments, colleges, deans, and canvas classes. Michael will share the finalized agenda soon for further coordination.

- Student Success Chair, Tawny Aguirre
Committee met on September 19th.
Chair Aguirre reported they had good attendance. They discussed ARP 4.46 Authorized Absences from Classes; it is something the committee had worked on last year but unfortunately, they weren't able to get it through. The committee discussed to vote whether to take it forward and it did not have enough votes. Another item they discussed was a proposed proposition regarding letting NMSU students take classes at DACC. They had Tony Marin and Marissa Fowler as guests to tell them what the current situation is there. Senator Burkardt brought up about an email that was sent September 16th by the Provost.
[Full SS report is on the FS website.](#)

- c. Update on discussions with Robbie Grant on CHEGG – Vice Chair Brown and Senator Aguirre
Following their Faculty Senate Leadership Committee meeting with Administration, where Chris Erickson raised the check issue and Robbie Grant was present, Robbie responded to them. It was suggested that a select group of senators meet with Sherry Kollman and Robbie to discuss their concerns. During the conversation with Robbie, Vice Chair Brown learned that Senator Aguirre invited Robbie and Sherry to the next student success meeting. We will rely on Student Success to address concerns with Sherry and Robbie. This CHEGG pilot is meant to identify any issues, and if serious problems arise, Robbie will terminate the pilot. Currently, they are at the initial stage of discussion, and Vice Chair Brown thanks Senator Aguirre initiative.

8. Remarks and Announcements

- FS Chair Vimal Chaitanya
Chair Chaitanya had one comment regarding the new incoming President, Dr. Valerio Ferme, who has strong support from many faculty members. They were pleased when his name was announced, despite their prior lack of knowledge on the matter. It is now everyone's responsibility to show Dr., Ferme support and hope for his success in addressing various university-related issues. The contract with the President is still being finalized, so any communication with him should be withheld until further notice. A reception is being planned once the contract is settled, though the exact timing is yet to be determined. Chair Chaitanya will keep you informed on when the President will visit the campus and will advocate for the Leadership committee to have the opportunity to engage with him informally.
Senator Badawy had a few questions to which Chair Chaitanya answered. The decision for Deputy Provost has already been made but has not been made public yet therefore, Chair Chaitanya will not give that information and wait for the announcement to be made public. As for the President's start date, Regents. want him to start as soon as possible.
- FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown

Vice-Chair Brown expressed his appreciation to the Senators who agreed to serve on the alcohol committee member.

9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Present: Vice-Chair C. Brown, Chair V. Chaitanya, M. Burkardt, K. Finlator, L. Grant, S. Hanson, E. Lehnhoff, L. Saiki, P. Tian, K. Lopez Gallagher, H. Badawy, T. Aguirre, D. McDonald, G. Piña, J. Cook.

Absent – K. Kopera-Frye, C. Erickson