

**NMSU Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC)**  
**MINUTES**

**January 29, 2026, 4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom( <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/83656717192>)**

**PLEASE NOTE NEW LINK**

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda  
Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.  
Senate Leadership approved the agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes of 18 December 2026 meeting (Attached)  
Moved and second to approve the minutes.  
Minutes approved and submitted by Senate Leadership.
4. Reports on Existing Legislation

04-25/26 – Faculty Senate input to Academic Program Sustainability Plan Proposal.

Sponsor (s) – O. Bello (Engineering), C. Brown (A&S), and other to follow.

Assigned to Budget and Resources. Was voted on January 15 at the full Faculty Senate meeting.

Chair Hanson, representing the Budget and Resources Committee, reported that the committee reviewed the bill and approved a revised version. For transmittal, the committee was asked to provide an executive summary that simplified the large bill and highlighted its key points. Chair Hanson and Bello collaborated on drafting the summary. The summary emphasizes that metrics used to evaluate program sustainability should incorporate program-specific nuances to avoid unintended consequences.

Chair Bello, representing the Curriculum and Planning Committee, noted that her committee summarized the bill as well. He indicated that the summary was prepared following the Faculty Senate's prior approval for the bill to pass.

Recording Secretary Mari will prepare the transmittal packet, which will include the revised bill and executive summary, and forward it to the Provost and President for review and approval of the next steps.

05-25/26 –Proposal to Establish Task Force on the Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Pedagogy. Sponsor (s) – C. Erickson (Business), K. Sharp-Hoskins (A&S), and others to follow. **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning.**

Senator Chris Erickson, one of the lead sponsors of Proposition 05-25/26, provided an overview of the purpose of the bill. He explained that the proposition aims to establish a committee to develop policies to make the adoption of AI tools more rational and structured. The goal is to ensure that AI adoption moves forward efficiently while avoiding mistakes or poor communication, particularly when software is adopted without adequate vetting. He emphasized that while technical expertise is essential in these decisions, the committee must also consider the pedagogical needs of disciplines that are less technology focused.

Chair Brown invited Senator Bello to provide an update on the committee's work. Senator Bello reported that the committee met following deliberations by Senators Erickson and Sharp-Hoskins, and Vice Chair Brown to discuss the bill's purpose. The committee agreed to add several "whereas" clauses to the existing bill language. The revisions were circulated on the shared drive, consolidated, and approved by a majority vote. The remaining tasks are to add additional co-sponsors and prepare the bill for submission to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Chair Brown requested that a Word version of the amended bill be shared with Senators Sharp-Hoskins, Erickson, and herself to facilitate the addition of co-sponsors. She clarified that Senate rules require the lead sponsor to be a senator, but anyone may join as a co-sponsor. Senator Sharp-Hoskins will update the bill with the additional co-sponsors.

## **5. Proposed Legislation**

06-25/26 – Supporting CNM and UNM Joint Resolution Against the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education". Sponsor (s) – Karen Kopera-Frye (HEST), Christopher Brown (A&S), and other to follow. **Assigned to University Planning.**

Chair Brown introduced proposed legislation 06-25/26 and provided background on the item. He explained that in December, he and Karen Kopera-Frye were approached by the UNM DEI Chair and the CNM Senate Chair and invited to participate in discussions regarding a joint resolution opposing the Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education. Two meetings were held in which the history of the effort and the proposed resolution were shared. CNM has passed the resolution, and UNM has either passed it or is expected to do so. Chair Brown noted that he and Karen Kopera-Frye brought the legislation forward to the Faculty Senate to support participatory decision-making. A brief discussion had previously occurred at the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee meeting, where members expressed both support for the resolution and concerns about potential risks associated with adopting it. The bill and resolution have been posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Chair Brown asked for guidance on assigning the legislation to a committee. He noted that although Karen Kopera-Frye chairs the Access, Opportunity, and Outreach Committee, University Planning might be a more appropriate assignment. Following discussion and expressions of support, the legislation was assigned to the University Planning Committee. Senator Cook commented that he did not wish to discuss the substance of the legislation at that time but noted that recent news articles suggest revisions to the Compact may be underway. He referenced reports indicating that the Secretary of Education stated there is currently no higher education compact in effect. He encouraged the committee to consider

whether it would be preferable to respond to a revised version of the Compact, should one be released, rather than the initial draft. Chair Brown indicated that he, Karen Kopera-Frye, and others interested would conduct additional research on the issue.

Senator Erickson commented on committee participation, noting that any faculty senator may attend committee meetings without invitation. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that committee meeting access is inclusive of differing viewpoints and expressed concern that reliance on chairs to distribute meeting links may limit participation. He suggested that committee meeting links be made more readily available to all faculty senators.

Chair Brown agreed that Senate meetings are open and noted that information is posted on the website and shared with standing committee chairs and the Senate Leadership Committee. He raised the question of whether broader distribution of meeting links, such as via a centralized posting or regular communication, could be considered.

Senator Burkardt expressed concern about posting committee meeting links publicly, noting that unrestricted access could disrupt meetings. She suggested that requiring individuals to request links from committee chairs serves as a reasonable safeguard.

Senator Lopez-Gallagher suggested an alternative approach, proposing a registration system like that used for Faculty Senate meetings, which could allow for some level of access control.

Senator Sandstrom recommended that the discussion regarding committee access and meeting links be deferred, suggesting it be taken up later in the meeting or scheduled for a future discussion at the Faculty Senate or a subsequent meeting.

## **6. Other Business**

### **a. Discussion of 5 February 2026 Faculty Senate Agenda Items – all**

Recording Secretary Mari will follow up with Chair Chaitanya, who was absent due to travel, to finalize the February 5 agenda.

### **b. Standing Committees Reports**

#### **• Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson**

Chair Hanson reported that the Budget and Resources Committee met with a quorum and that his full report has been posted to the Faculty Senate website. He noted that after missing the December meeting with upper administration, the committee reconnected with its standing guests. In particular, the committee received updates from Deanne Stewart regarding the upcoming legislative budget session.

Chair Hanson reported that the majority of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of a topic likely to be taken up in future meetings. The discussion initially focused on AI and software procurement and was identified as aligning closely with efforts being led by Kellie and Chris E. The committee plans to convene a future meeting with representatives from IT, Information Security, and Procurement to explore how these issues might be addressed under a single, unified framework.

Chair Hanson also reported that he and Senator Erickson are members of Deputy Provost McAteer's IDC Task Force. While attendance varied, he noted that between the two of them, representation was maintained at most meetings. Deputy Provost McAteer has distributed a summary outlining the task force's progress and next steps. Chair Hanson indicated that this summary will be shared with the Senate in a forthcoming report. Chair Hanson concluded his report. There were no questions.

- University Planning Chair, Stephanie Walker  
Chair Walker was unavailable to present. Recording Secretary Mari reported that Chair Walker indicated via email that she was traveling and that no committee meeting was held.
- Curriculum and Planning Chair, Oladayo Bello  
Chair Bello reported that the Curriculum and Planning Committee held its first meeting of the year on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The meeting began late due to technical issues, but a quorum was eventually established. The committee discussed Bill 05-25/26, a resolution proposing the creation of a task force on the integration of AI and pedagogy at NMSU, sponsored by Senator Erickson, Senator Sharp-Hoskins, and Vice Chair Brown. The sponsors attended the meeting to provide an overview of the bill and respond to questions. Following their departure, the committee conducted its deliberations.

The committee voted to revise the bill by adding several whereas clauses. A key point of discussion was the need for a new, independent task force, given that the existing Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology for the Provost's Office has not been sufficiently active in addressing AI-related issues. The committee agreed that the proposed task force should operate independently and include representation from all disciplines across NMSU.

The committee also discussed the growing expectation for AI literacy and fluency in job postings and emphasized the importance of adequately preparing students to engage with AI as part of their learning, so they are not disadvantaged.

These considerations were incorporated into the revised bill. The committee voted on the amended version, and a majority voted to pass the bill. The finalized version was expected to be ready by the end of the day.

- Research and Creative Activity Chair, Omar Holguin  
Chair Holguin reported that the RCA Committee met on January 20 and achieved a quorum after a brief delay. The committee welcomed Senator Marat Telipov (College of Arts and Sciences), serving during Senator Amanda Ashley's sabbatical.

The committee continued discussions on campus software access and AI software acquisition, including potential follow-up with D'Anne Stuart, Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance, regarding enterprise licensing. Chair Holguin noted plans to coordinate with Senator Steve Hanson and to invite D'Anne Stuart to a future meeting.

The committee discussed inviting the Interim VPR to address the full Faculty Senate on issues including reduced IDC, federal grant delays, and impacts on projects involving non-U.S. citizen personnel. Chair Holguin will follow up with the Chair and Vice Chair.

The committee also discussed participation in the upcoming VPR search, including attending forums and meeting with candidates.

Finally, the committee identified semester goals, including reviewing Promotion and Tenure guidelines related to innovation and entrepreneurship. Patricia McGregor-Mendoza, Provost Fellow for Faculty Success, and a national organization focused on P&T and innovation have been invited to participate in upcoming meetings.

- Access, Opportunity, and Outreach, Chair, Karen Kopera-Frye  
Chair Brown reported that the Chair of Access, Opportunity, and Outreach Committee, Karen Kopera-Frye, was unavailable due to a medical appointment. The committee did not meet, and there was no report.
- Student Success Chair, Kristian Finlator  
Chair Finlator reported that the committee met with a quorum last week but had no official business. His written report has been submitted.  
The committee continued discussions initiated in November regarding thoughtful restrictions on digital device use in the classroom. Chair Finlator noted that some universities have incorporated syllabus language offering faculty options ranging from unrestricted, moderately restricted, to fully restricted use of digital devices. The committee discussed drafting three template levels of device access for inclusion in faculty syllabi, modeled in part on examples from Georgetown University.  
In addition, the committee plans to consult with Disability Access Services regarding student accommodation and exceptions to such policies and to develop the best practices document related to classroom technology use. The committee aims to complete this work by the end of the spring term.  
Chair Finlator raised a question regarding how the committee's final recommendations might be formally presented as the voice of the faculty or the Faculty Senate.  
Chair Brown responded that classroom device policies ultimately remain at the discretion of individual faculty members. He noted that guidance from central administration on acceptable practices, along with syllabus language examples from other institutions, could appropriately inform the committee's recommendations.

## 7. Remarks and Announcements

- FS Chair Vimal Chaitanya  
Not Available.

- FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown  
Chair Brown provided several updates. First, he reported on discussions regarding the rollout of Simple Syllabus, noting that conversations have taken place with Provost Reddi. There was agreement that NMSU must improve faculty and Faculty Senate involvement in such initiatives. A follow-up meeting will be held the following week with the leadership group (excluding the President, who was traveling) to explore next steps. Deputy Provost McAteer noted that productive discussions are ongoing and that multiple ideas are under consideration.

Chair Brown emphasized that while the rollout process was problematic, it was encouraging that senior leadership acknowledged the issue and expressed commitment to improving communication and shared governance. He noted that the Faculty Senate has consistently provided requested input on initiatives such as GPA policy changes, program sustainability planning, and other matters, and that these contributions have resulted in meaningful outcomes. Examples included funding secured for an open-access support committee, data sharing related to IDC, and the establishment of a Dean's Evaluation Task Force.

Chair Brown also highlighted the strong representation of Faculty Senate leadership on key university committees and the positive work being done in those roles. He listed committees including UPAC, the Academic Deans Advisory Council, the Policy Steering Committee, the Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology, the Global Advisory Committee, the International Students Working Group, the Dean's Evaluation Work Group, and the Provost Search Committee.

To improve transparency and communication, Chair Brown proposed that Senate representatives on these committees provide brief verbal updates during Senate meetings. He indicated that he would contact committee representatives to coordinate these short reports and keep updates focused and concise.

Deputy Provost McAteer suggested including the University System Budget Committee in this update structure, noting the importance of its decisions. Chair Brown agreed and thanked him for the suggestion.

### **Discussion: Communication and Access to Standing Committee Meetings**

Chair Brown revisited the earlier discussion regarding communication and access to standing committee meetings. Senator Jonathan Cook proposed adding meeting times to the Standing Committee webpage and including a note indicating that any NMSU faculty member is welcome to attend and may contact the committee chair for meeting details. He noted this would increase transparency without creating undue burden.

Senator Erickson supported the idea and suggested exploring whether permanent or calendar-based links could be added for easier access. Several senators, including Senators Sharp-Hoskins and Burkardt, raised concerns about fully open access, noting the importance of preventing disruptions and maintaining productive discussions. They supported an approach that allows faculty access while requiring a minimal step, such as contacting the chair.

Chair Brown summarized that there was consensus around Jonathan Cook's proposal. He stated that he, Chair Vimal, and Recording Secretary Mari will work together to determine the best way to implement the approach. The proposed solution includes listing committee meeting dates and times, along with language indicating that faculty may contact the committee chair for access details. Chair Brown also noted that guidance will be provided to standing committee chairs on setting up Zoom meetings with appropriate authentication to ensure meetings are accessible to faculty while remaining secure.

The Senate agreed that this approach strikes a balance between openness and practicality.

#### **Update: Vice President for Research (VPR) Search**

Senator Holguin asked for an update regarding whether the VPR search could begin this semester. Chair Brown reported that, despite strong advocacy from Senate leadership, the President and search firms determined that initiating the search this semester would not be feasible without extending into the summer. Instead, the plan is to convene the search committee and complete preparatory work this semester so that the search can formally begin at the start of the fall semester.

Senator Holguin expressed appreciation for the effort and noted that convening the committee and naming a chair would still represent meaningful progress. Chair Brown agreed and encouraged continued follow-up to ensure readiness for a fall launch.

#### **8. Adjournment: Meeting adjournment at 4:54 p.m.**

**Present:** Chair C. Brown, J. Cook, J. Sandstrom, C. Erickson, C. Creusere, C. DeBlieck, K. Sharp-Hoskins, F. Boutsen, J. Bronstein, J. Bengtson, K. Lopez-Gallagher, K. Finlator, M. Montañez, M. Burkardt, O. Bello, O. Holguin, S. Hanson, Rec.Sec. M. Cisneros

**Absent:** Chair V. Chaitanya

**Guest:** Deputy Provost James McAteer.

**Revised and finalized by:**

**Vice Chair Christopher Brown on  
2/25/2026**