

NMSU Faculty Senate Leadership Committee (FSLC) AGENDA
Thursday, 26 March 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Zoom(<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/83656717192>) and Hadley Hall Rm
130 PLEASE NOTE NEW LINK

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda
Moved and seconded to approve the agenda
Senator Kristian Finlator proposed a friendly amendment to the agenda to include Proposition 16-25/26, a Memorial Thanking President Valerio Ferme for his First Year.
Senate Leadership approved the agenda as amended.

3. Approval of Minutes of 26 February 2026 meeting (Attached)
Moved and seconded to approve the minutes.
Senator Finlator proposes a friendly amendment to correct several clerical errors. The corrected minutes were sent to Vice Chair Brown for posting.
Moved to seconded to approve minutes with the friendly amendment.
Minutes approved and submitted.

4. Reports on Existing 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 others to follow. **Assigned to University Planning.**
The Proposition was tabled and will be brought before the full Faculty Senate at the April meeting for a Senate vote.

 - 07-25/26 – Bill sharing input to Policy Steering Committee on proposed change to ARP 4.69 on Distance Education. Sponsors – C. Erickson (CoB), C. Brown (A&S), and others to follow. **Assigned to Curriculum and Planning.**
The committee reported that the policy had been revised; however, the updated document was not available for review. The item was tabled, and an additional month was requested.

 - 08-25/26 - Amendment to Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution to change the requirements for Chair and Vice Chair. Sponsor – C. Erickson (CoB) and V Chaitanya (ENG). **Assigned to University Planning.**
The committee discussed the possibility of voting separately on the two changes proposed in the bill; however, concern was expressed that the bill’s submission appeared rushed. The committee ultimately voted to request an additional month for deliberation. Members also requested the most current version of the proposed bill and asked that bill’s sponsor attend the UP Committees’ April meeting to provide further information.

5. Proposed Legislation to be assigned to committee

- 09-25/26 - Updating the Names and Functions of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees. Sponsors – K. Finlator (A&S), C Brown (A&S), and others to follow.

Assigned to University Planning.

- 10-25/26 - Proposal to Move Academic Technology under Purview of the Provost. Sponsors – K. Sharp-Hoskins (A&S), C. Brown (A&S), and more to follow.

Assigned to Budget and Resources.

- 11-25/26 - Request to Central Administration to provide resources to part time faculty. Sponsors – I. Pedraza (DACC/NTT), K Lopez Gallagher (NMSU-A), C. Brown (A&S), and more to follow.

Assigned to Budget and Resources.

- 12-25/26 - Request for Faculty Senate to review DRAFT proposal for a Doctoral Accelerated Program submitted by the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC). Sponsors - C. Brown (A&S), D. Rutledge (HEST and GFC Chair), and others to follow

Assigned to Curriculum and Planning.

- 13-25/26 - Memorial in Appreciation of Vice Chair Brown. Sponsors - T. Aguirre, K. Finlator, D. Magoc. Sponsors ask that this be considered as emergency legislation.
- 14-25/26 - Memorial in Appreciation of Chair Chaitanya. Sponsors - T. Aguirre, K. Finlator, D. Magoc. Sponsors ask that this be considered as emergency legislation.
- 15-25/26 - Memorial in Appreciation of Provost Reddi - Sponsors - T. Aguirre, K. Finlator, D. Magoc. Sponsors ask that this be considered as emergency legislation.

Senate Leadership recommended that Propositions 13-25/26, 14-25/26, 15-25/26 go to the April 2nd Faculty Senate meeting agenda as Emergency Legislation.

6. Other Business

- a. Discussion of 2 April 2026 Faculty Senate Agenda Items – all informing Mari Cisneros and Senate Chair Chaitanya

Chair Chaitanya and Recording Secretary Cisneros will work on the agenda promptly. Suggestions to go on the agenda are welcome.

- b. Standing Committees Reports

- Budget and Resources Chair, Stephen Hanson
Chair Hanson reported the committee met with a quorum present. No official business was conducted, and the discussion focused on the expected state budget. The New Mexico Legislature had finalized the budget, with the Governor retaining 48 hours for potential line-item vetoes, through no significant changes were anticipated. Overall, New Mexico State University was expected to receive an approximate 5% budget increase. Current salary raises were set at 1% with administration potentially exploring options to increase them. [Full BR report posted on the FS website.](#)

- University Planning Chair, Stephanie Walker
Chair Walker reported the committee met with a quorum present. Bill 06-25/26, previously approved by the committee, was presented to the Faculty Senate on March 5 and tabled until April. The committee began deliberation on Bill 08-25/26, with background provided by sponsor Chris Erickson. The committee supported removing specific committee names from the Constitution but raised significant concerns about restricting Faculty Senate leaders from participating in NMSU-NEA leadership or negotiations. Members agreed the bill required further review and voted to request an additional month for deliberation, a current version of the bill, and sponsor attendance at the April meeting. [Full UP report posted on the FS website.](#)
- Curriculum and Planning Chair, Oladayo Bello
Chair Bello reported the committee met with a quorum present. The committee was assigned Bill 07-25/26 concerning proposed revisions to ARP 4.69, the NMSU policy on Academic Rules for Distance Education. Although the Policy Steering Committee had revised the policy, the updated document was not available for review. The Senator who led drafted the Senate response the proposed change to the ARP, Sen. Erickson, was invited to provide a verbal update but was not available to attend the meeting. After waiting 30 minutes without sufficient information to proceed, the committee adjourned. Members agreed to request a one-month extension due to the lack of documentation and explanation. [Full CP report posted on the FS website.](#)
- Research and Creative Activity Chair, Omar Holguin
Chair Holguin was not available. Vice Chair Brown reported that due to a scheduling conflict with spring break, the RCA meeting was rescheduled, resulting in confusion and low attendance; the group will reconvene in April. Throughout March, efforts continued to explore the recognition of innovation and entrepreneurship in promotion and tenure policies at New Mexico State University. The RCA chair met with Winnie Lee of Arrowhead, Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, and Patricia Knighten to discuss approaches for evaluating such recognition. It was recommended that the RCA chair contact the Vice Provost and Senate leadership to explore a formal request for NMSU to adopt the PTIE survey and gap analysis framework as a first step. Additionally, Interim VPR Patricia Sullivan established a monthly meeting involving the VPR, URC leadership, and the RCA chair to support ongoing coordination. [Full RCA report is posted on the FS website.](#)
- Access, Opportunity, and Outreach Interim Chair, Kim Lopez-Gallagher
Chair Lopez-Gallagher reported the committee met with a quorum present and Vice Chair Christopher Brown as guest. Chair Lopez-Gallagher was unanimously elected chair following an unopposed nomination. A brief disruption occurred when the Zoom session ended and quorum was temporarily lost, but members returned and quorum was reestablished. The committee discussed reopening communication with the Office of the Land Grant Mission, reviewing bylaws and the charge document,

and revising a draft proposal on resources for part-time faculty. The meeting ended with a brief discussion on reporting faculty misconduct. [Full AOO report posted on the FS website.](#)

- Student Success Chair, Kristian Finlator
Chair Finlator reported the committee met with no official business, the Student Success Committee met to discuss items on its agenda. Chair Finlator shared a draft letter requesting information from four academic colleges regarding whether their academic units admit international graduate students without guaranteed graduate assistantships, with the draft included in the agenda. No revisions were proposed, and all senators present agreed to have their names included on the signature line. More information and the draft letter can be found on the Student Success report. [Full SS repost posted on the FS website.](#)

7. Remarks and Announcements

- FS Chair, Vimal Chaitanya
Chair Chaitanya announced that at the Board of Regents meeting on April 1, President Ferme and Senate Chair Chaitanya introduced Senator Kristian Finlator as the next Senate chair, and appreciation was expressed for Senators Finlator and Sandstrom's engagement in Senate leadership activities. The Regents approved the Books 4 Less program by Follett for the Alamogordo campus and a 3.7% increase in dining rates for Premium and Voluntary Student Meal Plans. A discussion also took place regarding potential tuition increases in response to a no-tuition-increase budget proposal for 2027.
Senator Finlator also reported on additional university matters, including progress by the International Graduate Students task force, which has completed analysis of survey results to improve student experiences at New Mexico State University. Updates were also provided on the Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT), which is receiving additional staffing and faculty membership, with Senator Chris Erickson currently serving as the Senate's representative. The Board of Regents reviewed the status of the university's strategic plan, which is expected to be presented as a working document in May.
The Policy Steering Committee continues review of multiple policies, including Policy 3.45 on service and companion animals, which has completed stakeholder input and is awaiting presidential review. A Program Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee has been established with Senate representation from Oladayo Bello and Jonathan Cook. Finally, several administrative searches were noted, including the successful appointment of Dr. Bull as Provost and upcoming searches for key leadership roles such as Vice President for Research, Director of PSL, Chancellor of Global, Dean of Engineering, and Dean of ACES.
- FS Vice-Chair / SLC Chair, Christopher Brown
 - Provost Search Update
Vice Chair Brown gave an update. The Provost convened the search committee on March 13 and led a discussion of the three remaining candidates following Lakshmi Reddy's departure to UNLV, with his last day scheduled for mid-May. The remaining candidates are Joe Bull of Portland State, Glenn Martinez of UTSA, and Enrico Pontelli. The President is continuing deliberations and is expected to announce a decision next week. It was noted that if an external candidate is selected, James would serve as interim Provost until the new appointee is able to assume the role, whereas an

internal appointment of Enrico Pontelli could begin immediately due to his existing presence and familiarity with the institution. The search process was described as open and thorough, and no questions were raised following the update.

- Compliance issues for digital accessibility
Vice Chair Brown provided an update on an ADA compliance directive stemming from an April 2024 civil rights lawsuit and subsequent Department of Justice guidance requiring universities to ensure public-facing websites are accessible. Initial federal review identified approximately 520 non-compliant university websites, and Marketing and Communications (MarCom) has been working with units to address these issues, with most sites now reportedly compliant and remaining items nearing completion. The deadline for full compliance of public-facing websites is April 24, 2026. Planning is underway to shift focus next to course materials, including Canvas content, in coordination with academic technology and accessibility tools, with a proposal to outline tasks, resources, prioritization, communication strategy, and timeline.
During discussion, concerns were raised about the scope and communication of MarCom's involvement in prior accessibility efforts, with differing perspectives on the level of support provided to downstream departments. It was clarified that some prior communications may have conflated public websites with course content, and that full compliance of extensive course materials within a short timeframe is not feasible. Members agreed that a realistic implementation plan should be developed over time, with initial compliance strategy documentation and continued consultation with university leadership and general counsel.
Additional concerns were raised regarding the practical challenges of making certain academic content, such as mathematical equations, fully accessible, with members acknowledging the need for clearer tools and guidance. The Vice Chair proposed follow-up discussions with relevant administrators to document specific barriers and elevate them within the broader compliance planning process.
- Update on AI TF and PSP Ad Hoc Committee
The committee reviewed previously passed legislation, noting that it has been forwarded to Central administration and is awaiting follow-up, with Senators Erickson and Sharp-Hoskins assisting in developing next steps. Updates were provided on the Sustainability and Hoc committee program, including ongoing identification of members and coordination through Cecilia Hernandez, with further progress expected in the coming week.
- Senator Christopher Erickson – discussion of CVS Caremark Prescription Insurance
Senator Erickson raised concerns regarding CVS Caremark prescription insurance for discussion at an upcoming meeting with the President and Provost. Vice Chair Brown requested further offline discussion to better understand the concerns and confirmed the topic would be placed on the FSLC administrative agenda.
Scheduling updates were also provided, with efforts underway to coordinate April meeting dates with the President and Provost's offices.

Senator Sharp-Hoskins inquired about the status of the Chancellor of Global position following Sherry Coleman's departure to Vermont State University. It was

noted that the President plans to launch an external search and may appoint an interim in the meantime. Senator Cook raised the broader issue of aligning administrative titles, and it was acknowledged that potential renaming of the position is under consideration as part of the search process.

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Present: FSLC Chair C. Brown, FS Chair V. Chaitanya, K. Finlator, K. Sharp-Hoskins, O. Bello, J. Cook, M. Burkardt, C. Erickson, K. Finlator, S. Walker, K. Lopez-Gallagher, J. Sandstrom, S. Hanson, K. Knight, M. Montañez, J. Bengtson, F. Boutsen, Rec. Sec. M. Cisneros.

**Revised and finalized by:
Vice Chair Brown on 4/21/2026**