

Proposition: 27-16/17

Title: Change to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to add Chair or Designate of the Graduate Student Council to the Faculty Senate as Ex-officio member

Date Submitted: 1.25.17

Sponsor(s): Hanson (ACES), Brown (A&S),

Proposed Committee:

Assigned Committee:

Prior Approvals: N/A; Bylaws changes only need Senate action

Proposal:

By this brief memorial, we propose that the NMSU Faculty Senate Bylaws be amended to add the Chair or Designate of the Graduate Student Council to the Faculty Senate as an Ex-officio member. As noted in the Bylaws, changes to the Bylaws only require Senate approval, and we ask the Senate Leadership Committee, the relevant standing committee, and the full Senate to approve this proposition to add “Chair or Designate of the Graduate Student Council” in the list of Ex-Officio members listed in Section B, Article 9 of the Bylaws, immediately after mention of the ASNMSU President and Vice-President.

Rationale:

Graduate students, especially graduate assistants, are very important members of teams of researchers at NMSU that allow NMSU to meet the various objectives outlined in the University’s strategic plan, Vision 2020, under Goal 3, Research and Creativity. All graduate students work with faculty to engage in and advance relevant research across all Colleges, and in doing so, are partners with faculty in advancing this important goal. Graduate assistants either work as teaching assistants to help advance the teaching mission of NMSU, colleges and departments; work as research assistants to aid faculty and research staff in advancing both sponsored projects and non-sponsored research; or both. Despite the value that graduate students contribute to NMSU, they currently lack any formal representation in the Faculty Senate, a privilege and responsibility that undergraduate students enjoy through representation of the ASNMSU President and Vice-President as Ex-Officio members. Adding the Chair or Designate of the Graduate Student Council as an Ex-Officio member will allow graduate students to be represented in the Senate and facilitate their voice being heard in matters relevant to graduate studies, research, and work they do as teaching and research assistants.

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