

Faculty Senate Chair Report for 2 February 2017 Senate Meeting
Submitted 1.30.17 by Senate Chair Christopher Brown

- **AAG Meeting** – Owing to a change in schedule related to the current legislative session, the AAG is not scheduled to meet until 2.10.17. I reported on the only item that was handled last month in last month’s Senate Chair report, this being the new pay increase guidelines on faculty promotions. Based on discussions I have had with Tim Ketelar, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Misconduct, we can expect language on rule changes 4.10 and 4.11 concerning a revised Academic Code of Conduct to come to the AAG next week. This will clearly go academic track, and I hope we can move this set of rule changes this term.
- **UAC meeting** – Action items at the 1.10.17 UAC meeting included compliance training (completed), NMSU values statement (completed), and University Board Reports (going, with 1.31.17 deadline for completion). Thanks to Stuart Munson McGee for agreeing to help with the Senate report. Old business was one item, Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards, which passed unanimously. New business was also one item, Compensation Upon Faculty Promotion, the item to come from January’s AAG. The usual updates and reports were presented, and I am continuing my practice of only giving my Faculty Senate Update Report at the UAC, as all people attending ADC attend UAC.
- **ADC meeting** – Owing to a scheduling conflict with one of my classes, I am only able to attend part of these meetings this term, and James McAteer was gracious enough to attend part of the 1.24.17 meeting I missed. Items handled included discussion of the change to VWW requirements for active duty military and veterans, the usual standing reports, and a presentation by Dean Reyes on graduate admission, recruitment, and retention. I think all DHs and deans can expect face to face visits from Dean Reyes on the ideas he shared, with the long term goal being increased graduate admissions, and better recruitment and retention outcomes. As noted above, I am continuing my practice of only giving my Faculty Senate Update Report at the UAC, as all people attending ADC attend UAC.
- **Regents meeting** – The most recent Regents meeting was held on 1.20.17, and the meeting included several important action items and recognition of the good work that departing Regents Cheney and Lopez Askins have done during their tenure with the Board. The action items included termination of the public private partnership agreement that NMSU has with EdR to construct new residential housing for students (the debt terms were just unworkable), and the discontinuance of Equestrian as an intercollegiate scholarship sport program. The last item was a very difficult decision that the Regents reached in line with earlier discussions on this issue in summer of 2016. The entire team and leadership attended the meeting, and several members spoke in support of the program, but the Regents voted to accept the recommendation of Athletic Director (AD) Moccia to discontinue this program. As this item was handled, I requested that Chancellor Carruthers and AD Moccia and their staff work with the leadership of the equestrian squad to explore options to transition the team from an NCAA team to a club team, the same status as the NMSU Rodeo Team. NMSU is honoring their scholarship commitments to the team members, and the transition to a club sport would allow team members to compete.
- **Other issues in the works** – Owing to discussions with the Provost and his staff, we can expect continued discussion and action on the following issues, all of which will require active faculty input.

- **Centralized Academic Advising** – The Provost is moving ahead with his plan to move to a 100% centralized u/g advising model, and a Task Force (TF) that has been formed is now meeting regularly. Liz Schirmer graciously agreed to represent the Senate on the TF, and I am confident that Liz and Maria Ortiz will provide adequate faculty representation on the TF to insure our views are part of the discussion.
- **Experiential Learning** – At the December Regents meeting, the Regents approved changes to Vision 2020 that mandate all students participate in an on or off campus experiential learning exercise. I am meeting with Regents Hutchinson and Mitchell this week to begin discussions on how to meet this goal, and I will keep the Senate advised of how these discussions progress.
- **General Education Revisions (GE)** - A Provost’s Office GE TF has met for the last 11 months, and both they and the statewide TF are finalizing a draft of the changes that will be advanced. Draft documents have been sent out by The Provost, and I invite faculty and Senators to share their views with the TF members and Provost Howard on the changes proposed.
- **Team Six, Transforming NMSU into a 21st Century University** – Now that this “Transforming Effort” has completed its work on the admin side of the house, Team Six was formed to do similar work on the academic side of NMSU. Janet Green has stepped down as Regents Chief of Staff and will be leading this effort, and we can expect some very spirited and challenging discussions to occur in the next several months as Central explores ways to reduce expenditures related to academic issues and activities. We discussed this effort at the last SLC meeting, and Senator Rayson made the excellent suggestion that we convene faculty to get ahead of this set of discussions. I invite interested Senators to contact me to get these discussions going.
- **Senate Chair Office Hours** – I will continue to hold Senate Chair office hours in my office (Breland 149) this term, on Mondays from 4-5 pm. As was the case last term I am also willing to meet at other times, or in your offices/labs if you are not able to make these hours.
- **Outreach to Community Colleges** – At the invitation of both Presidents Scott and Van Winkle, I had the pleasure and honor to visit both DACC and NMSU-A in the last few months, specifically serving as a keynote speaker at the CC Round-Up and as convocation speaker at the NMSU-A convocation event, presenting my “shared governance roadshow talk.” I am very impressed by the leadership that Presidents Scott and Van Winkle are providing to their respective campuses and the wonderful work that their faculty and staff are doing. I look forward to future trips to the NMSU Carlsbad and Grants Campuses and sharing my “shared governance road show” with leadership, faculty, and staff at these campuses.

Thanks for your interest in this report. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at brownchr@nmsu.edu.