



Faculty Senate

c/o Office of the Executive Vice President/Provost
MSC 3445
New Mexico State University
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Dear NMSU Faculty,

As most of you are aware, NMSU's Central Administration has recently started work on an exercise to "restructure the academic side of NMSU," this being consistent with the study that was undertaken in the last 18 months on how to increase efficiencies and reduce costs on the administrative side of the house. "Team Six" is the name of this committee, and by this email, I note some basic elements of this effort to better inform faculty about the process.

- Team Six was initially developed to look for efficiencies and cost reductions, driven by our current budget situation, which is a serious challenge.
- As the attached list of Team Six members documents, membership consists largely of faculty members and department heads, joined by some staff people, two deans, and Provost Howard. As such, I believe the membership does a good job representing faculty interests.
- The charge of Team Six is to both look for administrative efficiencies within the Colleges and Departments, and to take advantage of the opportunity that we have to reimagine NMSU's academic mission to be more creative, more efficient, and more collaborative.
- To advance this work, the following events will occur and activities will be undertaken:
 - Regular meetings of Team Six will be held, roughly on a 2-4 week basis, with the goal of advancing an open process of discussing potential ideas to increase efficiency and promote creative re-imagining of NMSU's academic mission;
 - Team 6 members are invited to communicate with their departments and colleges, both to share ideas developed **in** Team Six meetings, and to gather ideas **from** the departments and colleges to be shared **at** Team Six meetings;
 - A Team Six Web portal has been developed and is being populated with relevant documents, including meeting agendas and minutes and other documents. The URL for this is <http://transforming.nmsu.edu/team-6/>.
 - Team Six will plan and carry out public forum meetings in a town hall structure, whereby the broadest campus community can participate in the process.
- Team Six is **NOT** about impacting the P&T process that would allow tenure track faculty to be terminated as a cost saving measure. In fact, Team 6 is working hard to ensure that the P&T process is protected as Team Six discussions move forward and revisions to the P&T process are advanced in the Faculty Senate.
- The timeline by which all the above will happen sees extensive discussions occurring in summer and fall of 2017, and specific ideas that emerge will then move through the normal review processes involving ADC, ADAC, Faculty Senate, and the UAC. The goal is to have any suggested changes to the manner by which NMSU executes its academic mission in place by fall term of 2018.

Please share your concerns with the Team Six members in your college or department, and work with them to insure your concerns are heard and addressed. I look forward to the broadest participation possible from NMSU faculty as the Team Six process moves forward.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher Brown", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Christopher Brown, Chair
NMSU Faculty Senate