

**\*Faculty Senate Chair Report for 7 December 2017 Senate Meeting  
Submitted 7 December 2017 by Senate Chair Christopher Brown**

- **AAG Meeting in November 2017** – we again had limited action for the AAG, and we handled these via EMAIL. Items handled in November are noted below:
  - **6.16 - Authorized Absence from Class** – This change to the ARP came to the AAG from Hector Sanchez in Veterans Affairs in order to change the ARP to include military service as an excused absence. As the rule moved, the intent was broadened to include language on medical events and religious observances, and this generated considerable discussion. This rule was sent to the Academic Track and will come to the Senate in January as a Senate Bill.
  - **9.10 - Capital Projects** – This is a Proposed rule revision to align the BPM and ARP with the NM Administrative Code. This was sent to the Administrative Track, and I do not think the Senate is included on the routing.
- **ADC meeting, 11.28.17**
  - **Old Business - Proposal for A&S ~ BA in Justice, Political Philosophy and the Law** was given a second read, Mark Walker presented the proposal to the ADC, and the program was approved unanimously.
  - **New Business - 6.16 - Authorized Absence from Class** – As noted above, this change to the ARP came to the AAG from Hector Sanchez in Veterans Affairs in order to change the ARP to include military service as an excused absence. As the rule moved, the intent was broadened to include language on medical events and religious observances, and this generated considerable discussion. Formal action will be taken at the December 2017 ADC meeting, and this is also on its way to the Senate for action in wary 2018.
  - **Informational/discussion items** - The following informational items were presented and discussed:
    - **Advancing internationalization, recruiting and outgoing student mobility** - Discussion was lead by Cornell Menking. ADC feels further discussion is warranted, and Cornell will lead an effort to advance this discussion.
    - **Tableau Server** - Judy Bosland presented this very robust tracking and presentation tool that Institutional Research hosts, and deans and DHs can contact Judy to get an account.
    - **Regents Student Success Committee (RSSC) Items** – Provost Howard briefed the ADC on current issues in play, and these will be discussed at the 12.2.17 RSSC meeting.
- **UAC meetings,**
  - The following items were handled as old business at the 10.17.17 meeting. All items passed as presented:
    - Revised Rule 6.75 B. through G: as new Rule 18.05 - Honorary Degree Awards [Liz Ellis] – Rule was passed unanimously.
    - Revised Rule 6.75 A. as new Rule 5.50 – Award of Posthumous Honorary Degree [Liz Ellis] - Rule was passed unanimously.
    - New Rule 14.94 - Aggie Cupboard [Liz Ellis] - Rule was passed unanimously.

- The following items were introduced as new business. The Chancellor asked for expedited handling, no one objected, and we handled second read as well. All passed as presented:
  - Revised Rule 9.10 - Capital Projects [Glen Haubold or Lisa Warren] – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> read – passed unanimously.
  - Revised Rule 6.16 - Authorized Absence from Class [Hector Sanchez or Lisa Warren] – 1<sup>st</sup> read, academic track, will come back for 2<sup>nd</sup> read in January 2018.
  - Request for Naming Opportunities for the Upcoming Learning Communities in the Ed and Harold Foreman Engineering Complex, Bldg #541 [Andrea Tawney] 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> read – passed unanimously.
  
- **Regents meeting** – The November Regents meeting was postponed from its original date and rescheduled during the HLC visit. Turnout was very poor, as most people involved were in HLC sessions. Nonetheless, the Regents unveiled the search firm, search committee, search criteria, and position description. Specific actions taken are noted below:
  - Search Firm Contract for Chancellor Position, Chair Debra Hicks – passed unanimously
  - Chancellor Position Search Criteria, Feedback and Position Description – passed 4/1 (Regent Vela dissenting)
  - Search Planning Subcommittee, Co-Chair Kari Mitchell - - passed unanimously

Without hesitation, I expressed my disappointment in the composition of the search Committee, noting the under-representation of faculty. In subsequent discussion with numerous faculty and campus leaders, I have heard a growing consensus that the Search Committee, as constituted, is effectively locking NMSU faculty out of the search process, a view I also hold. Details of the balance of the committee and its limited faculty participation are noted below:

- Only 1/9 internal members is a faculty member (this is a 66% reduction from the most recent Executive Search Committee);
- 4/9 internal members are administrators (2 are deans, 1 is an associate dean, and 1 is a community college president). **I highly respect all of these people**, but they are not faculty;
- The Faculty Senate Chair is no on the Committee, a departure from the past two executive searches; and
- 3/ 9 internal members represent the College of Engineering, while 4 colleges have no representation of faculty or leadership at all.

Three times, in the interest of shared governance and maintaining a respectful relationship between the NMSU faculty and the BoR, I have requested that the Board of Regents reconvene as a Board and add faculty members from the underrepresented departments, disciplines, and colleges. Three times, the answer has been an unambiguous “no.” Given these decisions, as Chair of the Faculty Senate, I explored a vote of no confidence in the current Board of Regents. This included asking the Senate Leadership Committee to endorse this

action. Although a majority of the SLC supported this, the 6 to 4 vote that resulted is not a clear mandate. After reviewing the comments shared in the meeting and a better night's sleep than I expected, I made the decision NOT to send the poll. Here is my reasoning:

Owing to service on the Regents Student Success Committee (RSSC), I had the chance to visit with Regents Mitchell and Hutchinson after the RSSC met on 12.1.17. Natalie Kellner shared with them the nature of the discussion we had in the SLC, and I noted the outcome of the vote and what we wanted from the search process – the best person for the job. After some thought, I came to the conclusion that the best way to do this was to work to get as much faculty input into the process, and I made a pitch to them, “help me get to a place where I don’t send the poll.” In doing so, I asked them for 3 things:

- A renewed commitment for face to face meetings with staff, students, and Senators/SLC when the candidates are on campus. Statue does NOT require this, and these meetings are the best way for all of campus to meet the candidates and ask relevant questions. I specifically noted the SLC would want to have a face to face meeting with the SLC.
- Shared governance will be prominent in the position posting.
- A renewed commitment of the SC and BoR to REALLY listen to faculty. We have one faculty member on the committee, and I will remind this person of the importance of this person’s role to represent the Faculty and Faculty Senate.

Regents Mitchell and Hutchinson gave me these commitments, and in a phone call I had with Chair Hicks, she also assured me of their commitment. Put simply, I think we have a better chance to influence the process by staying engaged as opposed to pursuing the vote of no confidence. If they deviate from these commitments, I would again have a discussion about again pursuing the vote of no confidence.

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