

NMSU FACULTY SENATE CHAIR REPORT—DECEMBER 2018 ACTIVITY

Submitted January 4th, 2019 by Becky Corran

Assignment Advisory Group (AAG) meeting

- AAG did not meet in December (because the UAC meeting was cancelled.) When AAG is cancelled or conducted electronically, the Vice-Chair and I will use this time as an informal meeting with the President and/or Provost.
- While the AAG did not meet in December, we did review (electronically) items for initial consideration in January include:
 - On the Administrative Track: Facility Space Utilization, ARP 3.25 on Discrimination, Harassment and Misconduct, Ineligibility for Rehire Status
 - On the Academic Track: Revisions to ARP 4.81-B (Approval processes for academic programs of study) and Revisions to ARP 10.60 (Faculty Grievance process revisions.)

Associate Deans Council (ADC) meeting, Tuesday, December 18th, 2018

- ADC did not meet in December 2018.

University Administrative Council (UAC)

- UAC did not meet in December 2018.

Board of Regents (BoR) meeting, December 7th, 2018

- You can see the BoR packet for the meeting here: <https://regents.nmsu.edu/files/2018/12/BOR-Binder-Dec-07-2018-for-web-and-email.pdf>
- The BoR considered a number of items for approval:
 - The new Bachelor of Cyber Security was approved. There was some (brief) discussion regarding the perceived lack of experiential learning in the degree, and some regents expressed they thought any new degree had to include this before they'd approve it. (This seems like a misunderstanding from our discussions last year....but the degree was approved, and I briefed the President and Provost on our proposition.)
 - The BoR looked at the "Budget Adjustment Requests" for 2018-19. This was taken off the Consent agenda and discussed more in-depth, especially given the scholarship issue.
 - Considerations of the Faculty Senate: our memorial regarding the recording of the Regents' committee meetings was well received by the Board. It presents some logistical challenges (as they are not typically able to have the meetings in places that are wired for that) but seem committed to overcoming that potential barrier.
 - An NMSU Online tuition structure was discussed and approved. There was clear pressure from the Board to grow online programs as much as we can.
 - AS-NMSU proposed a change in the requirements for their scholarship eligibility (to enable students who have a 2.5 and up to be eligible.) After much discussion, this was approved.

Other items and activities

- I was invited (along with Faculty Senate Chairs from across NM) to meet with Governor-Elect Lujan-Grisham's transition team for higher education. The topics I emphasized (more in my follow up comments than in the brief meeting) were faculty salaries, regents' role in governance and regents selection, diversity and equity and robust community college partnerships. In the meeting, the most discussed item was shared governance as it relates to the Boards of Regents (of particular concern for UNM and NMSU.) My sense is that the transition team heard a number of "earfuls" related to this topic, and so the Governor has created a committee/process for Regents vetting. (<https://www.abqjournal.com/1262240/carruthers-ramo-to-help-oversee-nm-regent-selection.html>)

- Beyond reporting, into editorial comment: while I'm glad this process has some additional vetters/discussion at this moment, it is still a highly politicized process in our constitution. I hope that we can find/support bills in the upcoming legislature that change the process systematically to make it more thoughtful and less political. (Please see these three pre-filed legislative items regarding regent appointment: [SJR 5](#), [SJR 6](#) and [SJR 7](#))
- Mary and I met with Drs. Floros and Mason on December 19th, and discussed several items and the potential areas for more discussion, in particular:
 - Small course cancellation: what are the problems we are trying to solve? What data and other info do we need in figuring this problem out?
 - The strategic plan, in particular faculty productivity discussions: what data are already available related to this topic? If we were implementing a merit-based salary determination, what would go into that? Do we already have some data? Do departments/colleges use it?
- I represented the Faculty Senate at both the hooding and graduation ceremonies, which was delightful. A particularly amazing moment was Dr. Devasthali's speech at the doctoral hooding ceremony, that included a very compelling, heartfelt discussion on the vibrant, critical role of immigrants in our country and university.

Thank you for your continued investment in the work of the NMSU Faculty Senate. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please email me at bcorran@nmsu.edu or call 575.528.7033.