

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Report
April 2019

1. In the March meetings of ADAC, agenda items included:

- a. **NMSU Regulations-Graduate Degrees:** Edits to the Graduate Degrees section of the catalog were presented. Specific sections edited were Program of Study (for master's degree, specialist in education, and doctoral degrees), Finalizing the Master's Thesis and Finalizing the Doctoral Dissertation (with reference to the change to electronic submissions). Programs of study are to be submitted after completion of one year (rather than after 12 credits) but only for those programs that do not have a degree audit. In addition, students meeting the final exam qualifications for the doctoral degree must be enrolled in a minimum of one credit in order to defend; the exam fee has been eliminated.
- b. **NMSU Regulations-Undergraduate Minor:** K. Plank introduced changes with respect to the number of credits in an undergraduate minor that must be earned at NMSU and a statement that minors cannot be earned after the degree has been conferred. The catalog specifies that at least 12 credits are to be completed at NMSU, a more demanding requirement than for the major. Majors and minors should not share the same code. Some of this language is from the policy so changes would require a change in policy.

After considerable discussion, the following language was approved:

An undergraduate minor consists of 18 credits of course work, of which 9 credits must be upper division (300-499). A minor encompasses courses that may be in a single department or interdisciplinary and are in a recognized field of study outside the student's declared major. At least 9 upper division credits of the minor must be completed at NMSU. Additional requirements for minors are specified in the college and department's designated sections of this catalog. Minors cannot be earned after the degree has been conferred.

2. Deactivation/removal of concentrations in Plant and Environmental Sciences (PES)

PES wants to deactivate concentrations in crop consulting and general agronomy in the agronomy major. The packet includes proposed communication with the students. There are very few students. There needs to be a teach-out plan for any students who have declared the concentration.

3. Borderlands and Ethnic Studies Graduate Certificate

This proposal for a graduate certificate is coming from the Criminal Justice Department. It is being reviewed by Scholastic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate. The program will be open to students from all colleges and can be completed in 4 semesters, possibly less. The intent is to offer it online and face-to-face. It can be seen as diversity training (professional development) and could assist with training teachers. Ethnic studies programs are reported to contribute to improved attendance and retention in high schools. UNM has provided a letter of support. UTEP has started an online program. LCPS wants to implement ethnic studies. There is also discussion

with Gadsden and Hatch Valley Schools. The state of Texas has a mandate to implement an ethnic studies curriculum. The advisory council for this program includes 15-17 faculty members. Borderlands is in the title because many ethnic studies programs are established in a particular context. Borderlands can include more than the US-Mexico border and may be metaphorical as well as geographic. Questions were raised about the focus on critical theory and decolonization and whether alternative perspectives will be part of the curriculum. The presenters indicated that they are trying to get past identity politics toward a generative, healing approach. This proposal has been reviewed by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and by the Graduate Council. Dean Cifuentes has offered some GA support. The courses and the prefix have not yet been created for this certificate. Should existing courses be used at this stage and then modified later? Once courses are approved they can be substituted in the near term until the certificate is formally modified. If special topics courses are included in the curriculum, perhaps these should carry a subtitle so that the content is clear.

It was noted that this certificate cannot be transcribed until all approvals (internal and state-level) have been received and the program has been created in Banner / published in Catalog. That will not happen for the proposed start term of Fall 2019.”

4. NM General Education Common Core Certificate

This certificate is offered by the NMSU community colleges and was brought for discussion and a vote. It has been approved by the community college vice presidents. The inactivation applies to the system. Susan Wood from Dona Ana Community College noted that they no longer have a common core and the certificate does not lead to gainful employment so it is not clear how it serves students. It is mainly earned by dual enrollment students. All courses will continue to be available to students who have declared for the certificate.

5. Shelly Stovall reported that HLC Criteria Teams will be forming again in anticipation of the next accreditation report.

6. College of Education proposed four alternative licensure certificates:

- a. Special Education
- b. Secondary Education
- c. Elementary Education
- d. Early Childhood Education

The college is also proposing a master’s degree in Education plus licensure for Early Childhood Education.

7. Roundtable reports:

- a. The Center for Community Analysis has been moved to Shelly Stovall’s office and is on Kellogg grant funding. She will be meeting with SPA, Grants and Contracts and the Foundation and is wondering if others have had particular grant challenges that they can share with her.

- b. A task force is looking at the quality metric for online teaching with the possibility of distinguishing between synchronous and asynchronous online teaching. A possible recommendation is that each college develops a certification process for online teaching. QM assigns points to components, some of which relate to teaching in general and others to online teaching. An issue is what certification means and whether there should be levels of certification, say for first time online teachers and those who are more experienced.
- c. GA allocations have been distributed to the colleges with a request to provide adjustments to the Graduate School. Electronic submission of theses and dissertations is moving forward successfully. The Graduate School will also be piloting an orientation session for graduate students later this month. Finally, the Graduate School is still seeking to have faculty advisors identified.