

NMSU Faculty Senate Vice-Chair Report–December 2020 Activity Submitted by Susan E. Beck

Associate Deans Academic Council

Dates: December 14, 2020

Ad Astra: Patrick Cain demonstrated the new platform (app.adastra.live), highlighting new features. He also went over data and other metrics that will assist colleges with summer scheduling decisions.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL): Shelly Stovall and others are ready to move forward with arrangements and a policy for CPL. She walked the group through the CPL proposal requested feedback.

Transfer credits for 2nd degree seeking students: Jennifer Hodges presented proposed catalog language about how a student enrolled at NMSU is eligible to graduate with a second degree. Practices vary. The new proposed language seeks to be more explicit so that any student can understand what is expected for them to earn a second bachelor's degree. There was much discussion among ADAC members about how the proposed language would impact their college.

Reporting academic misconduct: As of December 1, 2020, Terry Keller will no longer serve as the Academic Conduct Officer. Roseanne Bensley and Patrick Turner will handle this process and academic misconduct. The academic misconduct form is at concerns.nmsu.edu

General Education Course Certification Committee

Dates: December 4, 2020

The committee certified several lower level undergraduate courses and these will be sent to the state level committee, New Mexico Curriculum and Articulation Committee (NMCAC). David Smith is our institution's representative. In Spring 2021 the committee will redefine and refine process to recertify VWW courses and draw up a schedule. The last full re-certification of VWW courses was spring 2000.

University Program Approval Committee

Dates: December 15, 2020

This was UPAC's first meeting and it is still in the nascent phase. The committee discussed its role and processes. Some of these include: carefully examining new program proposals before these are sent on to the state level; performing a cost-benefit analysis; funding potential for graduate assistants; establishing metrics and indicators in advance to determine whether the program achieved its stated goals for sustainability; filling the market gap and student demand; using recently acquired data analysis tools from Gray Associates and CourseLeaf to forecast demand and track program changes and requests; proposals need to include a clear statement of program-level learning outcomes, should describe space and equipment constraints, provide for feasibility of articulation of Branch campuses academic programs with baccalaureate programs; note necessary library resources to support faculty and students (even when not currently available). New programs must align with LEADS 2025 goals, mission and institutional priorities.

The committee will review revised programs as well as new ones. Program revisions can occur due to changes in requirements, CIP Codes, or course changes. UPAC will be focused on the modification requests that adjust requirements as it could lead to hiring or faculty changes. All new concentration requests will also need to be approved by UPAC.

Insofar as program learning outcomes vs. student learning outcomes (SLOs) HLC accreditation requires Program Learning Outcomes. The committee will not be determining the Student Learning Outcomes. Faculty will be left with the responsibility to ensure their curriculum and SLOs lead to completion of the Program Learning Outcomes and road map.

Beginning spring 2021, UPAC will meet regularly and coordinate its meeting dates based on New Mexico HED due dates and NMSU BOR meetings.

A powerpoint describing the initial work of the committee that was presented on January 12, 2021 at the Academic Department Heads and Faculty Supervisors meeting is available at <https://provost.nmsu.edu/committees/upac/UPAC-Intro-Overview-1-12-21.pdf>

I made very brief and on-the-fly notes from this meeting. You will find them here.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zZ4kgR5dJJzY8dtfM7HLu3NBS7Fr3xLrwrJHKi8p85I/edit?usp=sharing>