

NMSU Faculty Senate Chair Report

Report for March 2020, by Julia Parra

Academic Deans' Council (ADC) meeting/s

Key Topics:

- Change in summer course funding model
- Ad Astra Course analysis
- Dashboard tool for DFW courses was demoed
- Data analysts pool is developed

University Administrative Council (UAC) meetings

See the [University Administrative Council](#) site for UAC information and minutes that have much more information. A few notes:

- Policy edits under review. Input is requested, see my office hours for additional information.
 - New ARP 6.87 - Establishing an Alternative Work Arrangement: instigated by COVID-19.
 - ARP 7.65 - Reductions in Force: under review for revisions.
- A Proactive Capital Master Plan is underway with Luis Campos.
- Norma noted the importance of getting 2-factor authentication taken care of, and noted that UTEP was down for 4-5 days with a cybersecurity breach.

Board of Regents Meeting/s

See the [Regent Meetings site for notices, agendas, binders](#).

- This was a hybrid meeting with most of the Board of Regents and some University Officials in person.
- New Regents: Neal Bitsie, Christopher T. Saucedo
- Elections: New Chair: Ammu Devasthali, New Vice Chair: Dina Chacón-Reitzel
- New Employee Council Chair: Joseph Almaguer
- Update on Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities (see [related article](#))

Other items and activities

- **REPS NEEDED!**
 - 1-year housing committee
 - ICT Futures Org Structure and Work Environment with Gena Jones
- **Budget:** Legislative session turned out to be good for NMSU budget. Swap was reversed, .5% increase in new money, 1.5% approved for compensation, ERB augmented, lottery 100 million placeholder...
- **Weekly Rapid Response Team aka Pandemic Action Team:** Reminders: continue to email me or Michael Mapp with your questions, issues, concerns; NOTE the site for 2021 - <https://now.nmsu.edu/>
 - There is planning for in-person Spring 2021 commencement in addition to the virtual commencement.
 - All NM residents 16+ eligible for vaccine starting Monday
 - Faculty concerns discussed especially regarding class sizes, the concern of hyflex and that faculty would rather teach a class all in person or all online, need to work on being able to pivot without extreme stress.
 - Related to research planning, it has leveled off to about 300 who are in communication regarding being in Phase 3 research plan.

Thank you for your continued investment in the work of the [NMSU Faculty Senate](#). If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please email Julia Parra at juparra@nmsu.edu or call 575.646-1767; or email Susan Beck at susabeck@nmsu.edu or call at 575-640-0072.

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- **Goal 4: ICT Futures:** Many retirements led to this endeavor. There are sub-teams. We started by considering the question: If ICT could best serve and support the NMSU system, what would be needed to get there?
- **Faculty Town Halls:** Send me your thoughts for Fall 2021.
- **Academic Service Fee Meeting:** Discussed the need to do more for transparency and curation for students to better see and understand the fees. Discussed Academic Technology Fee - "To cover the costs associated with this technological shift, NMSU is proposing to change the distance education course delivery fee from \$35 per credit, applied only to online and hybrid courses, to an academic service fee of \$20 per credit, applied to an expanded list of courses." I will do an informal survey during our meeting.
- **AAG Meeting:** We are reviewing and revising the Policy of Policies.
- **Parra Senate Chair Office Hours aka Lunch w/ Julz:** Wednesdays 12-1:00, [Zoom link](#), email me if you need the link or phone information. Of note, for April 7, I will have a guest, Vandeen McKenzie to discuss issues related to capturing student attendance in the first two weeks of class. I am also adding an additional lunch hour next week on Tuesday April 6, 12-1pm to get your thoughts on the policy items currently under review in UAC. Go to the bottom of the NMSU ARP site <https://arp.nmsu.edu/> and click UGC SharePoint Site to review the items and let's discuss!

Next Meetings

The last full senate meeting for Spring 2021 is:
Thursday, May 6, 4:00-5:30

Committees/April Meetings:

Scholastic Affairs: April 8, 4:00-5:00
Long Range Planning: April 8, 4:00-5:00
Faculty Affairs: April 13, 4:00-5:00
University Affairs: April 15, 4:00-5:00

Senate Leadership: April 29, 4:00-5:00

Of note, there is a calendar on the [NMSU Faculty Senate](#) site but you need to be logged in to your VPN. Any committee chair needing help with Zoom, please contact me. I am happy to host for you.

All meetings start at 4pm and will be held virtually in Zoom for Spring 2021. The 3:30 start time noted is for the use of technology and if possible, join the meeting 5-10 minutes early to test your access.

Senators, when you enter meetings, please open your Participants and Chat boxes, hover by your name in the Participants box and rename to include Senator to the beginning of your name. You can do this with the rename feature next to your name in the Participants box.

Anyone coming in with a phone number, please identify yourself and get help editing your name. Also, guests, please make sure you attend using your full name. If needed, hover by your name in the Participants box and rename to include your full name.

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