

The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

Oct. 28, 2025

3-5 P.M.

Virtual | <https://unm.zoom.us/j/95868865375> | Passcode: FACSEN2526

(Pending approval at the Nov. 25, 2025, Faculty Senate Meeting)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Faculty Senate President Roberta Lavin presided. Attendance was recorded on the attendance sheet which can be found in the supporting documents.

1. Approval of the Agenda

President Lavin requested a motion to accept the agenda, and the agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of Sept. 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The September 30 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. President Garnett Stokes Report

President Stokes reported on the following items:

- The office of Research is continuing to offer guidance as we navigate the government shutdown, and faculty can track federal funding updates through their website at research.unm.edu. Another impact of the government shutdown is the potential loss of SNAP benefits, which will impact many students. Reminder that we can help support those students through our support of the Lobo Food Pantry.
- UNM Gives continues through Nov. 30. The marquee event of the campaign is the Salsa Showdown. Congratulations were given to the winner, Colton Newman with UNM's CASAA program.
- Leadership is working on the continued vision of modernizing University Stadium and revitalizing South Campus as a mixed-use district. Capital Outlay funding was received last year for this project. Currently a comprehensive feasibility study is being done that will outline some modernization options for the stadium and exploring opportunities for UNM's role as both an academic and community anchor.
- The president celebrated the 100th anniversary of Homecoming, the week of Sept. 15, 2025.
- A cross-disciplinary team that was led by our Vice Provost, Pamela Cheek, that received a five-year, \$2.7 million grant from NSF to help more students thrive in STEM.

- Vice president for research, Ellen Fisher, has been awarded and honored with a John A. Thornton Memorial Award from ABS, recognizing her groundbreaking contributions to materials chemistry.
- A new display at the airport will showcase UNM as the “Land of Achievement” through highlights of our academics, patient care, research and athletics.
- UNM received a generous legacy building investment from the Santa Fe Performance Foundation for the UNM College of Fine Arts to establish an endowed scholarship student enrichment fund with a focus on students from Santa Fe County and northern New Mexico.
- UNM 2025 Research and Discovery Week starts Nov. 6, showcasing innovation, creativity and the impact of research on our campus.
- The Department of Africana Studies is inviting New Mexicans to help build a living archive of community history through “Tell Us Your Stories.”
- The Board of Trustees have met to begin the Presidential Search process. The hiring firm Isaacson Miller has been selected to conduct the search. It is the same firm used in the 2017 search, as well as other UNM academic searches. The search committee has not yet been formed, but recommendations have been provided, and the board will conduct a special meeting to develop the framework for the committee itself as well as a timeline.

The president then took questions from faculty.

4. UNM Provost's Report

Provost Rodriguez reported on the following items. Data from her presentation can be found in the attached slides.

- Faculty awards were given to faculty identified through tenure and the promotion process who stand out as incredible leaders in the areas of scholarship and creative works by the Provost Advisory Review Committee. Distinguished professors were also recognized at a recent ceremony as the highest ranking of professors. The next cycle of calls for nominations for distinguished professors will be available soon and the deadline for nominations is posted on the provost website.
- Figures for the last cycle of retention, promotion, and tenure were presented.
- Grand Challenges Day occurred on Sept. 12, celebrating Level One Teams.
- The College of Education and Human Sciences collaborated with Albuquerque Public Schools at APS Day, an opportunity for UNM faculty, staff and administrators to connect with APS colleagues in classrooms and support teams through shadowing exercises and other opportunities.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the Predoc Center for Design and Research and the School of Architecture and Planning celebrated their 50th anniversary.
- The provost followed up with enrollment and retention data from the last Faculty Senate meeting regarding the retention data of transfer students. The University will distribute \$1.3 million to the schools and colleges for student retention projects. These are one-time funds to be expended by the end of the fiscal year to address additional course

sections needed with increased enrollment and additional needs around student advisement.

- The provost is assembling a task force to address the goal of doubling our healthcare workforce in the next ten years. This is an inter-campus collaboration with HSC. The provost presented deliverables expected by this task force over the next 18 months.
- The provost is still visiting each college, school and campus. She has identified dates in Taos and Gallup for her next visits. She presented some of the items and themes they have learned from their school and college visits. The provost will be hosting a brunch with branch campus leaders to successfully identify two or three tasks that can be accomplished by June to address these deliverables.

The provost then took questions from faculty.

5. Faculty Senate President Report

President Lavin reported on the following:

- President Lavin thanked faculty for their dedication to shared governance at UNM.
- The Parental Leave Policy for faculty was approved by President Stokes. The policy [can be found here](#).
- The Faculty Senate Chair of CNM reached out to President Lavin to express that the CNM senate passed a resolution in solidarity with UNM's Faculty Senate resolution regarding the Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADC) [approved last April](#). MADC is a national alliance of universities that are committed to defending the academic freedom, shared governance, and institutional autonomy. By aligning with this compact, UNM stands with a lot of other people for free inquiry, integrity, and protection of the faculty voice. CNM reached out to let UNM know that CNM followed our work and used ours as a model.
- A meeting is going to be held bringing together the chairs and leadership of faculty governance, including the Branch Community College Council, Council on Governance, the HSC Council, AF & T, and others, to begin to proactively develop interview questions for the president search. The group will develop a process of collecting faculty input on what would be best questions to ask the candidates and provide this feedback back to the Board of Regents.

6. Presentation from Division for Change and Empowerment (DiCE)

Dr. Assate Zerai, Vice President of the Division for Change and Empowerment presented on the new name change and other initiatives currently happening in DiCE. Slides from Dr. Zerai's presentation are attached.

7. Presentation regarding Title II Changes

Dr. Mary Rice, Associate Professor with Education and Workforce Development, presented information about the changes to Title II and how it will impact course materials accessibility for

students and employees, as well as other forms of digital information. Slides from Dr. Rice's presentation are attached.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Breakout Sessions

Faculty Senate members went into breakout sessions for Faculty Senate priorities under the following topics:

- Research Under Pressure: Funding, Inflation, and the Future of Scholarship
- Campus Safety and Security: Physical and Psychological Well-Being
- Faculty Workforce: Recruitment, Retention, and Compensation
- Workload and Leave Equity Across UNM
- Faculty Governance and Policy Development
- Equity and Cohesion Across Campuses (Main, HSC, Branches)
- Student Success and Academic Support
- Libraries and Knowledge Access in a Digital Era
- Technology and Systems Supporting Faculty and Students
- Faculty and Staff Well-Being: Meeting Basic Needs
- Social Justice Ad Hoc Committee

Notetakers from these breakout sessions will report back to President Lavin and the results will be reviewed at the next Faculty Senate. If you are interested in providing input in any of these topics, please reach out to President Lavin.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.