

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Feb. 25, 2025
3-5 P.M.
ONLINE**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. Faculty Senate President Cris Elder presided. Attendance was recorded on the meeting attendance sheet which can be found in the supporting documents.

1. Approval of the Agenda

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

2. Approval of the Jan. 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The Jan. 28 minutes were approved as presented.

3. President's Report

President Garnett Stokes reported on the following:

- There are many concerns affecting higher education across the country, and the University faces some uncertain times. Some of these were addressed at the State of the University on Feb. 21.
- The legislative session is in place until March 22. There will be more to report at the next Faculty Senate meeting on any final legislation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the President and the Mayor of Albuquerque to revitalize downtown. The School of Law will not be moving downtown, but the University is looking at other ways to support solutions for downtown.
- The UNM Big Give campaign was a 24-hour fundraiser across campus that was very successful.
- Faculty are encouraged to complete the Campus Mobility Survey, which is designed to help make the campuses a safer place for navigation whether cycling, walking, and mobility changes. The survey is open until March 10.
- The University is celebrating its 136th birthday on February 28, which is a great moment of celebration for the University.

4. Provost's Report

A flurry of federal actions has created a changing landscape at the University, which include about 70 executive actions, ten to 15 of which have some direct impact on universities, including the Office of Management and Budget memos, one "dear colleague" letter from the U.S. Department of Education and a set of individual actions within agencies, particularly granting agencies.

Issues around immigration and the status of students and staff on campus and issues around inclusive excellence and DEI. Additionally, issues around research and patient care have arisen. The University has created small watch groups to monitor the federal actions.

Federal government payments were halted and undone through a temporary restraining order. Additionally, there has been a slowdown from certain funding agencies in reviewing and issuing grants, as well as stop work orders.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has changed the rate of modified direct costs from 52.5% to 15%, a base used to calculate Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs for NIH grants. The impact would be \$20 to \$23 million per year. A Declaration to the Attorney General of New Mexico has been provided on the matter. Attorney generals in 22 states have sued in a federal court and a temporary restraining order has been issued against this.

The "Dear Colleague" letter which came from the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education was broadly meant to chill activities within DEI based on various legal claims, based on a set of executive orders. These orders are under a temporary injunction making them ineffective. Currently, the University's position is that we are not doing anything different.

Much of this is occurring day-to-day. With so many rapid changes, [a website](#) has been set up to offer communication on many of these issues. In addition, the university will respond when we see something clearly actionable.

5. Q & A with Provost and President

Attendee questions and discussion was opened by President Stokes and Provost Holloway.

6. Faculty Senate President's Report

- Faculty are encouraged to watch President Stokes' State of the University address.
- Faculty are also encouraged to attend the Research Town Hall, 2025 State of Research, Wednesday, March 12 at 4 p.m.
- The March Faculty Senate meeting will be held in person with a hybrid option on North Campus, Domenici Building Room 2720. Faculty are encouraged to attend in person. Dr. Mike Richards will attend to discuss all the exciting initiatives on North Campus.
- The Faculty Senate is currently collecting nominations for at-large senators as well as for the Academic, Freedom & Tenure (AFT) committee, and Committee on Governance. Please get the word out to colleagues or nominate yourself by emailing unmelect@unm.edu.

- Senators will soon receive a survey for their committee preferences so you can identify your preference for serving on various committees.
- President Elder has been asked to serve on the Employee committee of the five response teams working on the 2025 Federal Actions. She will be serving with Ivan Oleis, Staff Council president, as representation of Faculty and Staff.
- Faculty Senator Nahir Otano Gracia will serve on the inclusive excellence team with Dr. Assata Zerai, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, and Eric Scott, Vice President for Student Affairs.
- The Packs Got Your Back initiative is in the planning stages and will bring people on campus together to support students by passing out snacks and goodies along with some encouraging words for students, staff, and faculty during the second week of March.
- Faculty are encouraged to complete the campus mobility survey which aims to enhance campus infrastructure and policies for walkers, cyclists, and micro mobility users. The survey will gather insight on mobility challenges and opportunities helping UNM identify key issues.
- On March 4, a group will be meeting with the Equitable Access Steering Committee to discuss the implementation of Equitable Access on campus. Equitable Access is an initiative where students will pay a flat fee for their books and materials. Representatives from CU Boulder will discuss the successes and challenges their campus faced with implementing the program. Mark Emmons, Associate Dean of CULLS, will also serve on the committee.

7. Consent Agenda

- Curricula Changes
- Committee Appointments

President Elder requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, and it was unanimously approved as presented. There were no committee appointments at this time.

8. New Graduate Certificate Program

Dr. Chris Lippitt presented the proposed graduate certificate program in Environmental Sensing Data Model. President Elder requested a motion to approve the new program, and the program was approved as presented.

9. Policy C140: Extra Compensation

President Elder requested a motion to approve changes to Policy C140. It was unanimously approved as presented.

10. Public Comment

Nancy Lopez, professor in the Department of Sociology announced the STEM Faculty Fellows Program reception on March 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and invited all interested individuals to attend. (See attached flyer.)

11. Faculty Senate Breakout Groups

Faculty Senate members broke into groups and discussed senate priorities established during the fall Faculty Senate meetings. Output from each breakout group was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.