

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 27, 2024**  
**3:00-5:00 P.M.**  
**ONLINE**

*(Pending approval at the September 24, 2024, Faculty Senate Meeting)*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 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**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of the April 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

The March 26, 2024, minutes were approved.

**3. President's Report**

President Garnett Stokes answered questions posed by Faculty Senators.

- President Stokes has discussed the health care crisis issue with several faculty members, as recruitment and retention are affected by access to healthcare. The President is currently working with the Board of Regents on goals related to the healthcare workforce, including pushing for new growth for College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and the College of Population Health. UNM administration is also working with both the HSC EVP and outside consultants on a business plan and talking with state leaders about what UNM can do, or what investments to make, to help meet the healthcare needs of New Mexico with both state money and other revenue sources.
- The President's August 19 weekly perspective reported some of the requested financial disclosures, while acknowledging that UNM is still working with other fund managers related to permissions and this information will continue to be updated. One big question is who has the responsibility to disclose investment information. While the Board of Regents has authority to set investment policy in general, the Foundation is responsible for raising money in support of UNM's mission and it is unclear where the responsibility lies in decisions regarding disclosure.
- The Board of Regents held a meeting on the Valencia branch campus where President Stokes gave a presentation on free speech. The Speak Up/ Speak Out pamphlet reflects what the University is trying to convey because it attempts to help faculty and students understand what free speech is, including first amendments rights and academic freedom. The pamphlet also includes what is not permissible, such as threats, harassment and inciting violence. Disruptive behavior and civil disobedience are also not permissible and can lead to disciplinary or legal

consequences. The University strives to be content neutral in their approach to free speech, with the goal being empathy and respect.

- The University is beginning the process to determine budget priorities, with the hope that UNM will have more success with RPSP's this year. Many of these requests are built around UNM's 2040 plan. The top priority will be compensation, including an additional 3% for graduate assistants beyond state-related increases, as well as general funding for the University. The hope is that before the legislative session is complete, UNM will know the funding status.
- Other questions were better answered by the provost/senior vice provost, both of whom were unable to attend. Those questions included requirements for the lottery scholarship. In general, to qualify for the lottery scholarship, students must complete 12 credit hours with a GPA of 2.5 or better in their qualifying semester, 30 credit hours in the first year (which includes summer classes) and complete 12 new credit hours each semester for up to 7 semesters. Questions also included how UNM plans to apply non-formula funds that were allocated by the state for this fiscal year. A portion of that money was used for increases to the minimum salaries for Unit 1 and Unit 2 bargaining agreement faculty members. The rest is allocated to the schools/colleges to address equity issues. Academic affairs will receive school/college plans to review and approve. There is ongoing reassessment work to address the funding gap for faculty as compared to similar institutions.
- Finally, President Stokes has named an interim athletic director and will initiate a search for a new athletic director in the coming weeks. Eddie Nunez has accepted a position at the University of Houston, with David Williams replacing him as interim director. In another change in leadership at UNM, Dr. Michael Richards has also been named interim Executive Vice President for HSC, replacing Dr. Douglas Ziedonis who will be on administrative leave until his contract is complete. The change comes at a pivotal point in growing the HSC mission.

#### **4. Faculty Senate President's Report**

Faculty Senate President Cris Elder reported the following:

- Normally, Faculty Senate meetings are held via zoom to allow members to attend who would otherwise have difficulty making it to Albuquerque for an in-person meeting. However, the Senate strives to have one meeting per semester with an in-person component, which will be the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting held at the UNM Student Union Building. Details will be provided by the University Secretary's office as the meeting date approaches.
- Pharmacy services are available for faculty at SHAC. As many faculty have expressed privacy concerns over filling prescriptions at their place of employment, SHAC confirmed there are the same HIPPA guidelines in place as there would be in any other pharmacy.
- SHAC has also seen an increase in student walk-ins asking for excuse notes for missing class due to illness. SHAC does not provide such notes and does not have the capacity to see students who only need the facility for this reason. SHAC is encouraging faculty to inform students that if a note is needed to ask the treating provider for documentation. If a student needs to use SHAC for treatment, they are encouraged to make an appointment.

- The Sarah Bell Brown awards are accepting nominations, which are due September 20, 2024. This award recognizes staff, faculty and students who are examples of social responsiveness and have donated personal time and effort to further UNM's mission, beyond the general scope of their professional/academic assignment. Faculty must be tenure, tenure-track, Clinician Educator or Lecturer to be considered. There is a \$1500 monetary award and a recognition ceremony.
- One of the highest priorities for RPSP funding is obtaining reoccurring funds for graduate students, to include increases in pay. President Elder has also asked the Board of Regents and administration to also consider recurring funds for faculty.
- Many faculty are unfamiliar with FERPA rules and violations. A request to include FERPA training that is tailored to faculty has been made to the Board of Regents and administration.
- Honorary degree nominations open soon and will close on October 17<sup>th</sup> to be considered for Spring awarding.
- Kymm Gauderman, Associate Professor in History, will be giving a Community Engaged Research Lecture on September 12 at George Pearl Hall. Reservations are required and faculty are encouraged to attend.
- Responding to messages in the chat, all Faculty Senate meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month from 3-5pm MT September through April, apart from no meeting December.

## 5. Consent Agenda

Summer 2024 Degree Candidates

Faculty Senate Committee Appointments

The consent agenda was approved for both items.

## 6. Ombuds Services

JoEllen Ransom gave a brief update on the changes to Ombuds Services. Ombuds had previously been three separate offices, one for faculty, one for staff and one for graduate students. Those services are now consolidated into one office. All appointments are confidential, and records are not kept. Faculty can either call or email to make an appointment.

## 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 8. Vote to Close Meeting and Proceed to Closed Session for Faculty Senator Members

A vote to close the meeting was approved

## 9. Closed Session

**10. Vote to Reopen Meeting and Certify that No Actions were taken during the Closed Session**

A vote to reopen the meeting was approved.

**11. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.**