

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2026  
3-5 P.M.**

**In-Person | Domenici Center 2720**

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

*(Pending approval at the April 28, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting)*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 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 Feb. 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

The February 24 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**4. President's Report**

President Garnett S. Stokes reported on the following items:

- The president reported out on the results of the legislative session. The governor approved the FY27 state budget and approved \$1.5 million total budget for the higher education department and institutions statewide, an increase of 6.5%. Recurring funding for UNM increased by 8.2% with significant investments in expanding the healthcare workforce as well as investments in ING funds, instruction and general funding, major capital outlay investments for the School of Medicine, and the athletics program and facilities.
- Government and Community Relations has prepared a [comprehensive report](#) regarding the legislative session outlining the specifics.
- Athletics received funding for the football stadium and area surrounding the stadium to create a destination location. This is a five-year plan with the initial focus on expansion for crowd capacity.
- The legislature also approved the 1% compensation increase, which was an unsure situation throughout the session.
- Phil Hoffman was named the new general manager and CEO of New Mexico PBS, effective April 1.

- Ryan Berryman was announced as the next Vice President and Director of Athletics on March 4.
- The chancellor of UNM Valencia campus has stepped down and Laura Musselwhite, previous Chief Academic Officer, will serve as Interim Chancellor.
- The national search for Provost is underway, and Steve Wickowitz is the leader of the search.
- The presidential search is still underway, and the search is on track. The Board of Regents is in the process of confirming at least five finalists, as required by state law.
- The university was recertified as part of the elected classification community engagement campus. The university was also re-designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research, extended through 2030.
- The Center for Southwest Research received an extraordinary gift from acclaimed Hollywood filmmaker and alumnus, Brian Levant, whose career spanning archive is now housed in Zimmerman Library.
- Distinguished professor Eric Krasnitz was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, a very high distinction related to the work he does as an inventor.
- Ray Hernandez Duran, professor of art history in the College of Fine Arts, was named a Regents professor, another high honor.
- Lobo Lift is a new student initiative to help students get rides around campus. They have already had 1,270 passengers transported. The UNM Bike Valet is another successful program recently started that has had 2,565 total check-ins this fall. So far through March they have had 1,353. Both programs have helped students with transportation challenges.
- The president delivered her last State of the University speech, and this year the format was changed to a panel discussion with her leadership. The discussion can be [found here](#).
- Other recent events include Green Zone training, Lobo Living Room

The president took questions from attendees.

#### **4. Provost's Report**

Provost Barbara Rodriguez reported on the following:

- The UNM Valencia chancellor has stepped down, and Laura Musselwhite has been appointed to interim chancellor. Musselwhite has recruited two senior faculty members to serve as special advisors for internal academic affairs and external academic affairs. An interim dean of instruction has not been appointed. A competitive search will be announced soon.
- The Honors College is celebrating 40 years of Scribendi, a nonprofit, annual print publication produced by UNM Honors College students highlighting undergraduate honors students across 900 institutions around the country.
- The WICHE Annual meeting will be held on campus April 1-3, 2026, with 100 participants from WICHE institutions in the region.
- The Building Environments for Learning, Opportunity, Navigation and Growth (BELONG) Task Force has been launched. The task force will develop a plan to help support

enrollment, advising, curriculum, and support around the expansion of the healthcare workforce initiative. Members of the task force can be found on the attached slides. Recommendations from the task force will be developed by October.

- The AI Steering Committee was launched in February. The committee will provide leadership on many crucial issues surrounding artificial intelligence at UNM, ensuring AI adoption enhances rather than fragments UNM's academic mission and operational effectiveness.
- The Outstanding Professional Achievements for Branch Campus Faculty Members Award is a new award for branch campus faculty. This award was established to recognize recently promoted branch campus members for outstanding professional achievements in research, creative work, community-engaged scholarship, or teaching in their respective career stages.
- United Academics of UNM (UA-UNM) and the UNM Administration have agreed to a successor agreement for Unit 2. Congratulations to the negotiating teams on this significant accomplishment.
- The provost spoke on the significant impacts of emerging technologies, specifically quantum science and the significant federal and state investment and direct relevance to New Mexico's economy.

The provost took questions from attendees.

## **5. Faculty Senate President Report**

President Roberta Lavin reported on the following items:

The [Committee Preference survey](#) is open and available for senators to sign up for committees for next year. Committees are crucial because they ultimately have control over the policies that come to the Faculty Senate for vote. Some committees require faculty senators, but we also encourage the people to sign up for committees that don't require members to be faculty senators.

The Faculty Senate has agreed to revise the Dean's evaluation and are seeking volunteers to be a part of the committee to revise this important evaluation. It is our goal to start the review before next semester, with a goal for a new survey by next year (2027). If you are interested in serving, contact the University Secretary's office at [univsec@unm.edu](mailto:univsec@unm.edu) or Roberta directly.

President Lavin discussed the change to health insurance and the decision of a 13.1% increase in premiums and the removal of GLP-1 for weight management but still covered for diabetes. HR and others are investigating how we support those employees who are currently using GLP-1 for weight management with a goal to provide financial support to those who currently use those drugs.

## **6. College of Nursing and Policy C10 Exception**

President Lavin recused herself from the agenda item due to a conflict of interest. Prast-President Cris Elder lead the discussion.

Past-President Elder addressed the request from Dr. Akshay Sood for an exception to Faculty Handbook [Policy C10: Employment and Advanced Degrees](#). The exception would allow faculty at the lecturer rank to transition to either the Clinician Educator or Tenure Track pathway by enrolling in CON doctoral programs (DNP or PhD). This pathway would help address the nursing faculty shortage in the state.

Currently, five lecturers in the College of Nursing who applied for the doctorate of nurse practice degree. During the application process following their interviews they were told that they cannot apply due to the C10 section 1A. The exception is for the five lecturers who have applied who have already completed the application process, following precedence already set by the college to address the state nursing shortage.

AF&T, COG, and the Operations Committee reviewed the request and were in support of the request. Operations determined the issue should be brought to the full senate. Sever Bordeianu, AF&T chair, also emphasized the importance of administration proactively managing any conflicts of interest that may arise if the exception is granted. He also noted that the precedence set by the college should never have been set because it violates academia.

Student Rebecca Fabian spoke as a representative of the five students who applied. She stated that the program was advertised to them as an opportunity to open access to advanced degrees and it was highly encouraged. The students followed the standard application process. They were asked to draft letters of exception describing how they would mitigate any conflict of interest and provided this letter to the college, after which they received written approval to apply. Fabian stated that afterward they were treated as any other student and followed the process like any other term student. Soon after they were told that because of their lecture status, they were no longer permitted to attend.

Faculty Senate then discussed the proper jurisdiction for this item, and discussion followed regarding the updating of Policy C10 through the Policy Committee, which would be a long-term solution. Past President Elder reaffirmed that this was only a discussion, and not a binding decision from the Faculty Senate to provide decision makers insight on where faculty governance support lies.

It was determined that the decision for exception lies with Executive Vice President Mike Richards, with the recommendations by the three shared faculty governance committees.

Past President Elder then took a vote of support for recommending approval of the exception request. The vote of support was passed with a majority vote.

## **7. Posthumous Degree Request**

Committee Appointment of Due to time constraints the Posthumous Degree Request was tabled for the April agenda.

## **8. Consent Agenda**

- Curricula Changes

The consent agenda was approved as presented by a majority vote.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **10. Breakout Sessions**

Due to lack of time, the breakout groups were asked to provide a short briefing on what was discussed at the last meeting:

**Equity and Cohesiveness Across Campuses:** The group's goal was to gain clarification about the structure of diversity provided at the previous meeting. The group was also working on resources such as award programs available, teaching resources, etc. available on central campus that could also be available to branch campuses. They have also reached out to the Center of Teaching and Learning to discuss and get clarification about what kinds of resources are available to faculty throughout the university, including the branches and the School of Medicine, and what would only serve central campus.

**Campus Climate:** Action items were determined by the group including proposing the development of policy to deal with faculty whose research has been hurt by the sudden funding cuts at the federal level, especially those affecting tenure. This could be modeled after the response during COVID when there was local stewardship thinking.

The second action item was to encourage the Faculty Senate to develop a resolution to urge the president of UNM to ask the legislature for help with funding to support affordability for nursing education. One large issue is the impact on student loans with the redefinition of nursing as not a professional degree. The redefinition goes against state priorities.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO®

# Academic Affairs report to Faculty Senate

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BARBARA RODRÍGUEZ

INTERIM PROVOST AND  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

# Leadership change at UNM-Valencia

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On March 9, Dr. Laura Musselwhite was appointed interim chancellor at UNM-Valencia.

Musselwhite, who has served as dean of instruction at the campus since 2014, was appointed by Interim Provost Rodríguez after the resignation of Sam Dosumu.

Dosumu, who had been chancellor since 2022, will remain on faculty.

A national, competitive search for the next chancellor will be launched in AY2026-27 (exact timing TBD).

# Celebrating 40 years of 'Scribendi'

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*Scribendi* is a nonprofit, annual print publication produced by UNM Honors College students since 1985.

It publishes creative work for undergraduate honors students from across more than 900 institutions around the country.

This spring, UNM is honoring the 40<sup>th</sup> issue with a celebration on Saturday, April 18 at Hodgin Hall.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, ALBUQUERQUE

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP  
FORUM **ANNUAL MEETING**

APRIL 1-3, 2026

**Facing Complexity,**

*Finding Solutions*



## 2026 Forum Annual Meeting Facing Complexity, Finding Solutions

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Academic Leadership Forum – Hosted by UNM Academic Affairs.

100 participants from institutions within the WICHE region: Montana, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington

# BELONG task force launched

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## Taskforce Sponsor

- Barbara Rodríguez, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Co-chairs

- Pamela Cheek, Vice Provost for Student Success
- Jennifer Love, Chief of Staff, Academic Affairs



# BELONG Working Groups 1-2

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## New Student Recruitment and Enrollment Marketing

- **Chair: Dan Garcia, Vice President for Enrollment Management**
- Matt Hulett, AVP of Enrollment Management
- Val Martinez, Director and Reporting Analytics
- Todd Hynson, Registrar and Student Services Officer, Health Sciences Center

## Gen Ed and Service Course Alignment with Health Professions Tracks

- **Chair: Pamela Cheek**
- Peter Fawcett, Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences
- Cristina Takacs, Chair of Biology
- Laura de Lorenzo Barrios, Lecturer III, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Fred Gibbs, Assoc Dean, Univ College, Professor of History
- Erin Krufft-Johnson, CNM
- Brent Pickett, Dean of Instruction, UNM-Los Alamos

# BELONG Working Group 3

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## Student Success and Health Profession Track Student Journey

- **Chair: Ken Cradock, Director, Pre-Health Professions**
- Stephanie Hands, Director, Office of Advising Strategies
- Kevin Schroeder, Interprofessional Education Director, HSC
- Cindy Garcia, Admissions, School of Medicine
- Jeffrey Dubinski-Neesen, Strategic Planner, College of Nursing
- Tina Zuniga, Strategic Support Manager, Vice President for Student Affairs



# BELONG Working Group 4

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## Health Profession Undergraduate Tracks

- **Chair: Shelley McLaughlin, Associate Dean for Health Professions**
- Pam Sedillo, Student Success Manager, College of Public Health
- Marlene Sanchez, Arts & Sciences Advisor
- Teresa Vigil-Baca, MD, School of Medicine
- Krystal Ward, School of Pharmacy
- Valerie Romero-Leggott, Vice Chancellor
- Laura Burton, Executive Director, HSC Rio Rancho



# BELONG Working Group 5

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## Fiscal Modeling

- **Chair: Nicole Dopson, Assistant Vice President for Academic Resource Management**
- Mark Maddaleni, Director, Fiscal Operations, Academic Affairs
- Sushilla Knottenbelt, Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences
- Flo Olguin, Director of Operations, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Regina Dominguez, Associate Director, Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis
- Carolyn Gutierrez, Senior Operations Manager
- Will Mehle, Associate Planning, Campus Capital and Space Planning
- Joe Wrobel, Chief Budget & Facilities Officer, HSC

# AI Steering Committee launched

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In February, a steering committee tasked with providing leadership on many crucial issues surrounding artificial intelligence launched at UNM.

Mark Emmons, dean of the College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, is chairing the committee that will guide UNM's strategy around the responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence across academic, research, and administrative contexts.

This work is essential to ensuring that AI adoption enhances — rather than fragments — UNM's academic mission and operational effectiveness.

Three teams: teaching/learning, research/scholarship, administration/operations

# New award for branch campus faculty

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## The Outstanding Professional Achievements for Branch Campus Faculty Members Award



- established to recognize recently promoted branch campus members for outstanding professional achievements in research, creative work, community-engaged scholarship, or teaching in their respective career stage.
- created to honor and acknowledge the contributions of branch campus faculty members to their fields and the broader communities served by UNM.
- candidates are nominated by the Provost's Advisory Review Committee. Nominations are submitted to the provost, who selects an awardee following a rigorous external review that looks at the quality and impact of candidates' professional achievements.

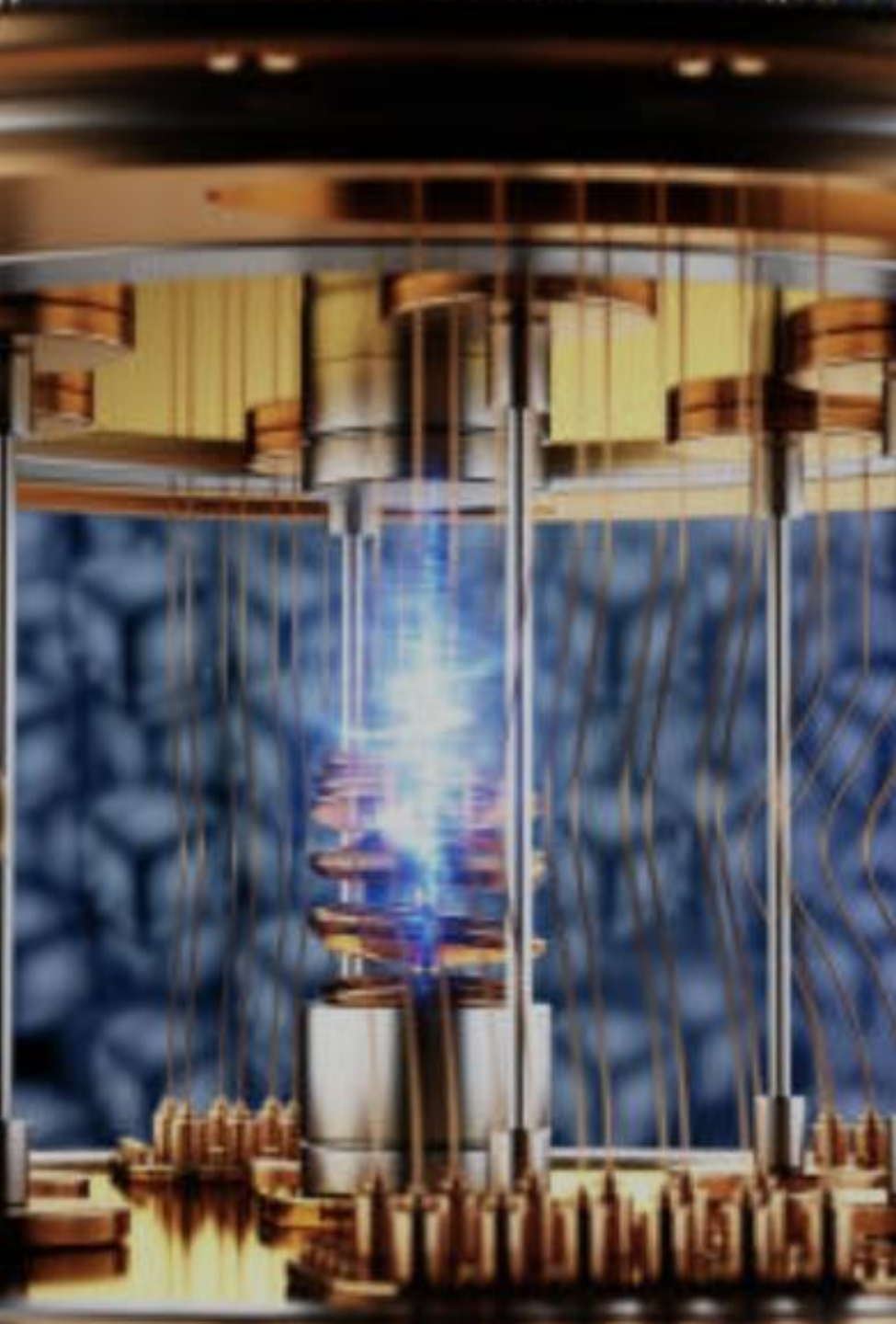
# Unit 2 agreement reached

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United Academics of UNM (UA-UNM) and the UNM Administration have agreed to a successor agreement for Unit 2.

Congratulations to the negotiating teams on this significant accomplishment!



# Emerging Technologies

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Quantum science is a rapidly advancing field with significant federal and state investment and direct relevance to New Mexico's economy.

UNM can play a central role by:

Preparing students for high-demand careers connected to the national labs and technology sector

Expanding research capacity through integrated education and training pathways

Strengthening the university's role as a driver of innovation and economic development in the state and the nation.

# THANK YOU

