

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
Jan. 28, 2025  
3-5 P.M.  
ONLINE**

*(Approved at the Feb. 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 Nov. 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

The Nov. 26 minutes were approved as presented.

**3. President's Report**

President Garnett Stokes reported on the following:

- The state legislative session has begun and is a 60-day session this year. Some large project requests include the Humanities and Social Sciences Complex funding, School of Pharmacy building replacement. Other general legislation up for discussion is hazing legislation and items related to hospitals and healthcare as well as higher education Board of Regents legislation. More updates will be provided at our next Faculty Senate meeting.
- The President will be stepping in as chair for the Council of Presidents, the group of presidents for four-year colleges. This group routinely reports to the Senate Finance and state legislature.
- UNM Day is Jan. 29, and the President will be representing at the Capitol.
- Several appointments have been made since the last Faculty Senate meeting including Mike Richards as the Executive Vice President and CEO for Health Sciences. Dr. Richards was previously serving as interim in this position. The new athletic director was also appointed as well as the selection of a new football coach. Daniel Jones has been elected as new General Council.
- Regent Rob Schwartz stepped down from the Board of Regents in December. The governor has appointed two new Regents- Christina Campos and Patricia Williams.
- Brianna Morales is UNM's first Rhodes Scholar. She graduated in May 2023 from UNM and was a Truman Scholar as well as only one of 32 Rhodes Scholars nationally.

- Several GO Bonds passed in the fall and there are currently renovations to the Duck Pond, which is not funded by GO Bond money.
- UNM was announced a Fullbright Hispanic-Serving Institution Leader for the fourth year in a row, only one of 51 schools in the nation with this distinction.
- UNM Gives Big Give will start in February, an event where people can donate during a 24-hour period to any program, school, or college.
- There is a great deal of uncertainty with federal executive orders and communications that can have a direct impact on faculty and federal funding. Four task forces or groups are being formed to focus on immigration policy, research funding, etc. There will be a legal person serving on each of these groups, and the Provost will identify the leaders of these groups. They are quickly pulling together an assessment of everything that is occurring.

Provost Holloway took questions from faculty regarding the issue of differential tuition.

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

Faculty Senate President Cris Elder reported the following:

- The passing of Dr. Mala Htun was recognized by the senate and her incredible contributions to the University and the Political Science Department. A memorial service is being held for her on Jan. 29. [ABQ Journal Article](#)
- The Sanctuary Campus Working Group, which was instituted about 8 years ago has reconvened. This committee was established to support DACA and undocumented students, their families, and the community. Additional resources were provided to help sharing within our communities and to tamp down any fears, while communicating within our communities. The following resources were also provided:
  - [UNM Sanctuary Campus website](#)
  - <https://fronteristxs.site> (Collective of artists in New Mexico working to end migrant detention and abolish the prison industrial complex.)
  - VIDA: <https://www.abqvida.org> (Volunteers for Immigrants in Detention)
  - Faculty are encouraged to use their personal email addresses, rather than official UNM email, to sign up for or communicate with these entities.
- President Elder had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Mike Richards, Executive Vice President and CEO for Health Sciences. He has agreed to come to a Faculty Senate meeting this semester to discuss some of his goals and priorities. They also discussed RAC opportunities for branch campuses and colleges that don't fall specifically under School of Medicine or Main Campus (College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and Population Health) and Dr. Richards will look into this. President Elder has also discussed this issue with VPR Ellen Fisher.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

- Curricula Changes

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

## **6. Update and Q & A on ISS Initiatives**

Shawna Wolfe, Vice President of Institutional Support Services introduced herself to the senate and presented on the department's current plans and initiatives. [ISS Presentation](#)

## **7. Equitable Access Program**

Lisa Walden, UNM Bookstore Director, and Alicia Solano, Assistant Vice President of ISS, presented on the new Equitable Access Program set to begin Fall 2025. The presenters provided information on how the program will benefit students. [Bookstore Presentation](#)

Jennifer Jordan, Assistant Professor, College of University Libraries and Sciences, provided research on Equitable Access/Automatic Flat-Rate Textbook Billing as well as information on Open Educational Resources (OER). [OER Presentation](#)

## **8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.