

Faculty Senate Policy Committee  
Meeting Notes  
November 13, 2024  
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Ezra Depperman; Michele Head; Subramanian Iyer; Karen Patterson; Svetlana Poroseva

Members Absent: Eve Espey; Meggan Gould

Ex-Officio Present: Nancy Middlebrook, University Secretary; Barbara Rodriguez, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Akshay Sood, Interim HSC Vice President for Faculty Affairs

Staff Present: Candace Lounsbury, Operations Specialist, Office of University Secretary; Carol Stephens, Professional Consultant, Office of University Secretary; Brandon Toensing, Advisor, Office of University Counsel; Vivian Valencia, University Secretary Emerita, Office of University Secretary

**Quorum was met and meeting called to order at 3:02 pm by Vice Chair Karen Pattersen.**

**1. Approvals**

Agenda approved as written. October notes were approved as written.

**2. Updates**

*Operations Committee approval for campus comment periods for D75 and C140*

The Operations Committee voted to approve both D75 “Classroom Conduct” and C140 “Extra Compensation Paid by the University” to go out for a 30-day comment period, which will end November 27, 2024.

**3. Discussion/Action Items**

*Spring 2025 meeting time*

Administrative support for the Policy Committee will send out another poll for the upcoming Spring 2025 term to determine the best possible meeting time.

*Campus Development Advisory Committee charge*

The charge for the Campus Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has been put into the new policy format, as well as changes to membership of the committee. Previously, the committee had a lot of outside membership, with proposed changes to limit membership to faculty only that will allow the committee to function more effectively. The Policy Committee raised several questions regarding the proposed changes, including the inclusion of branch campus locations and the even number of members. University Secretary Nancy Middlebrook said she would pass along the questions to the CDAC chair, in addition to inviting him to a future meeting, to answer the questions. No further action was taken.

*Policy Comments E120 “Effort Reporting”*

This policy changed references to an outdated government document that no longer exists and the comment period on this policy has closed. There were no comments on this change during

the comment period. Policy Committee support staff suggested amending the administrative approvals from the Provost to the President, in line with a majority of policies. The committee approved the changes and voted to move the policy on to the Operations Committee.

*Policy Comments A53 “Development and Approval of Faculty Policies”*

The comment period on this policy recently closed, with the only comment expressing concern regarding the perceived lack of faculty governance input. However, this policy does not remove faculty governance, just allows for an expedited process for required regulation changes. The option for a full review, including campus comment, still exists. The policy was approved and voted to move forward to the Operations Committee.

*Policy Comments C215 “Paid Parental Leave”*

This policy had several comments come back from the camps comment period. Several of the concerns include:

- Specificity of the titles potentially covered by this policy, and those that would not be. Current draft language points to the Office of Academic Personnel website for faculty appointments, but there is concern that the list may change without faculty input.
- Adding Postdoctoral Fellows under paid parental leave coverage. Comments have questioned whether postdoctoral fellows are considered faculty, as well as the temporary nature of their work in conjunction with the amount of time allowed for leave.
- The financial impact of providing paid parental leave to postdoctoral fellows and how that benefit will be paid with grant money was asked repeatedly. While UNM administration has voiced support for the inclusion of postdoctoral fellows, some commenters have called for documentation on how the cost will be covered, either by the departments or by a central fund.
- Lastly, there was some concern over the tenure clock of supervising professors who depend on postdoctoral fellows for research work. There is some proposed language to allow for a petition to extend the tenure clock, however, the committee was unable to discuss the language.
- Minor changes included adding academic leave to count for time worked, mirroring sabbatical leave as well as clarifying the definition of semester.

The proposed changes, as well as the remainder of the comments were tabled for a future meeting, in part to get clarification and documentation from the administration.

*Committee Priorities*

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.**