

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2026
3-5 P.M.**

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

(Pending approval at the February 24, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 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 November 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The November 25 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Faculty Senate President Report

President Roberta Lavin reported on the following items:

- Jonathan Davis-Secord has agreed to serve as the chair of the Faculty Senate Library Committee for the remainder of the academic year. We are grateful for his willingness to provide continuity of leadership.
- Listening sessions for the Provost search are being planned via zoom for the faculty senators as well as a joint session involving the Operations Committee, Academic Freedom and Tenure, and the Council of Governance, tentatively scheduled for Feb. 3.
- Osbourne Pearson has agreed to serve on the Faculty Senate operations committee, replacing a vacant position left by Codruta Soneru, who has left the University. We appreciate his willingness to contribute to the Senate leadership.
- The University is seeking a representative from the Faculty Senate to be a part of the Parking and Transportation Committee. This committee meets four times per year (Jan. 29, April 30, July 30, and Oct. 29). If you are willing to search please reach out to the president or the University Secretary's office.
- The president spoke on the national climate in the wake of events in Minneapolis and recognized UNM leadership for approaching the national landscape with care and deliberation, upholding academic and ethical commitments while maintaining our stability. As a governing body, Faculty Senate must approach policy with care and humility and awareness of the impact of speaking for faculty across all ranks and

appointments and for the student's futures that we shape. We need to remain attentive without being reactive, and to focus our governance energies on matters that directly affect the University and those we represent, and that includes being prepared for future possibilities, while also recognizing when restraint services best.

4. Policy Approval

Faculty Senate Handbook E50 "Export Control" was approved by majority as presented.

5. Social Justice Ad Hoc Committee

Melissa Lehan Mackin, chair, and Nahir Otano Gracia, Social Justice committee member, presented the joint resolution opposing the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education." The resolution was approved by majority as presented.

6. Consent Agenda

- Curricula Changes

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

7. New Undergraduate Certificate Approval

The newly proposed "Curanderismo: Hispanic Concepts of Traditional Healing" certificate was presented by Professor Mario del Angel Guevara, Chicano and Chicana Studies.

The certificate program was approved by majority vote.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Closed Session

At 3:51 p.m., it was moved by FS Liz Hutchison and seconded by FS Ezra Depperman to enter closed session to discuss the review and approval of the 2026 Honorary Degree nominations and was approved by majority vote. Only listed agenda items were discussed in the closed session and in attendance were Faculty Senators, along with support staff Theresa Sherman, University Secretary Nancy Middlebook, and Matthew Borrego, chair of the Honorary Degree Committee and presenter. The nominations were approved by majority vote to be forwarded to the UNM Board of Regents for approval. The closed session adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

10. Breakout Sessions

Faculty Senators broke into working groups to discuss various priorities of Faculty Senate for future initiatives, actions and strategies. No actions were taken during this time and each working group reported out to the full faculty senate.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.