

The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024
3:00-5:00 P.M.
Zoom

(Pending approval at the March 26, 2024, Faculty Senate Meeting)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as revised.

3. Approval of the January 30, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The January 30, 2024, minutes were approved.

4. Consent Agenda

Curricula Changes

Committee Appointments

The consent agenda was approved.

5. President's Report

President Garnett Stokes reported the following.

- UNM Day (UNM's Birthday) is February 28th. UNM is 135 years old.
- The short 30-day legislative session has ended. A trust fund for the Lottery and Opportunity scholarships was established. The governor has until March 6, 2024, to sign any bills. Bills not signed by noon on March 6th are pocket vetoed.
- UNM did get additional new money for the Instructional and General (I&G) part of funding.
- Compensation was a bit of a disappointment. A four percent increase had been proposed but it ended up being three percent.
- What used to be called the junior bill became another mechanism for areas of campus to get funding through. It is intended for 2-year projects.
- Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP)s were not all approved. The legislature is rethinking the method of funding these projects.
- There is a plan to revamp the formula used for higher education funding.
- Two years ago, there were 2-years of funding provided to develop an accredited College of Public Health. It would be a transformation of our current College of Population Health. A College of Public Health would be broader and could be competitive for a lot of funds that are earmarked for Public Health. Three additional years of funding was given to UNM. There are many health issues facing the state of New Mexico. Public Health is focused on prevention and well-being. It is a long-term investment in preventing health issues.
- There was a big push for faculty salaries, particularly at the School of Medicine (SOM).
- SOM faculty salaries and faculty salaries in general is something that UNM will continue to pursue.

- A proposal for a three percent tuition increase with three percent compensation will be going to the Board of Regents (BOR). Last year the BOR did not approve any changes to tuition. It is unclear how the proposal will be viewed by the BOR this year.
- With the changes to the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships, there is a lot of concern about institutions raising tuition. The major change to the Lottery Scholarship is that the summer session can now count for hours and GPA requirements. Traditionally summer hours were not. It will allow more flexibility for the students.
- There has been a change to the way the BOR subcommittees meet. The subcommittees will now meet over a day and a half, two weeks before the full BOR meeting.
- The BOR will also meet as a 'committee of the whole' next Wednesday. It is an opportunity for the regents to discuss really important issues. The two big topics will be the budget for the institution and the integrated campus planning.
- The integrated campus planning document is more than 200 pages. It will go to the BOR in May. More to come as the discussion unfolds.
- UNM has hired a new head football coach; started a new quantum science information institute-the Quantum New Mexico Institute; hired a couple of deans; recognized incredible work by faculty and staff.

6. New Graduate Certificate in Quantum Science & Technology

Associate Professor Victor Acosta, Physics and Astronomy, presented a request for a new graduate certificate in Quantum Science and Technology.

- The motivation is related to the scholarly topic. It is an interdisciplinary curriculum that probes one of the deepest technological questions of our era.
- The certificate is expected to draw graduate students from traditional academic areas.
- It is a broadly inclusive program. There is high demand based on received applications.
- In the last couple of years there have been more than 25 applicants interested in the field. In the physics PhD program there are more than 70 applicants per year. There is growing interest in physics and engineering. The goal is to recruit mainly from New Mexico.

The new certificate was approved.

7. Faculty Senate President's Report

Faculty Senate President Cris Elder presented the following.

- The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) met yesterday. They discussed:
 - Faculty compensation increase of three percent across the board. Another \$1 million for three percent average for the SOM.
 - Discussion of the tiers for health benefits and the amounts.
 - Discussion of increase to health benefits of 16.8%.
 - A tuition increase of 3% was recommended.
 - A tuition differential for the School of Engineering.
- March 26, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting will be held in-person, either in the SUB or the Bobo Room of Hodgkin Hall. There will be snacks provided. The April meeting will be online.
- The committee preference survey has gone out. If your term expires, faculty will need to notify President Elder.
- The nomination period for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, the Committee on Governance, and at-large faculty senators, is open. Please nominate someone or yourself.

8. Employee Engagement Survey

Human Resources Vice President Kevin Stevenson presented the following.

- Yesterday HR launched the employment engagement survey to all faculty and staff.
- There was a similar survey last spring of just staff employees. The results were very useful and insightful.
- This year, the survey is going to all faculty and staff employees.
- UNM is partnering with Gallup. There are thousands of institutions that have taken the same survey so there are many benchmarks to compare to.
- There is a free text question at the end that allows comments.
- Almost 400 regular faculty have already taken the survey across all six campuses.
- Engagement.unm.edu is available for more information.
- Outcomes and results should be completed by the end of the semester.

9. Addition of ARCH 2125: World Architecture II, to the Gen Ed Core

Chairperson Chris Cornelius, School of Architecture and Planning, presented a request to add ARCH 2125: World Architecture II, to the Gen Ed Core.

- The School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) is proposing to add ARCH 2125: World Architecture II, to the Gen Ed Core.
- The course is required for all architecture majors.
- The specific area in the Gen Ed Core that they want to offer ARCH 2125: World Architecture II is the humanities requirement.
- There is more than just architectural history to the course, it includes methodologies for research, how they see architecture and how it applies to them and their own world.
- The course is not a standard survey course. The intention of this course is to make it as inclusive as possible. The time period is from the 1700s forward.

Adding ARCH 2125: World Architecture II, to Gen Ed Core, was approved.

10. Required Higher Education Department (HED) General Education (Gen Ed) Curriculum Changes

Associate Provost for Student Success & Professor of French Pamela Cheek presented the following.

- The NM HED has significant oversight over the General Education program that UNM offers. It has oversight of all the General Education Institutions in the state.
- Between 2017 and the present, out of eagerness to preserve the area numbering and eagerness for descriptors of the areas, UNM did not completely align with the areas that UNM could have conformed to.
- The HED is requiring UNM to make its Gen Ed courses look like the same courses at other institutions, i.e., CNM and NMSU.
- HED requires different numbers and different descriptions, but they are the exact same courses.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

12. Vote to Close Session for Discussion

The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to move into closed session for discussion of student outcomes.

13. Vote to Re-Open Session

The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to re-open the meeting. No action was taken during the closed session.

14. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.