

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Aug. 25, 2026
3-5 P.M.**

In-Person | Domenici Center 2720

Virtual | <https://unm.zoom.us/j/98605348093> | Passcode: FACSEN2627

(Pending approval at the Sept. 29, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3 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 April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The April minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. President's Report

President Steve Goldstein reported on the following items:

- The president introduced himself as this was his first meeting with Faculty Senate, only one month into his presidency. The president reported that he had met with many in our community and appreciated the warmth and wisdom of the community. The president met with Governor Lujan Grisham and Senator Ben Ray Lujan regarding the priorities of higher ed within the state as well as the HED Capital Outlay hearings in the summer.
- The president commended the hard work of and his appreciation for Provost Rodriguez.
- The president has also requested Executive Vice President Teresa Constantinidis and Executive Vice President Mike Richards to stay in their roles.
- The School of Medicine has received an eight-year reaccreditation term from the LCME.
- Our teacher preparation programs earned 2 top A grades from the National Council of Teacher Quality, which was important to the governor.
- The School of Engineering approved the launch of a new bioengineering degree, a new innovative interdisciplinary program they are building.
- The university launched the public phase of the capital campaign and over half of the funds were already raised during the silent phase of the campaign called Accelerate New Mexico. The campaign launches on Sept. 17.

The president took questions from attendees.

4. Provost's Report

Provost Barbara Rodriguez reported on the following:

- Rebecca Sanchez has been selected as the new senior vice provost. Her appointment will begin Sept. 1. She has served as interim associate provost for academic personnel over the last academic year.
- The AI Conversation kickoff is scheduled for Sept. 3. Dean of the Libraries, Mark Emmons, has been chairing the general steering committee around AI since last year. The event will include discussion topics, and importantly, the plan is to seek feedback from the campus community around a draft document that the committee has put together that focuses on a strategic ethical framework for the use of AI.
- Two new Level 2 Grand Challenge teams were announced earlier this summer, Trustworthy AI and Biodiversity Nexus. They will receive slightly over \$200,000 to expand their research programs. both of the teams represent interdisciplinary teams of faculty across campus.
- Two distinguished professors for our central campus faculty were announced. Robert Behrens from the Department of Economics and Melanie Moses from the Department of Computer Sciences.
- The provost was invited to join Nicole Tommy and Paul Edmonds to participate in the APLU Commission on International Initiatives in Mexico City at their summer meeting. The focus of this meeting was really to discuss international research, economic development and deepening partnerships. Her focus is to expand partnerships in the Americas as the University has many faculty whose scholarship brings to bear expertise that we can capitalize on and help support institutions in the Americas, collaborations in the Americas, and provide our students with some really unique opportunities alongside our faculty.
- A Dean's retreat was held early in the summer. The focus of the retreat was with central campus deans. The result of the retreat was more focus on community engagement and the creation of infrastructure to support our faculty, to support our students and support our staff. The Provost will be issuing a memo soon to request input from the campus community around what community engaged scholarship and teaching looks like in their disciplines and how we incorporate what that looks like in the department's tenure and promotion criteria.

Another result from the retreat was telling stories about how UNM transforms lives of students, faculty, staff and patients. The deans discussed how we can utilize the resources that we have to better tell our stories of what we do, and what we do on a daily basis and how what we do really moves the needle, changes how we view a particular problem, or how we solve a particular problem.

- The Provost is planning a similar retreat with the Deans of Instruction at the branch campuses to improve transfer pathways and to ensure curriculum is clear for those transfer pathways. She also intends to discuss how to better communication with the branches as part of the entire university system.

- The Provost will also meet with the branch chancellors on Sept. 17 to engage in discussions regarding government relations, capital projects, real estate, and AI.
- The Provost requested feedback from Faculty Senate on what is most helpful to the Senate in the Provost's report. This feedback will be added to the afternoon's breakout session.

The provost took questions from attendees.

5. New Faculty Senate Orientation Presentation

President-Elect Liz Hutchison presented a training of the structure of faculty governance. The presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website and attached to the minutes.

6. Faculty Senate President's Report

- The president extended a welcome to all new faculty senators, and thanked President Goldstein and Provost Rodriguez for joining the meeting and continuing engagement with Faculty Senate.
- An inquiry was sent to the President's office on behalf of the Faculty Senate president regarding a federal call to action with about seven items. The President's office is monitoring it and is collaborating with Faculty Senate to plan a response.
- New Mexico has changed minimum standards to graduate that are not aligned with university admissions standards. The admissions committee will be reviewing this current policy to develop recommendations.
- There are still a few Faculty Senate committee vacancies that need to be filled, if any faculty are interested or could recommend colleagues.

7. Consent Agenda

- Summer 2026 Degree Candidates
- Committee Appointments

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

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Breakout Sessions

Faculty Senators were split into breakout rooms via zoom to introduce each other and to discuss goals for Faculty Senate this year, as well as brainstorm topics they would like to hear about from the Provost. No action was taken during the breakout sessions.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Last name	First name	Representing	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Allen	Paul	UNM-Taos	P							
Angeli	Eva	School of Medicine	P							
Babicheva	Viktorii	School of Engineering	P							
Baca	Olivia	At-Large	U							
Balwan	Akshu	School of Medicine	U							
Beattie	Penny	College of Nursing	P							
Blankenship	James	School of Medicine	U							
Budhwar	Nitin	School of Medicine	P							
Bunt	Stephanie	School of Architecture + Planning	P							
Burns	James	College of Education and Human Sciences	P							
Busani	Tito	School of Engineering	P							
Caparoso	Deirdre	Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center	P							
Chastain	Jeremy	School of Medicine	P							
Corbin-Swalin	Paula	College of Fine Arts	P							
Cradock	Kenwyn	University College	P							
Dadashi	Andisheh	At-Large	U							
Depperman	Ezra	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Dutra	Paulo	At-Large	P							
Espey	Eve	School of Medicine	U							
Falkowski	Tomas	Honors College	P							
Grubbs	Joshua	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Harsh	Griffith	School of Medicine	P							
Head	Michele	At-Large	P							
Hetrick	Andrea	The James and Gail Ellis School of Business Mgt	P							
Hutchison	Liz	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Islam	Mohammad	At-Large	P							
Izquierdo	Luis	School of Medicine	P							
Jackson	Margaret	College of Fine Arts	U							
Jernigan	Nikki	School of Medicine	U							
Kader	Jacob	College of Fine Arts	P							
Katukuri	Vivek	School of Medicine	P							
Ketcham	Amaris	Honors College								
Knight	Jaime	UNM-Taos	P							
Lassiter	Tracy	UNM-Gallup	P							
Lavin	Roberta	College of Nursing	P							
Lippitt	Cait	College of Arts and Sciences	U							
Lu	Yan	College of Arts and Sciences	U							
Lucas	Joan	UNM-Los Alamos	U							
Maqbool	Baila	School of Medicine	U							
Mera	Jorge	School of Medicine	E							
Miller	Justin	School of Medicine	U							
Murphy	Grace	College of Nursing	P							
Nash	Sarah	School of Medicine	P							
Otaño Gracia	Nahir	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Panikkath	Pramod	School of Medicine	U							
Pearson	Osbjorn	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Pfaff	Lee	School of Medicine	U							
Poroseva	Svetlana	School of Engineering	P							
Ro	Min	UNM-Los Alamos	U							
Saia	Jared	School of Engineering	P							
Savage	David	School of Medicine	P							
Scariano	John	School of Medicine	U							
Sims	Jonathan	UNM-Valencia	U							
Singh	Gurdeep	School of Medicine	U							
Smith	Chad	UNM-Gallup	U							
Son	Hyunsang	The James and Gail Ellis School of Business Mgt	P							
Stark	Cortny	College of Education and Human Sciences	U							
Sturgis	Meshell	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Surbaugh	Holly	College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences	P							
Sweetser	Heather	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Taylor	Andrew	UNM-Valencia	P							
Trott Jaramillo	Elise	College of Population Health	P							
Truehart	Amber	School of Medicine	P							
Ward	Krystal	College of Pharmacy	P							
Wilson	Eli	College of Arts and Sciences	U							
Winder	Samuel	School of Law	P							
Witt	Satya	College of Arts and Sciences	P							
Yang	MingAn	School of Medicine	U							

Faculty and Shared Governance at UNM: An Overview



LIZ HUTCHISON
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT-ELECT, 2026-2027



What this Presentation Does



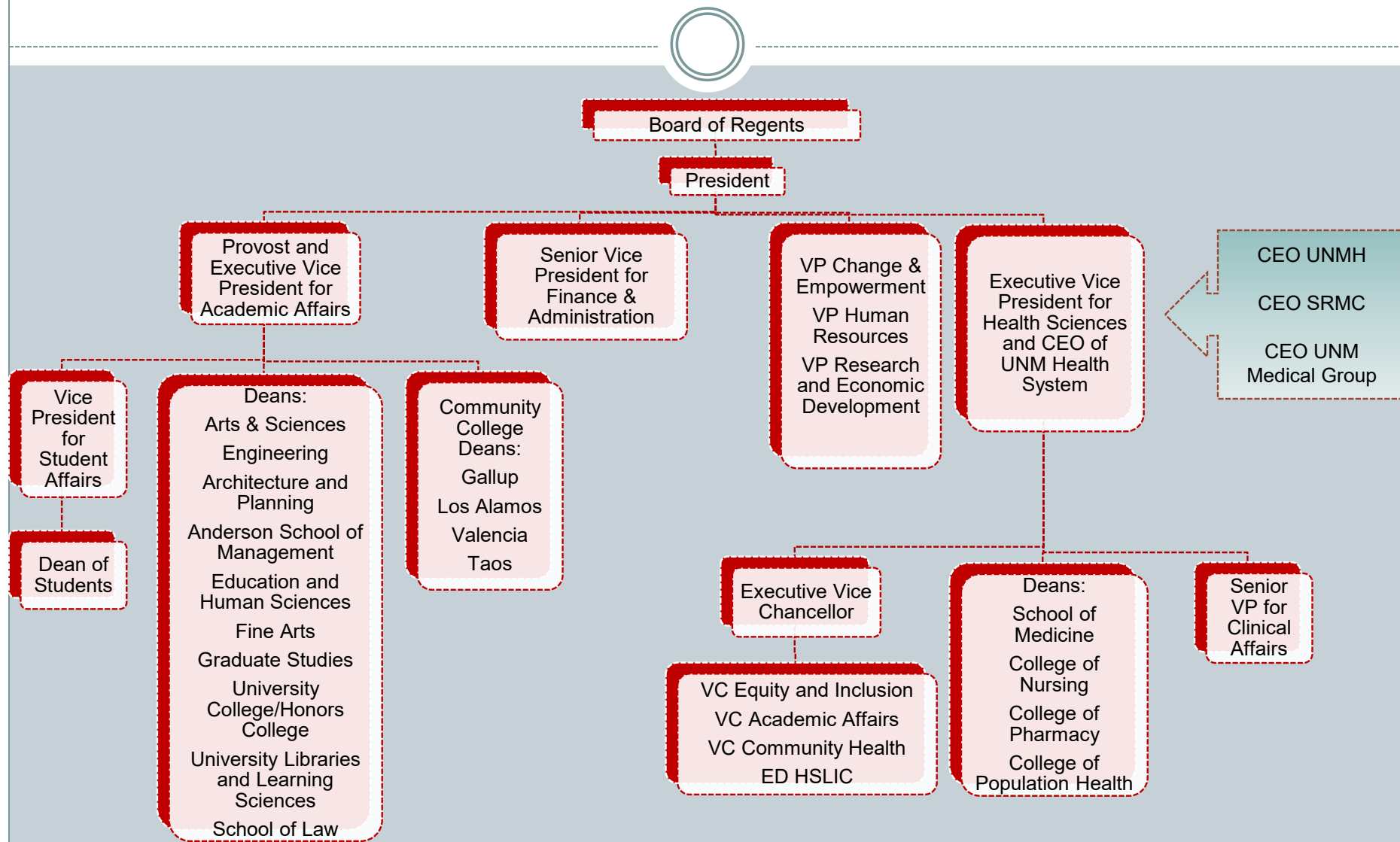
Talks about:

- Governance at UNM
 - Administrative
 - Faculty Governance
 - Shared Governance
- The UNM Policy Landscape
 - Jurisdiction
 - Revision

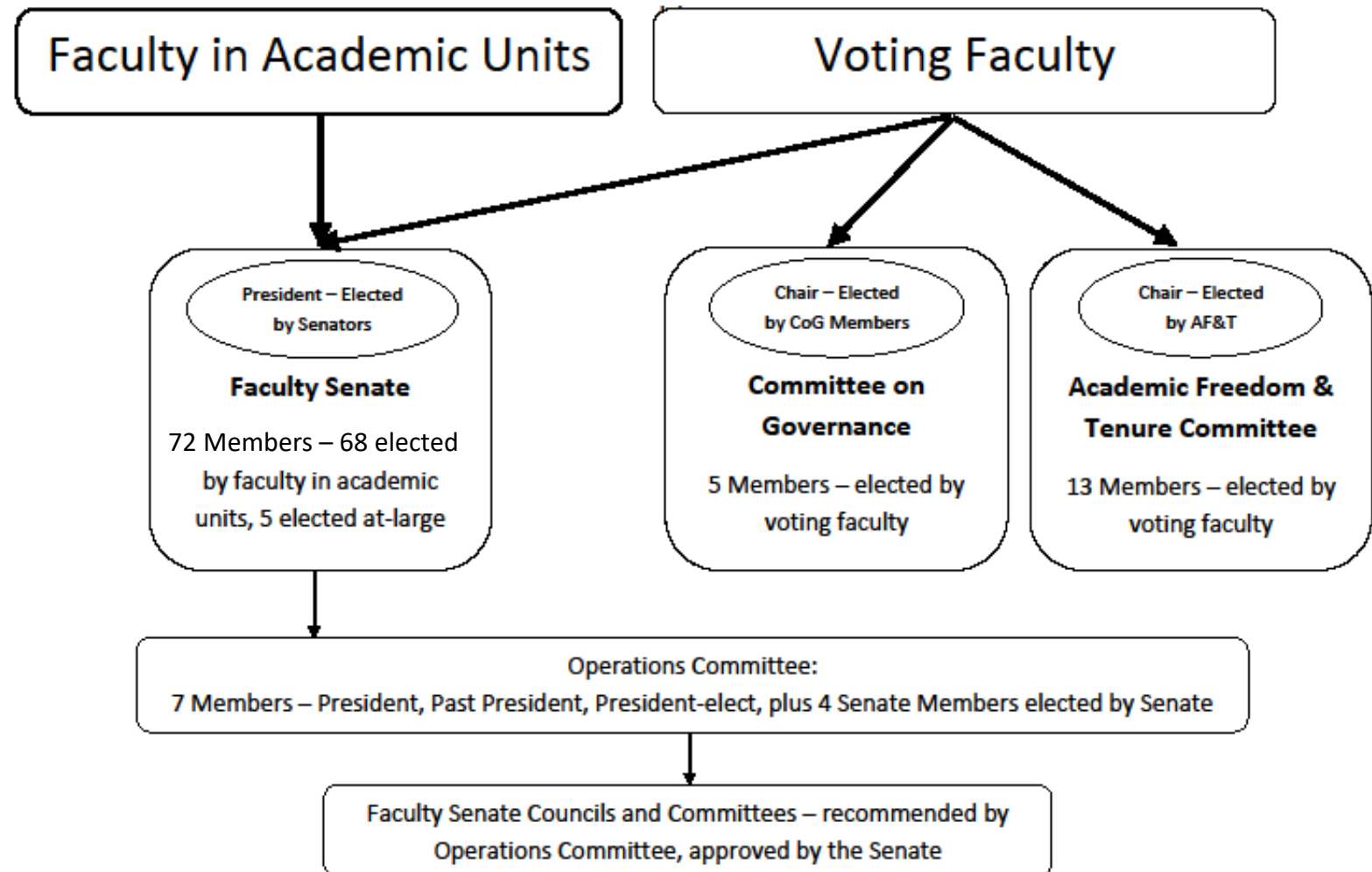
Disclaimers:

- 1) Sources: My service in faculty governance, working on Regents, Administrative, and Faculty policy.
- 2) Credits: This presentation relies on the work of prior faculty governance leaders, approvals from CoG/AF&T/Ops, and the wisdom and support of our University Secretaries.
- 3) Recommendation: Interpretation of university authority and policy in specific cases should be reviewed by the appropriate administrative units and/or elected faculty committees.

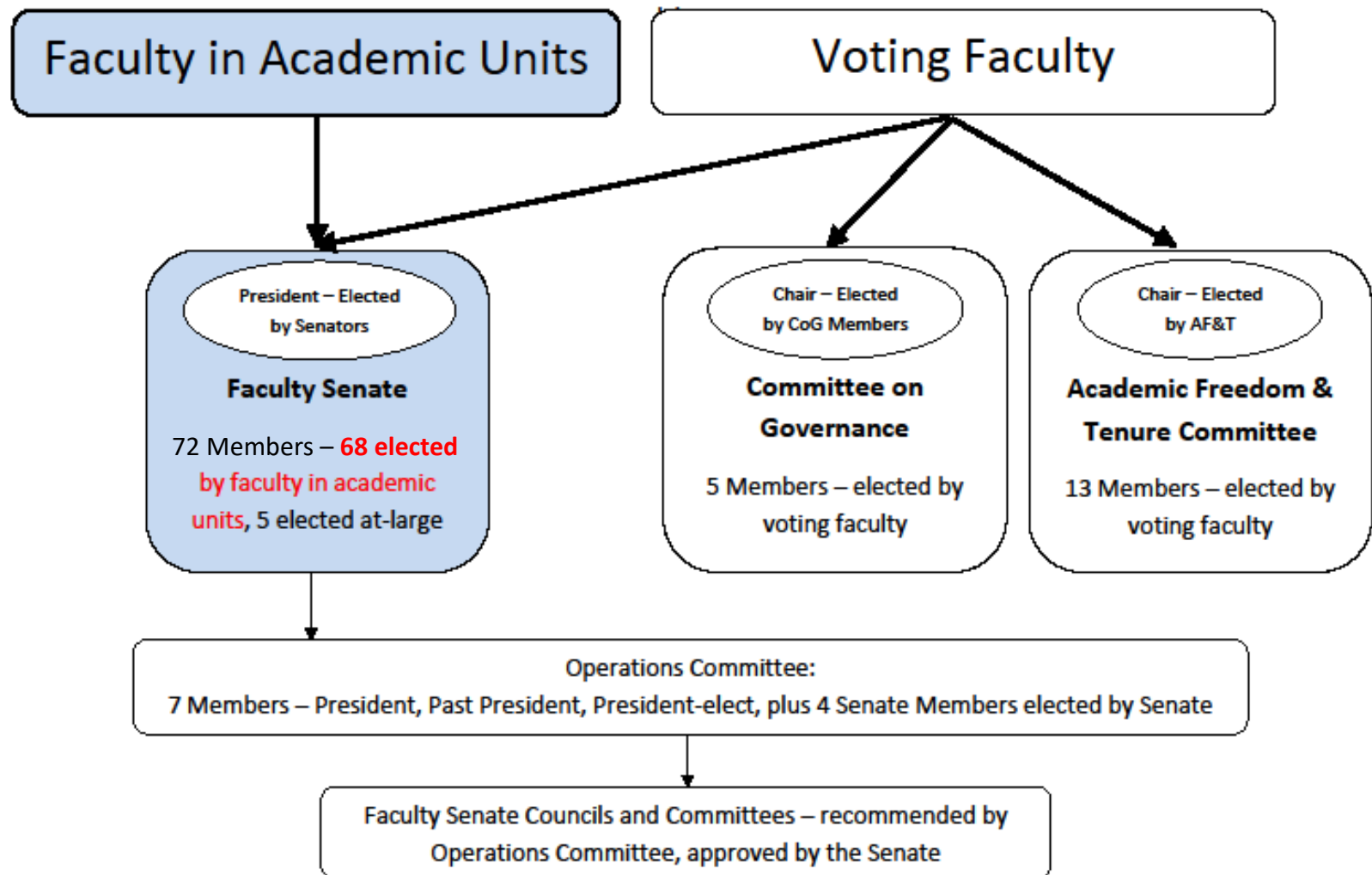
Part I: Governance - Administration



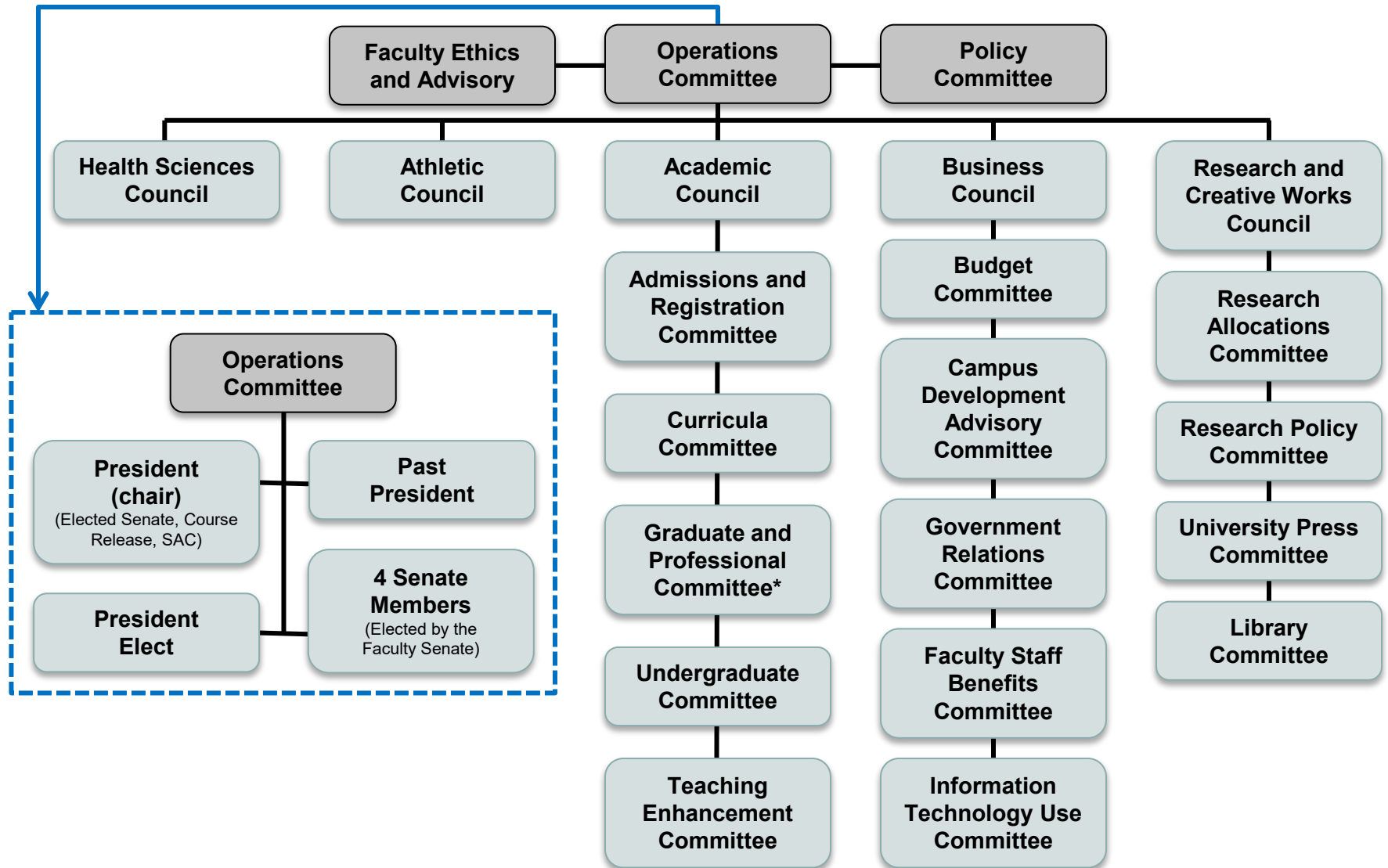
Governance – Faculty



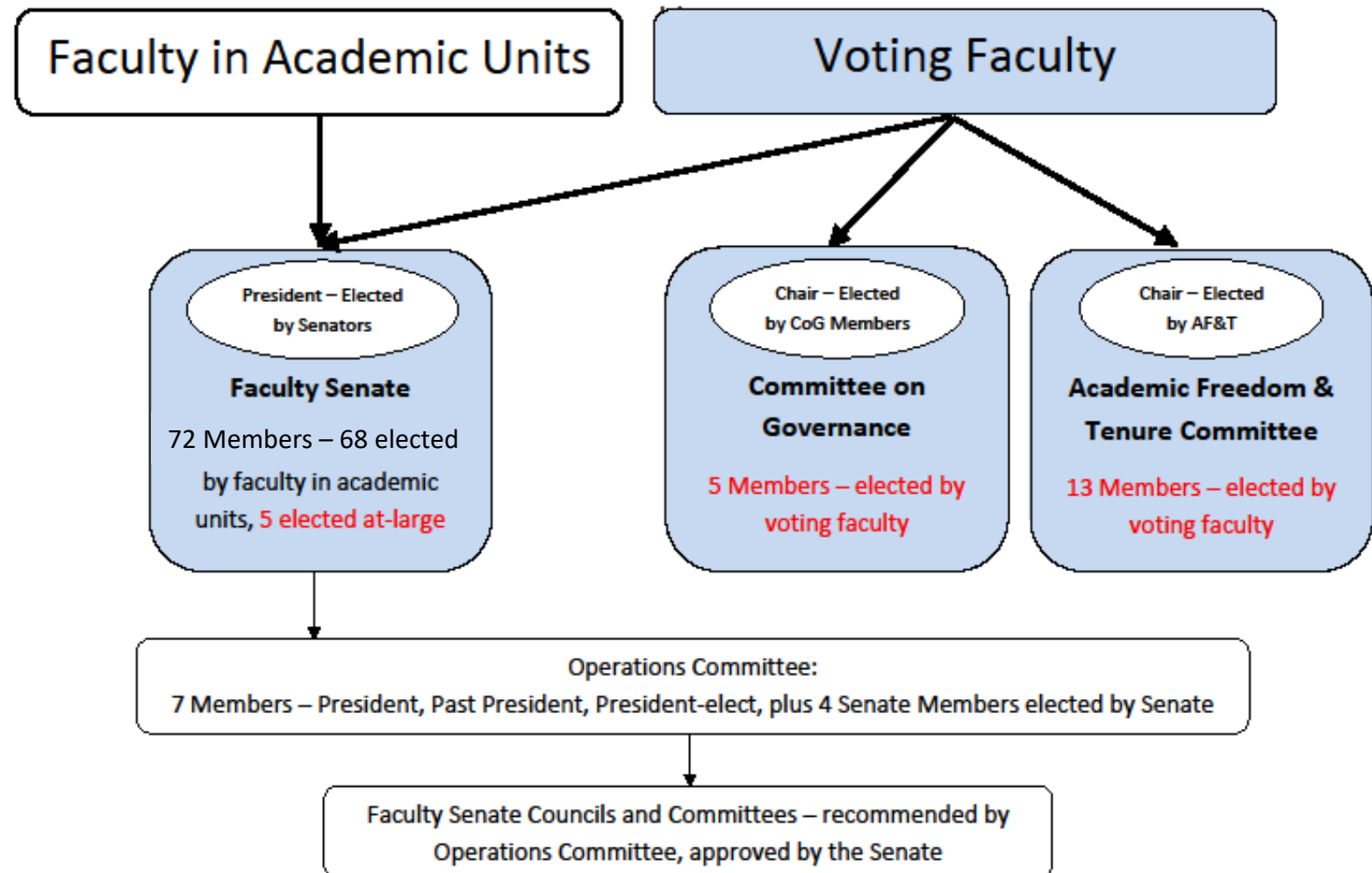
Faculty Representation



The Faculty Senate



Faculty Representation



Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee



- **Membership:** 13 tenured faculty members, elected for 2-year terms. CONFIDENTIAL and NEUTRAL.
- **Jurisdiction:** Anyone engaged in teaching or research on UNM campus, and any complaint linked to “big three”
 - Violation of academic freedom
 - Improper consideration in which a decision on substantive issues was not based upon impartial professional academic judgment and resulted in prejudice to the faculty member
 - Procedural violations of *Faculty Handbook* policies that resulted in prejudice to the faculty member



Origins:

- From Full Faculty to Faculty Senate
- The “Committee of Five”

Responsibilities:

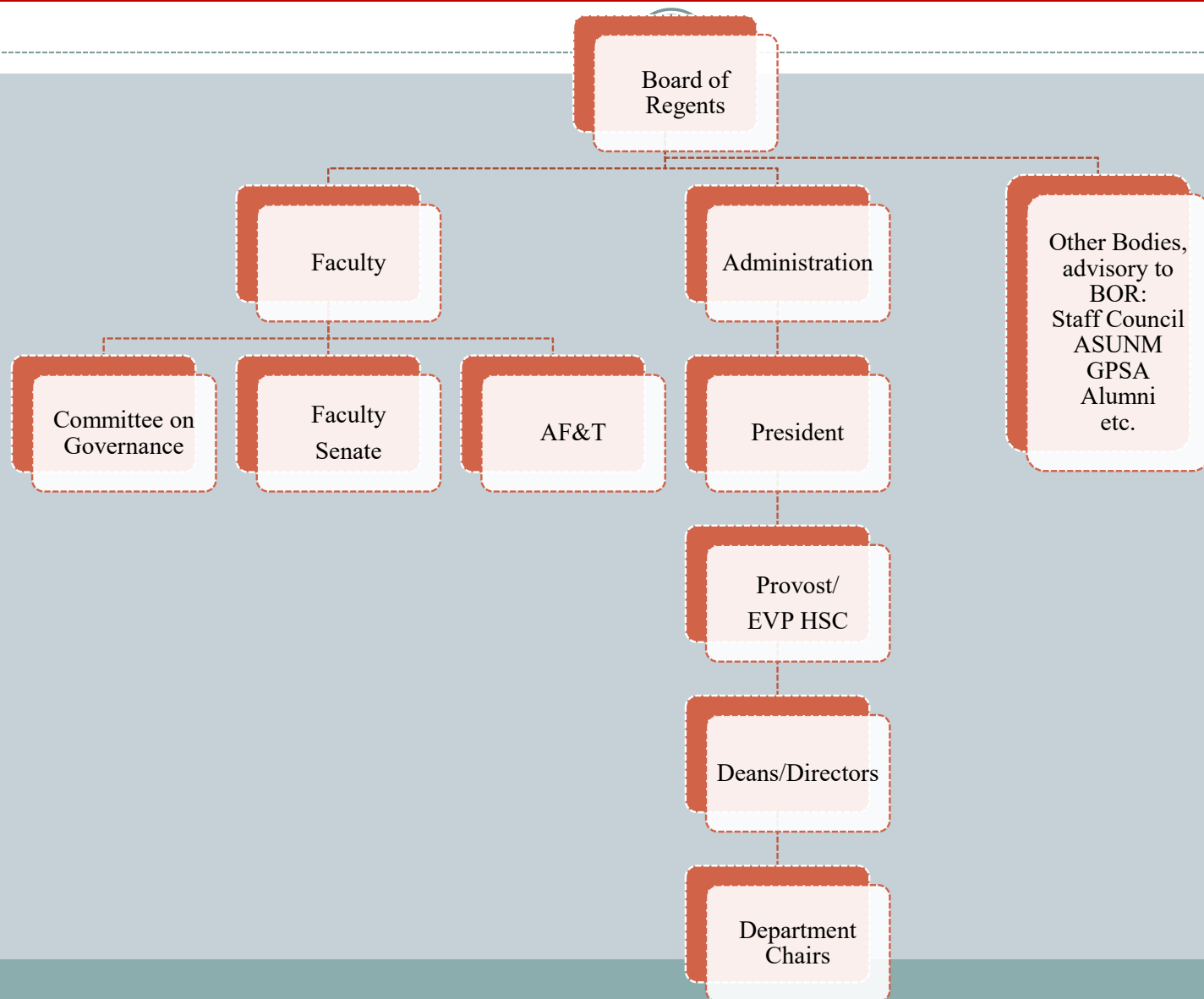
- Elections
- Constitution
- Governance structures
- Senate
- General faculty meetings

Shared Governance: AAUP, 1994

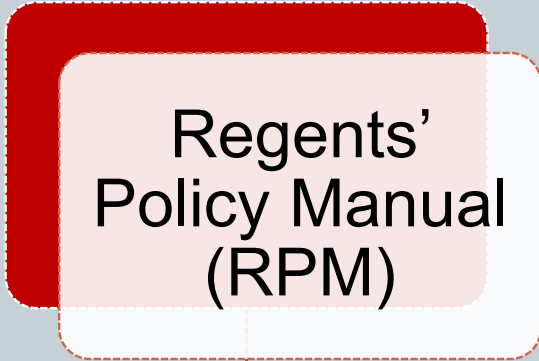


“A good governance system is no guarantee that academic freedom will flourish. **A governance system is merely a structure that allocates authority**, and authority needs to be exercised if even the most appropriate allocation of it is to have its intended effects. Faculty members must be willing to participate in the decision-making processes over which a sound governance system gives them authority. As the Association’s Statement on Professional Ethics says, **faculty members must “accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.”** If they do not, authority will drift away from them, since someone must exercise it, and if members of the faculty do not, others will.”

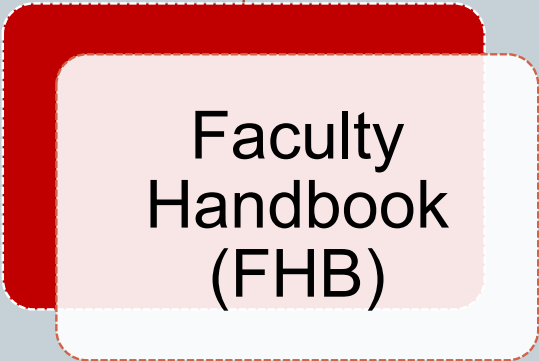
Shared Governance – UNM Structures



Part II: The Policy Landscape

A diagram showing the hierarchy of university policies. At the top is a box for the 'Regents' Policy Manual (RPM). A dashed line connects it to two boxes below: 'Faculty Handbook (FHB)' on the left and 'University Administrative Policies (UAP)' on the right. All boxes have a red header and a light pink body with a dashed border.

Regents'
Policy Manual
(RPM)

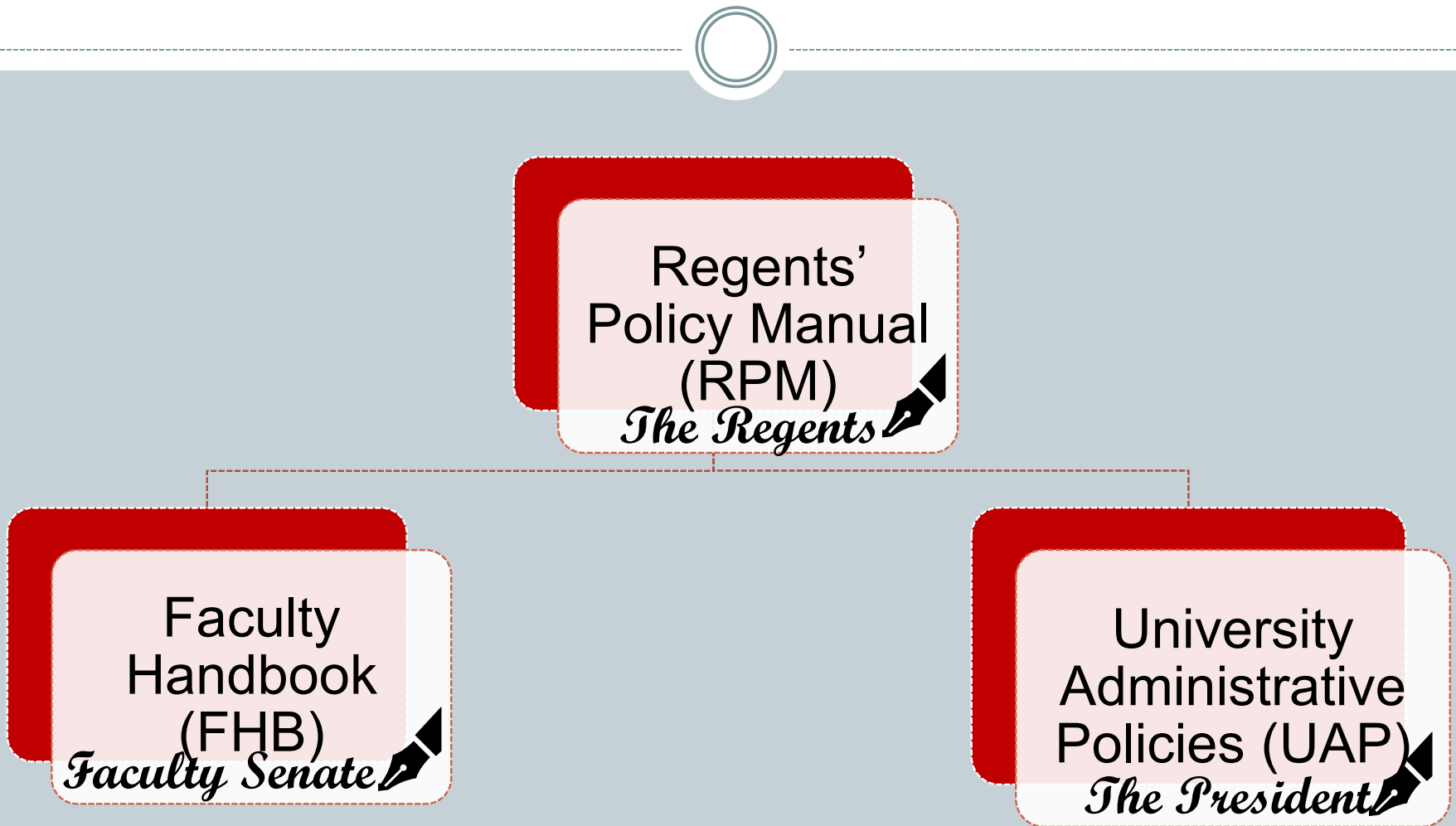
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Faculty
Handbook
(FHB)

A diagram showing the hierarchy of university policies. At the top is a box for the 'Regents' Policy Manual (RPM). A dashed line connects it to two boxes below: 'Faculty Handbook (FHB)' on the left and 'University Administrative Policies (UAP)' on the right. All boxes have a red header and a light pink body with a dashed border.

University
Administrative
Policies (UAP)

University Policies: Approvals



University Policies: Approvals



Regents'
Policy Manual
FBH

EXCEPT:

FBH policies approved by
Voting Faculty and The Regents 
(Section B: Academic Freedom,
Faculty Constitution,
Faculty Discipline)

Faculty
Handbook

(FFB)
Faculty Senate 

University
Administrative
Policies (UAP)
President 

University Policies: Regents-Faculty



Regents' Policy Manual (RPM)

Faculty Handbook (FHB)

RPM 5.1: The Faculty's Role in the University's Academic Mission (Regent approval 1996)

"The University Faculty shall have *the right of review and action* in regard to the following: Formulation of institutional aims; Creation of new colleges, schools, departments and divisions; Major curricular changes and other matters which in the opinion of the President of the University or his delegate to affect the institution as a whole; Requirements for admission and graduation and for honors and scholastic performance in general; Approval of candidates for degrees (honorary degrees and posthumous degrees); Policies of appointment, dismissal, and promotion in academic rank; Research, and General faculty welfare."

University Policies: FHB and UAP



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graph TD; RPM[Regents' Policy Manual (RPM)] --- FHB[Faculty Handbook (FHB)]; RPM --- UAP[University Administrative Policies (UAP)];
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Regents'
Policy Manual
(RPM)

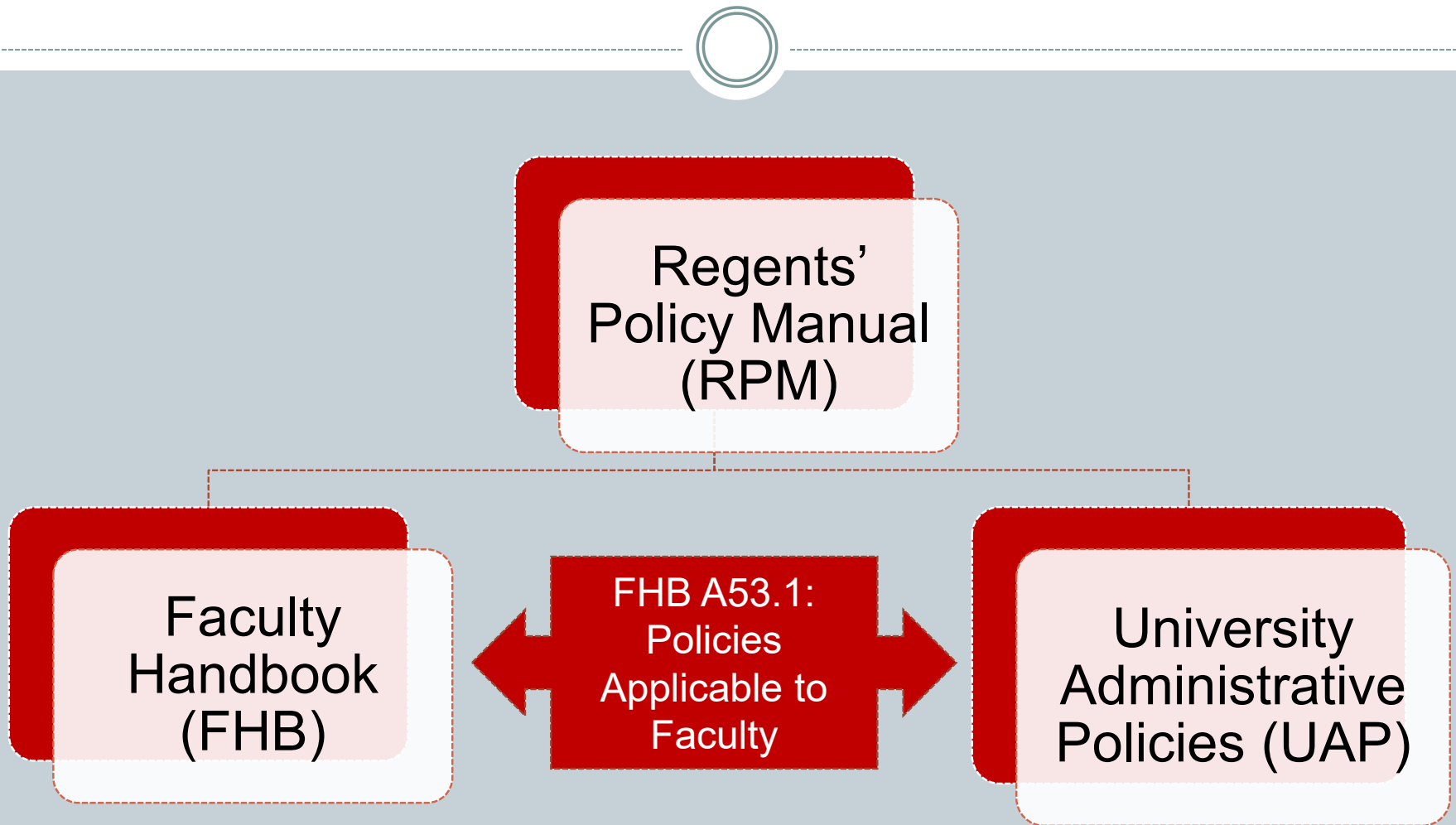
Faculty
Handbook
(FHB)

**FHB A5.1.3(b): The
Faculty Constitution
(Faculty and Regents
approval 2014-2015)**

"The Faculty Handbook
shall have primacy over all
faculty policies and
procedures."

University
Administrative
Policies (UAP)

University Policies: FHB and UAP



Policy versus policy



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graph TD; RPM[Regents' Policy Manual (RPM)] --- FHB[Faculty Handbook (FHB)]; RPM --- UAP[University Administrative Policies (UAP)];
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Regents'
Policy Manual
(RPM)

Faculty
Handbook
(FHB)

University
Administrative
Policies (UAP)

****UNIT-LEVEL POLICIES AND GUIDES****

Additional UNM Resources



- Regents' and Administrative Policies:
 - RPM and UAP links at: <http://policy.unm.edu/>
 - Sidney Mason-Coon, University Policy Officer (ismason@unm.edu)
- Faculty Governance Inquiries:
 - Faculty Handbook link at: <https://handbook.unm.edu/>
 - University Secretary Nancy Middlebrook (ndm@unm.edu)
 - Faculty Governance leaders (<https://facgov.unm.edu/>):
 - ✦ Faculty Senate President: Roberta Lavin
 - ✦ Chair of Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee: Kate Clarke, Fine Arts
 - ✦ Chair of Committee on Governance: Troy Lovata, Honors

ADDITIONAL SLIDES





- Individual Complaints:
 - FHB B6.2: Matters that may be Appealed or Referred to the [AF&T] Committee
 - ✦ Violation of academic freedom
 - ✦ Improper consideration: bias
 - ✦ Procedural violation of *The Faculty Handbook*
 - FHB C09: Respectful Campus
 - ✦ Anti-bullying policy: constructive vs. destructive actions
 - ✦ Not for OEO protected class grievances
 - ✦ Administrative grievance process: report to offender's supervisor
- Faculty Governance Concerns:
 - Faculty Constitution – Committee on Governance
 - Specific FHB policies – Faculty Senate Policy Committee or (for Section B) Academic Freedom & Tenure
 - “General Faculty Welfare” – Faculty Senate and relevant committees

Revising University Policies



Faculty Handbook: A53: Development and Approval of Faculty Policies

- Anyone may propose new or revised faculty policies to Faculty Senate Policy Committee (FSPC)
- FSPC sends new/revised policies out for 30-day campus comment, after which proposed changes may be revised by FSPC
- FS Operations Committee puts FSPC proposals to vote in the Senate, after which changes published in FHB

NB: Certain FHB policies must be revised by AF&T and/or approved by vote of Voting Faculty and the Board of Regents.

Administrative Policies: Formal protocols currently under development

- Requests for new and revised policies are submitted to the UNM Policy Office, for evaluation by the Policy Review Committee
- Policy changes may be developed by the Policy Office and/or ad hoc task forces
- New and revised policies are circulated to key stakeholders for comment: administrative leaders, university counsel, faculty and staff governance leaders, affected constituencies
- Changes are signed by the President and published in UAP

UNIT-LEVEL POLICIES AND GUIDES

For example: *The Pathfinder*, Provost P&T Guidelines, College bylaws, and policies listed in the HSC Policy Portal.

1) Must be consistent with the Policies contained in the three university policy manuals (RPM, UAP, FHB)

2) Must be approved according to administrative procedures established by unit or a vote of faculty* in unit

*Faculty who may vote to create or modify unit-level policies includes Voting Faculty in unit, and other faculty as approved by vote of the Voting Faculty (except FHB policies on tenure and promotion, which regulate specific votes)