The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 29, 2026
3-5 P.M.

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

(Approved at the Oct. 27, 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 Aug. 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The August minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. President's Report

President Steve Goldstein reported on the following items:

- The Comprehensive Cancer Center earned the renewal of it's NCI designation as a comprehensive cancer center, one of only 58 in the country. UNM's cancer center is ranked among the top 3.8% of cancer centers in the nation.
- UNM enrollment has increased for the fifth consecutive year, with a 2.6% increase totaling 24,584; That is an overall 12% increase over the last five years. Enrollment at branches rose by 12.5% in that same period. Additionally, third semester retention rates have risen to 79%.
- The College of Nursing program was ranked 56 in the U.S. in News and World Reports, moving up from 118th.
- The new Police Station is now open, a large step toward improving safety on campus and the entire neighborhood surrounding Albuquerque.
- The UNM capital campaign, Accelerate New Mexico, plans to raise $1.2 billion that will allow the University to co-invest with the state and invest in hard to fund, novel projects, pilot projects to fill the gap where government is not pursuing. The public phase of the campaign will begin Sept. 17. $623 million has already been raised during the silent phase.

- The president discussed his legislative priorities, including collaboration with other universities to address compensation and benefits for university employees, capital resources, and student success and workforce development.

The president took questions from attendees.

4. Provost's Report

Provost Barbara Rodriguez reported on the following (see attached slides):

- The Provost announced the retirement of Dean of the College of University and Library and Learning Sciences Mark Emmons June 30, 2027. Her goal is to have someone in the position by July 1. The search committee is composed of chair Dean of University College David Weiss, faculty and staff from libraries, and faculty from units outside of the unit as well as colleagues from HSC and a student representative from GPSA.
- Additionally, we have three branch chancellors searches occurring this academic year at Los Alamos, Gallup and Valencia. All searches will be managed by an outside search firm. The provost is currently seeking recommendations for the search committee memberships. The hope is to have newly appointed chancellors in place by July 1.
- Efforts for the Central Campus community engagement initiative is on-going. On Sept. 17 the Provost issued a memo to deans to engage in the process with the academic departments in their units, informing them that UNM has a fundamental responsibility to serve and strengthen the communities of our state through partnerships and sharing knowledge. Reading an excerpt from her memo, the Provost explained that if we value community-engaged scholarship and teaching, our faculty evaluation systems should appropriately recognize rigorous and impactful work of this kind.
    - Expectations were communicated with academic deans, and deans are expected to convene through their department chairs and in collaboration with their department chairs, department-level faculty conversations about how community-engaged scholarship is defined within their academic discipline, how it's valued, how it's evaluated, and how it's documented.
    - Department faculty were asked to review existing tenure and promotion criteria, ensure that community engaged work is clearly and appropriately recognized as represented in those criteria, and then where warranted, develop proposed revisions through established departmental faculty governance processes.
    - Brief summaries are expected from each of the departments outlining the discussion and including any proposed criteria revisions that achieve the goal by May.
- The Provost reiterated the president's report on enrollment and recognized the team in student affairs for the successes, and then spoke to the goals of Academic Affairs for 2026-2027:
    - Advance Student Success
    - Economic Development
    - Advance Faculty Excellence

The provost took questions from attendees.

5. Faculty Senate President's Report

- The president reminded Faculty Senators that if there are ideas or topics they would like to see at the meetings, please reach out to the Operations Committee.
- Operations Committee is working on revising the Deans Evaluation Survey to make it more useful to the deans and to streamline the survey.
- The president is continuing to appoint to vacancies on Faculty Senate committees. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to the President.

6. Consent Agenda

- Committee Appointments

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

7. Policy Approval

Revisions to Policy A53: Development and Approval of Faculty Policies were approved by majority vote.

Revisions to Policy C170: Endowed Chaires and Named Professorships were approved by majority vote.

Revisions to Policy C305: Emeriti Faculty were approved by majority vote.

8. Artificial Intelligence Steering Committee Update

Dean of CULLS Mark Emmons, AI Steering Committee Chair, presented an update on the steering committee's progress.

9. Staff Council Resolution: Compensation Adjustment to Address Rising Costs and Basic Needs Insecurity

Staff Council Past-President Damion Terrell and President Elect Frankie McQuerry presented the recently approved resolution regarding staff compensation. Faculty Senate voted to endorse and support the staff council resolution by majority vote. Additionally, Faculty Senate voted to create a similar resolution for faculty. An ad hoc committee was requested to begin to write the resolution and will report back at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.