

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 29, 2024
3-5 P.M.
ONLINE**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. Faculty Senate President Cris Elder presided. Attendance was recorded on the meeting attendance sheet which can be found in the supporting documents.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Sept. 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The Sept. 24, 2024, minutes were approved.

3. President's Report

President Garnett Stokes reported on the following:

- The executive search for the next general counsel is underway. There are three finalists and will be visiting within the next week for public meetings. More information can be found on the executive search site.
- The search for the Athletics Director is on-going. Initial interviews are being determined and a selection should be made by Thanksgiving. The new athletics director comes at a time when changes are coming for some of the NCAA conferences, including the Mountain West Conference.
- The impact of the NCAA the Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) policy and the impact of the House settlement, a multibillion-dollar athlete-compensation antitrust case that would allow up to \$22 million in compensation to student athletes, which will transform college athletics.
- The Transfer Center has officially opened for our students transferring to UNM, giving the University the ability to focus on transfer students, who are a large proportion of our new students each year. The center will help to better serve these sometimes-overlooked students in our ecosystem and to help them navigate a university that is much bigger than what they may have been accustomed to.
- The groundbreaking of the new Collaborative Center for Arts and Technology (CCAT) was held, and was a great celebration the new facility funded by General Obligation (GO) Bonds.

- A groundbreaking was also held for the much-needed Children's Psychiatric Center, another GO Bond funded project that will serve children and adolescents with serious behavioral health and mental disorders.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the updated lobby of Popejoy as well as the grand opening of the Lobo Oasis in the Student Union Building.
- The new Lobo Welcome Center opened its doors at the site of the old Navy ROTC building on Yale. This will be the meeting point for welcoming visitors to the University.
- A ribbon cutting was also held for the Zimmerman Rudolfo Anaya Sala, recognizing a literary great with national and international impact and who served in the UNM writing program.
- Duck Pond renovations will start up in mid-November to create a cleaner, healthier space for the ducks and other animals that live in the pond.
- There are numerous GO Bond items on the ballot in November that will impact UNM, including branch campuses and will provide more than \$230 million for higher education. A Mill Levy on the ballot will benefit the operations of UNM Hospital. Also on the ballot is an amendment regarding the Dean of the Law School regarding a judicial nominating commissions proxy.
- A second general town hall will be held Thursday, Oct. 31, from 1 to 3 pm at the Domenici Auditorium, regarding UNM's role in expanding healthcare in New Mexico. Our immediate goal is to close the gap in the physician shortage and healthcare workforce, attracting and retaining physicians.

The President took questions from faculty regarding athletics and the new Humanities Building.

4. Provost's Report

Provost Holloway reported on the following:

- GO Bond 3 on the ballot is a critical step in the funding of the new Humanities Building. An additional \$59 million will be needed to complete the project and will be a part of the legislative work in the upcoming year. Books and archives are currently being moved to various spaces across campus and remote storage facilities on South Campus.
- GO Bond 2 will benefit libraries including the Law Library and the College of Nursing Library.
- Regarding the priority items determined by Faculty Senate, requirements to retain the Lottery Scholarship was discussed. Currently, the requirement is the 5 by 5, meaning that the student must take five courses each term. This comes from completing 120 credits hours in eight terms, or four years, and requires 30 credits every academic year, or 15 credits a term. The expectation nationwide is that students complete a degree in four years. For many students that is a challenge.
- Over the last three or four years, the University has worked with various folks in the legislative and executive branch to understand these challenges and that it is a major reason why they lose access to the Lottery Scholarship.
- But effective this year, the state has both changed the criteria for the opportunity and lottery scholarship and regularized them somewhat. For students seeking four-year

degrees, students have to take 30 credit hours in an academic year, which includes summer. Meaning, they don't necessarily have to take 15 credit hours per semester.

- Provost Holloway discussed the University size in relation to student success. At its largest, the University had 28,000 students in Albuquerque. We currently have about 22,000 students. The question is how big we can become, and in relation to this, how many facilities do we need, and the consideration of the strain on having enough faculty.

The University is looking at the overall student to faculty ratio, currently 21. In 2012, we are at about 20. This ratio stayed until around 2017 when the student population decreased. The common number across higher education is an 18 to 1 ratio. The global question is what our student faculty ratio needs to be and what is the resource requirement for that.

Provost Holloway took questions from faculty regarding the issue of faculty salary in regard to the faculty staff ratio and ensuring a diverse faculty in hiring.

5. Faculty Senate President's Report

Faculty Senate President Cris Elder reported the following:

- The faculty website has been reformatted. Senators can review faculty senate committees, rosters, charges and more.
- A new required FERPA training is upcoming. This training was already required for HSC faculty.
- Shawna Wolfe, the Vice President of Institutional Support Services (ISS), is conducting focus groups regarding sustainability on campus and prioritizing the needs and concerns for ISS. She was hired at the beginning of the year and is doing some amazing work for this critical department.
- President Elder met with Mike Puelle and Nathan Bush from the UNM Government Relations. Their office offers training for speaking with legislators and strategies on having important conversations with these stakeholders.
- The Campus Development Advisory Council (CDAC) will be working more closely with various committees that they oversee in terms of capital outlay. Each year there is an individual capital outlay request. The Faculty Senate Government Relations Committee used to make that request but this has been moved over to CDAC so they can focus on all things infrastructure related and then this way government relations committee can focus on things like basic needs.

This year, the request was submitted in conjunction with Staff Council to combine efforts to ask for \$500,000 to improve accessibility on campus and to make campus a safer place for all.

6. Consent Agenda

- Curricula Changes
- Faculty Senate Committee Appointments

The consent agenda was approved.

7. New Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture

Catherine Harris, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Landscape Architecture presented on the new proposed bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. A master's degree program is currently offered, and by offering an undergraduate degree the department can better recruit a diverse population from New Mexico to create a more diverse population of landscape architects.

The BLA in Landscape Architecture was approved.

8. UNM Wayfinder Website

Liz Hutchison presented on the Wayfinder Website that offers resources and supports staff and faculty with the various harms they may encounter in the workplace.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Discussion of Faculty Priorities Survey

Faculty separated into breakrooms to discuss the list of priorities determined through a priorities survey to faculty. Each group was asked to select a representative to report back to President Elder for next steps.

11. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.