

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 30, 2025
3-5 P.M.**

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

(Approved at the Oct.28, 2025 Faculty Senate Meeting)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 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. 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The August 26 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. President Garnett Stokes Report

President Stokes reported on the following items:

- The president has a team of advisers looking at the impact of the looming federal government shutdown and referenced the Research VP and HSC VP memo which was sent via email to campus and offers guidance.
- Campus enrollment is up for the fourth straight year and first-year registrations hit a record high. This is the largest first-year class in UNM history. Third year semester retention is now at 75.56%.
- UNM Gives begins Oct. 1.
- UNM celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new critical care tower and they will take their first patient on Oct. 5.
- The new CCAT building is a continued large project on campus as well as the demolition of the humanities building, which will be a 87.6-million-dollar investment in teach, research and gathering space. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and end in 2028.
- Several other large initiatives include \$25 million from the New Mexico Economic Development Department to create a cutting-edge quantum venture studio in partnership with Roadrunner Venture Studios.

- As well as \$43.6 million from NIH for a research partnership with the University of Arizona to create the Southwest Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Innovation.
- Additional UNM received \$4 million from the National Science Foundation to design a photonic quantum computer and \$1.56 million from the National Cancer Institute for the Schwobel Lab to develop a groundbreaking x-ray system that could transform the detection of breast cancer.
- Professor Sarah Dreier was awarded as one of the experts to work on the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, a partnership of top universities. Dreier will co-lead the data curation and help build an open, transparent AI ecosystem. The project is funded by a five-year \$152 million grant from the National Science Foundation.
- \$7 million was awarded to the UNM Arid Institution to launch forest research for New Mexico water and carbon management through the EPSCoR grant. The president thanked everyone who supports the research mission of the university.
- Application is open for the [LIFT program](#), an expanded faculty leadership program, which launches in 2026. The program provides mentoring, support and pathways to strengthen research and academic leadership while advancing UNM's mission. Applications are due Oct. 16.
- The University is investing in improvements to campus safety, including upgraded emergency phones, expanded outdoor lighting, new security fencing, and broader use of key card access. Additionally, there are upcoming training and communication initiatives to continue to build a safer environment.

The president then took questions from faculty.

4. UNM Provost's Report

Provost Rodriguez introduced herself and spoke of her service and history at the University of New Mexico.

The Provost Office has been conducting campus visits to all schools, colleges, and branches. The goal is to identify meaningful goals that can be accomplished between now and the end of June when new leadership arrives.

Provost Rodriguez gave an update on two new deans and special advisors to the provost, faculty hiring, student enrollment and retention, and funds available to schools and colleges. Slides for her presentation are attached.

5. Faculty Senate President Report

President Lavin reported on the following:

- Open comment is now available for updates to the Faculty Senate handbook regarding export control in order to comply with U.S. export control regulations.
- Most committee appointments have been filled. There are a few vacancies specific to departments that we have difficulty filling. Committee chairs should have been elected at

this time and first committee meetings should have been held. If committees need assistance with this, reach out to the University Secretary's Office.

- President Lavin turned over her time to past-president Cris Elder to discuss departmental statement guidelines. These guidelines basically provide recommendations on how institutional units express their ideas about what would be deemed controversial topics external to the institution. The university is seeking individuals from campuses, disciplines, and other positionalities who would be interested in participating in crafting these guidelines. (See attached.)

6. Consent Agenda

- Curricula Changes
- Committee Appointments

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

7. Approval of Faculty Handbook Policy C215 “Parental Leave” Approval

Faculty Senate Policy Committee Chair Eve Espey provided details and the history of the policy which has been through two campus comments to reach the current version. The policy change was also put on hold due to the possible passing of state legislation relevant to parental leave. Language was also addressed regarding post doc positions.

The policy was approved as presented.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Presentation: Campus Safety

Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Teresa Constantinidis provided an update to Faculty Senate regarding campus safety initiatives since the campus shooting. See attached slides.

10. Faculty Senate Breakout Groups

Due to lack of time, President Lavin requested Faculty Senate members send comments to her via email regarding the list of Faculty Senate priorities that were provided.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.