

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2025
3-5 P.M.**

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

(Approved at the January 27, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 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 October 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The October 28 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. President Garnett Stokes Report

President Stokes reported on the following items:

- UNM has released its first comprehensive [sustainability plan](#), a five-year roadmap to reduce our environmental footprint and deepen a culture of sustainability across campus.
- A gift of \$1 million from Jim and Ellen King was announced to support the Lobo Motorsports Formula SAE program. It also celebrates the legacy of the founder, John Russell, who is retiring in May as a professor of engineering.
- UNM has begun a partnership with Navajo Technical University to expand nursing education for students in rural and tribal regions. Additionally, the Earth Data Analysis Center is working closely with the Navajo Department of Transportation to develop a customized web-based portal that will help improve rural mobility and long-term planning.
- Sarah Hernandez, who's an associate professor of Native American Literature, received a \$150,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation's Indigenous Knowledge Initiative to publish the first anthology of Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota literature together in one volume.
- Mark Emmons, our Professor and Dean of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, was named the 2025 New Mexico Academic Librarian of the Year by the New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries.

- Six UNM Health Sciences researchers were honored at the 17th Annual Excellence in Research Awards that took place on November 5.
- The university has [issued guidance](#) to keep track of all the federal changes specific to the H-1B visa sponsorship. The main take away is the charge of \$100,000 does not apply when an employer files an H-1B petition for a change of status within the U.S. or change of an employer within the U.S.
- Fall 2025 commencement for graduate and undergraduate will be held Dec. 11 and Dec. 12.
- Work is continuing on reimagining the UNM South Campus area, including improvements to University Stadium and science facilities in that area.
- The presidential search is underway and the search committee has been named. Listening sessions were held and the search committee will be meeting soon with a proposed timeline.
- A strategy for the provost search is being developed, and the President will move forward with the search and will be launched early next year and will be timed so that the next president can participate in the decision-making.

The president then took questions from faculty.

4. Faculty Senate President Report

President Lavin reported on the following:

- The Sustainability Advisory Council has an open slot available for a Faculty Senate representative. If you are interested in sustainability, please consider serving. Reach out to University Secretary Nancy Middlebrook to submit your name.
- President Lavin acknowledged the national environment for higher education and the concerns of faculty over academic freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression directly related to teaching, research and scholarly debate. Leadership at UNM has been consistent in supporting faculty rights, open inquiry and stability for our work to flourish.

5. Employee Health Insurance Cost Increases

HR Vice President Kevin Stevenson presented on the potential increase to health insurance costs and presented potential scenarios to help mitigate the increases. Please see attached slides. Kevin then took questions from faculty.

6. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda for curricula changes and the Fall 2025 Degree Candidates was unanimously approved as presented.

7. Policy Approval

- a. FH Policy E110 “Conflict of Interest in Research” was unanimously approved as presented.
- b. FH Policy A63.5 “Information Technology Committee” was unanimously approved as presented.

8. New Master of Social Work Degree Program

Interim Director of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Jen Panhorst presented the newly proposed Master of Social Work Degree Program.

The program was approved by Faculty Senate majority vote.

9. New Health Professions Education Certificate Program

Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program Director Tamara J. Shannon presented the newly proposed New Health Professions Education Certificate Program. This Certificate Program will provide current and future academic healthcare educators in both nursing and non-nursing health care disciplines with the skills and tools to teach healthcare students in 12 to 16 credits offered fully online and asynchronously.

The program was approved by Faculty Senate majority vote.

10. Council Reports

HSC Council: HSC Council Chair Natalie Adolphi provided an update on current topics and initiatives with HSC Council including an update to HSC Council bylaws, campus safety on North Campus, the new policy platform, and a preview of the health benefits costs. Future discussions include improved planning of the Health Sciences program convocation ceremonies and the Healthcare Workforce Expansion Initiative. Also, the committee is looking for someone interested in serving as chair elect of the HSC Council. Please reach out to Natalie or President Lavin if interested.

Branch Campus Community College Council: Co-chair Kristian Simcox of UNM Gallup presented an overview of the council, as well as a snapshot of each branch campuses student body. Current initiatives of the council include transfer student success, resources and training opportunities to support faculty advancement and leadership and pay equity. See attached slides.

Social Justice Ad Hoc Committee: Social Justice Committee Chair Justin Bendell presented initiatives of the ad hoc committee including a [list of recommended characteristics](#) for future UNM leaders, endorsing and supporting the Academic Freedom Working Group’s [open letter](#) on academic freedom, and a co-drafted joint resolution with CNM in alliance with MADC resolutions passed last year. Additionally, the committee is seeking approval to become a standing committee by Faculty Senate. See attached slides.

A resolution was presented to faculty senate which is a [joint resolution](#) with CNM to create cross-campus alliance. The resolution was presented to faculty senate for review and senators will be asked to vote on the resolution at the January meeting.

11. Faculty Senate Breakout Groups

Due to time constraints, discussion of Agenda Item 11 was deferred to the January meeting.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.