

**The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2026
3-5 P.M.**

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

(Pending approval at the March 31, 2026, 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 January 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The January 27 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Faculty Senate President Report

President Roberta Lavin reported on the following items:

- President Lavin spoke with President Stokes regarding the resolution passed at the January 27 meeting- [Joint Resolution of The Central New Mexico Community College Faculty Senate and The University of New Mexico Faculty Senate Opposing the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education."](#) She provided context for the resolution and emphasized the reason that it was passed. President Stokes had no issues of concern in New Mexico at this time.
- A working group is being formed to review the Dean's Evaluation survey that is sent to all faculty and staff, to assess the clarity of the survey, to assess the relevance of questions, and to align it with what is needed for adequate feedback for the deans. This will improve what the Deans are hearing from their faculty about their performance and to adequately address areas for improvement. If faculty have recommendations for members for the committee or would like to volunteer, please reach out to the University Secretary's office at univsec@unm.edu or to President Lavin.
- The Faculty Senate Preference Survey will be released soon. This survey allows senators to select committees that they are interested in serving on in 2026-2027. Please be on the lookout for this in your inbox.
- Breakout sessions at the end of the meeting will be used to set priorities for next year. Please join a group and be prepared to report out in March.

- President Lavin updated the senate on her attendance at the Board of Regents and [Budget Leadership team](#) regarding the increase of insurance premiums.

4. Consent Agenda

- Committee Appointment of Azizi Ray to the HSE Council Policy Committee

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

5. Posthumous Degree Request

Lisa Lindquist, Director, LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, presented a request for a posthumous degree in recognition of student Isaias Alvidrez. The request was approved as presented by a unanimous vote of the faculty senate. The request will move on to the Board of Regents for approval.

6. Faculty and Shared Governance at UNM: An Overview

Faculty Senator Liz Hutchison provided an overview of the structure of UNM and how shared governance happens at our university. See attached slides for the presentation.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Breakout Sessions

Faculty Senators broke into working groups to discuss various priorities of Faculty Senate for future initiatives, actions and strategies. No actions were taken during this time, and each working group will report to the full faculty senate at the March meeting.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Faculty and Shared Governance at UNM: An Overview



LIZ HUTCHISON
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
FACULTY SENATOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS &
SCIENCES, 2024-2026



What this Presentation Does



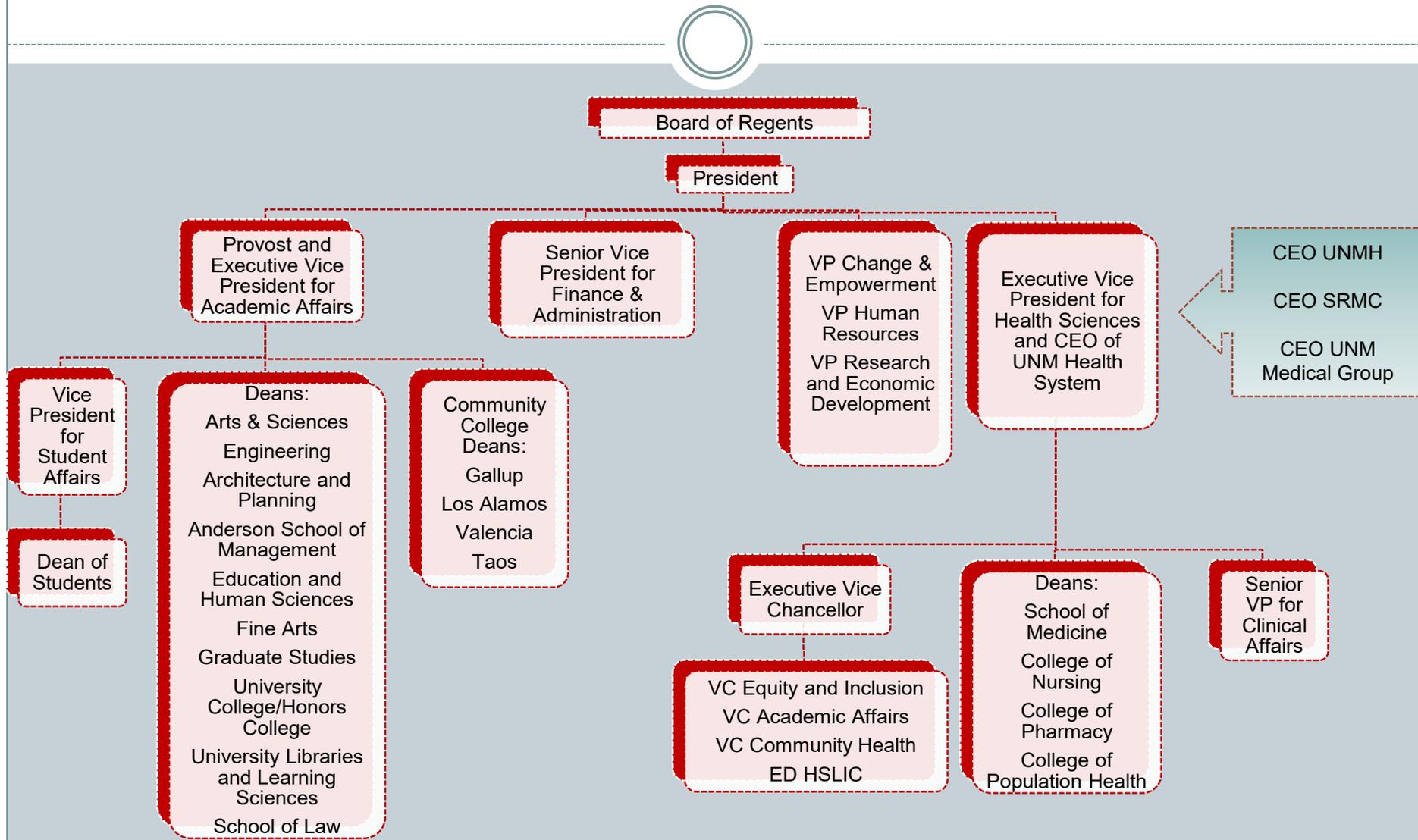
Presents Information about:

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

Disclaimer:

- This information reflects my experience working on Regents, Administrative, and Faculty policy as a representative of faculty governance bodies and DEI, and
- I recommend that interpretation of university authority and policy in specific cases be reviewed by the appropriate administrative units and/or elected faculty committees

Governance: Administrative Structure

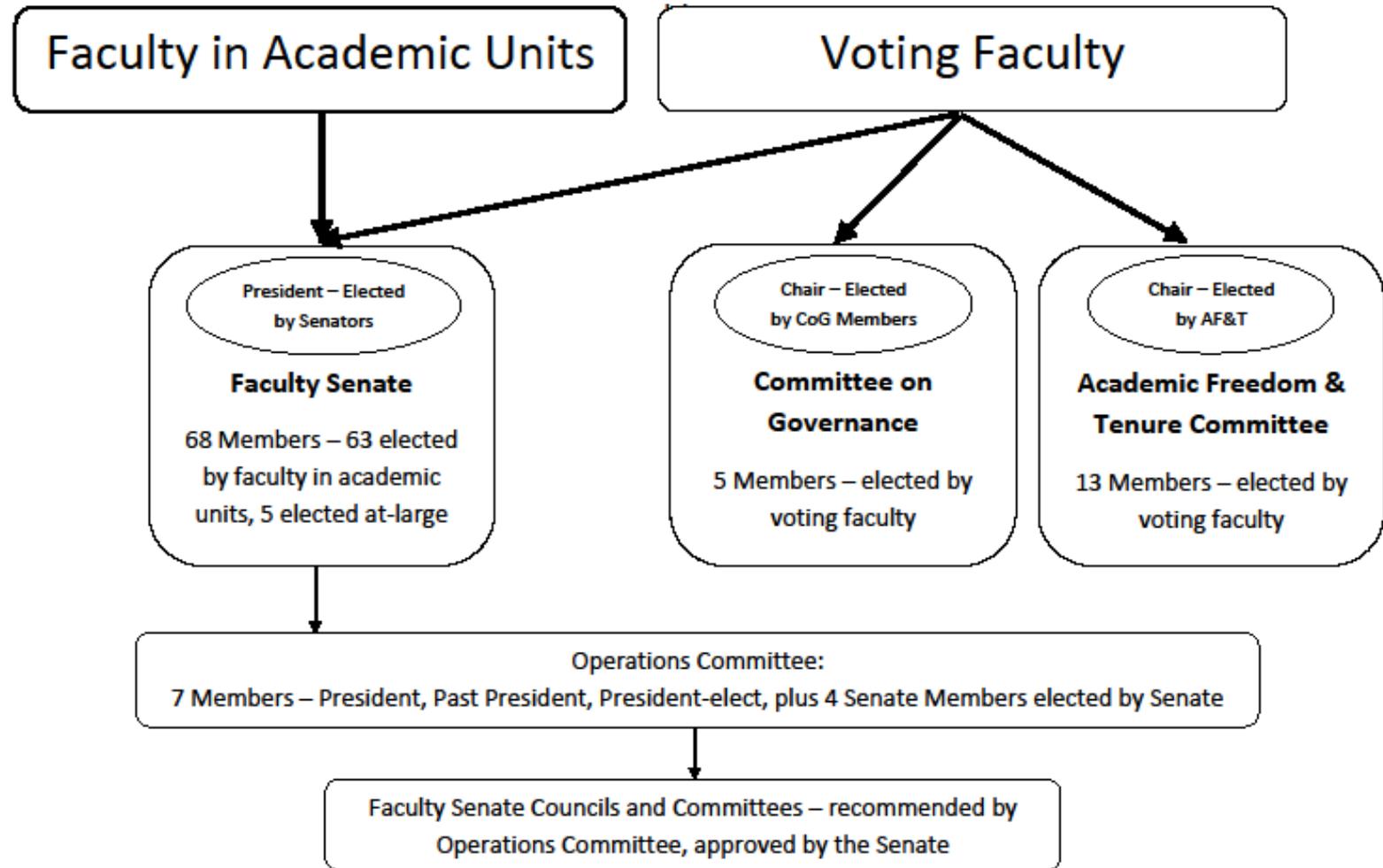


Word Cloud: Your Best Faculty Governance Experience

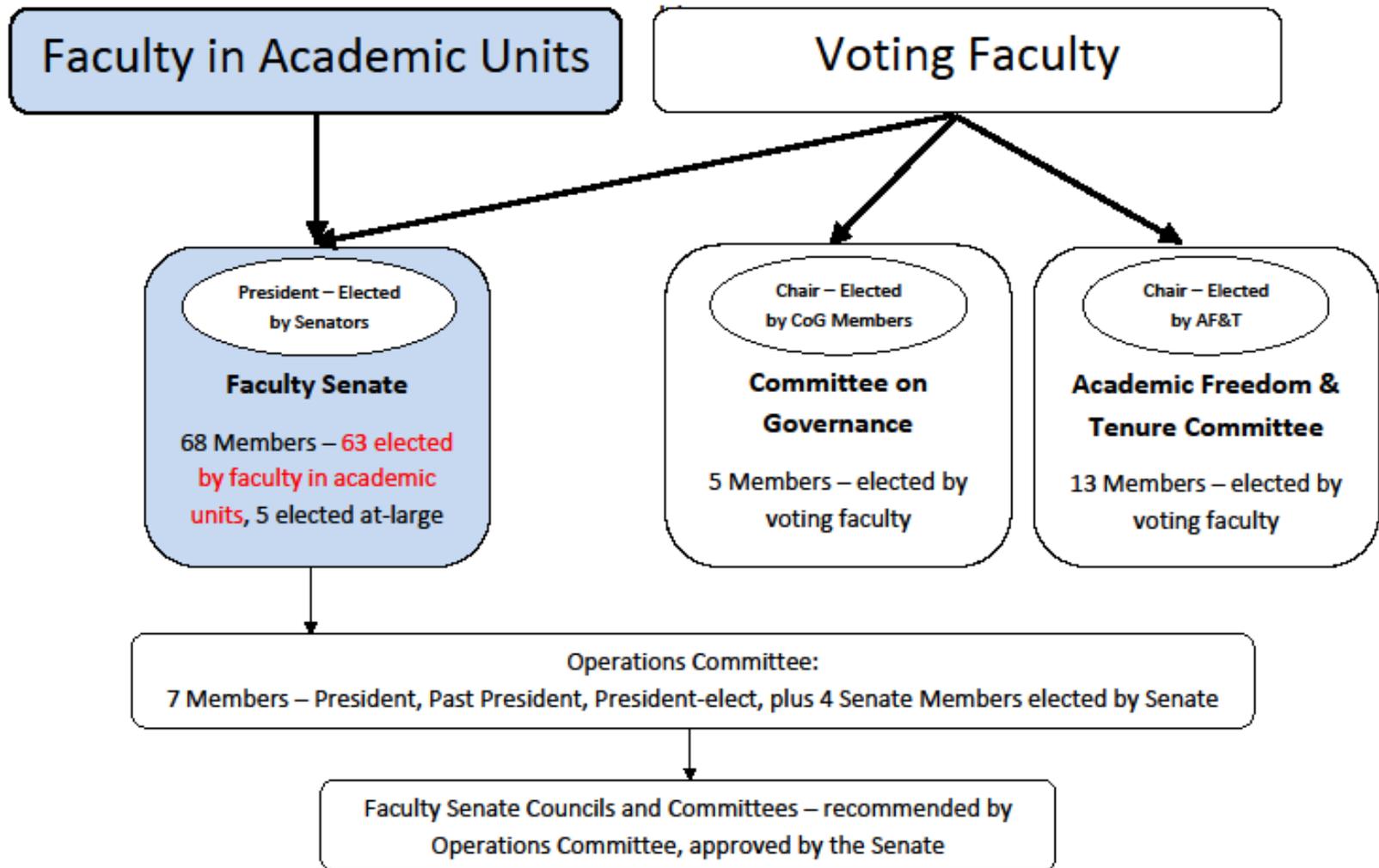


- 1) Think about your *best experience* in faculty governance, whether in the Senate or elsewhere in the university.
- 2) Enter adjectives that describe what faculty governance is at its best.

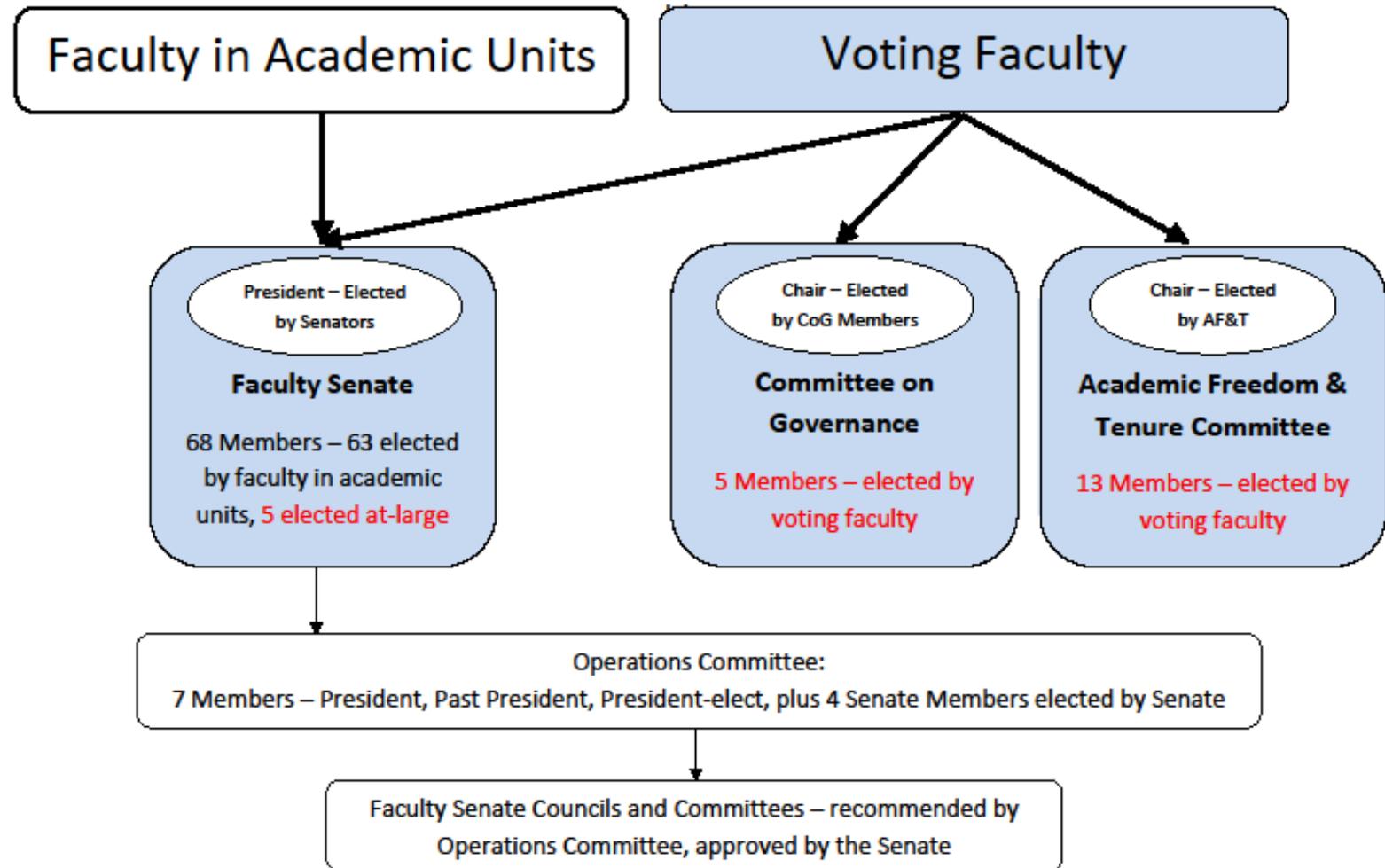
Governance: Faculty



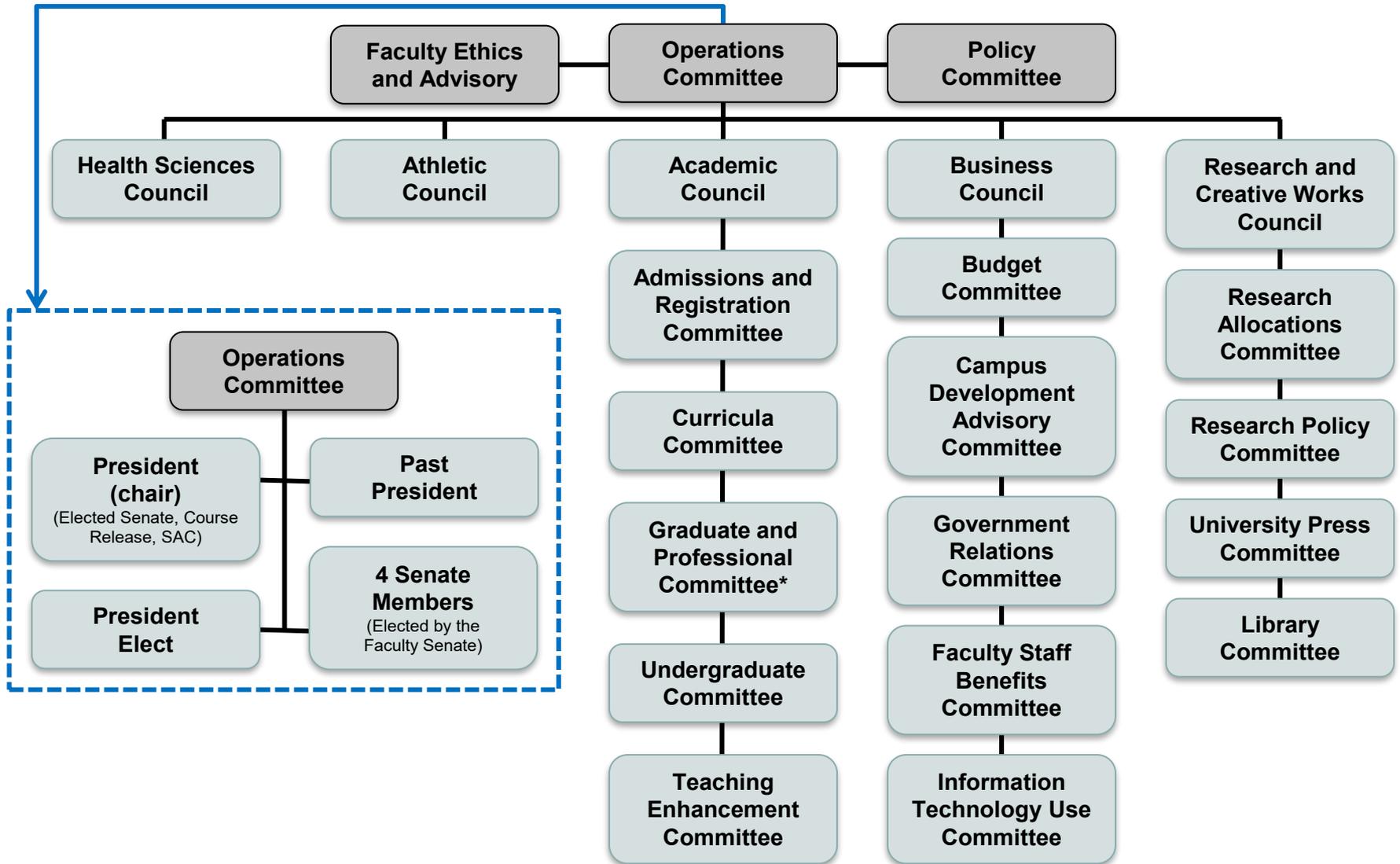
Governance – Faculty Representation



Governance – Faculty Representation



Governance – Faculty Senate





Origins:

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

Responsibilities:

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

Governance – Academic Freedom & Tenure



- **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



“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.”

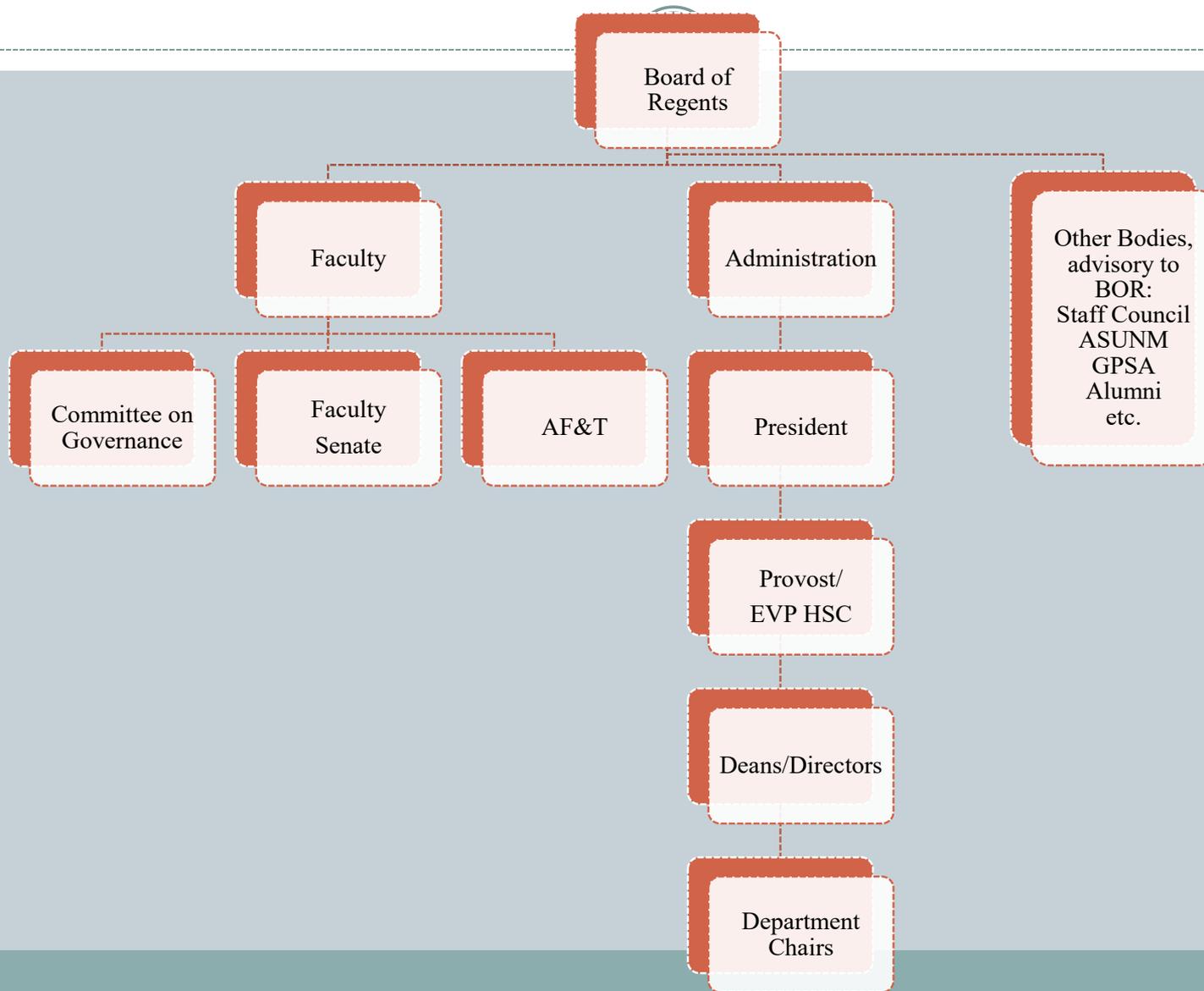
Poll: Most Important Qualities of Healthy Shared Governance



Select up to three qualities you believe are the most essential qualities of healthy shared governance.

- Mutual trust between faculty and administration
- Clear delineation of governance roles and responsibilities
- Early and meaningful faculty consultation in decision-making
- Transparency in budgeting and financial planning
- Protection of academic freedom
- Respect for faculty expertise in academic matters
- Open, two-way communication
- Accountability and follow-through on decisions
- Representative and inclusive governance structures
- Administrative responsiveness to faculty recommendations

Shared Governance – UNM Structures

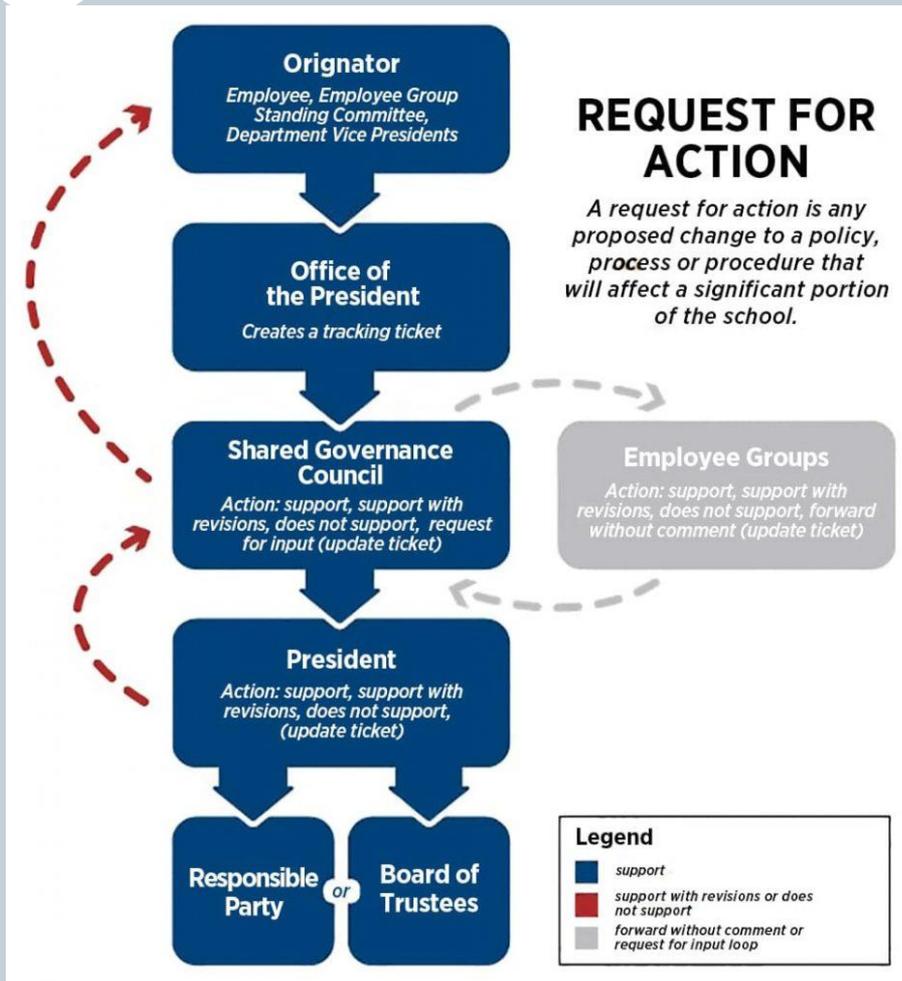


Shared Governance – Elsewhere

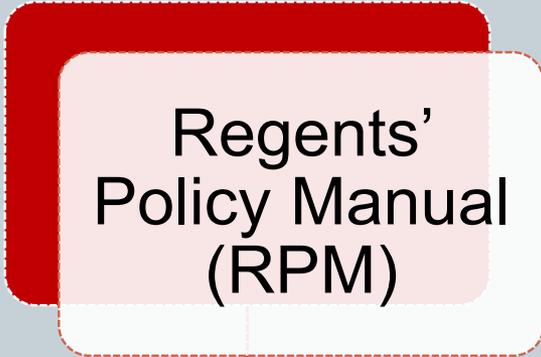


SUNY ALBANY

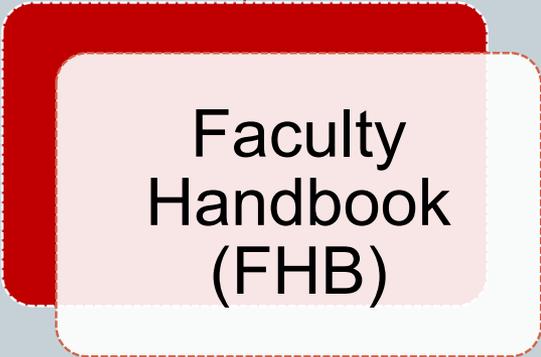
EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE
(Union, Missouri)



The Policy Landscape



Regents'
Policy Manual
(RPM)

A central box with a red shadow and a white border containing the text 'Regents' Policy Manual (RPM)'. A dashed line extends downwards from the bottom of this box to a horizontal line that branches to the left and right.

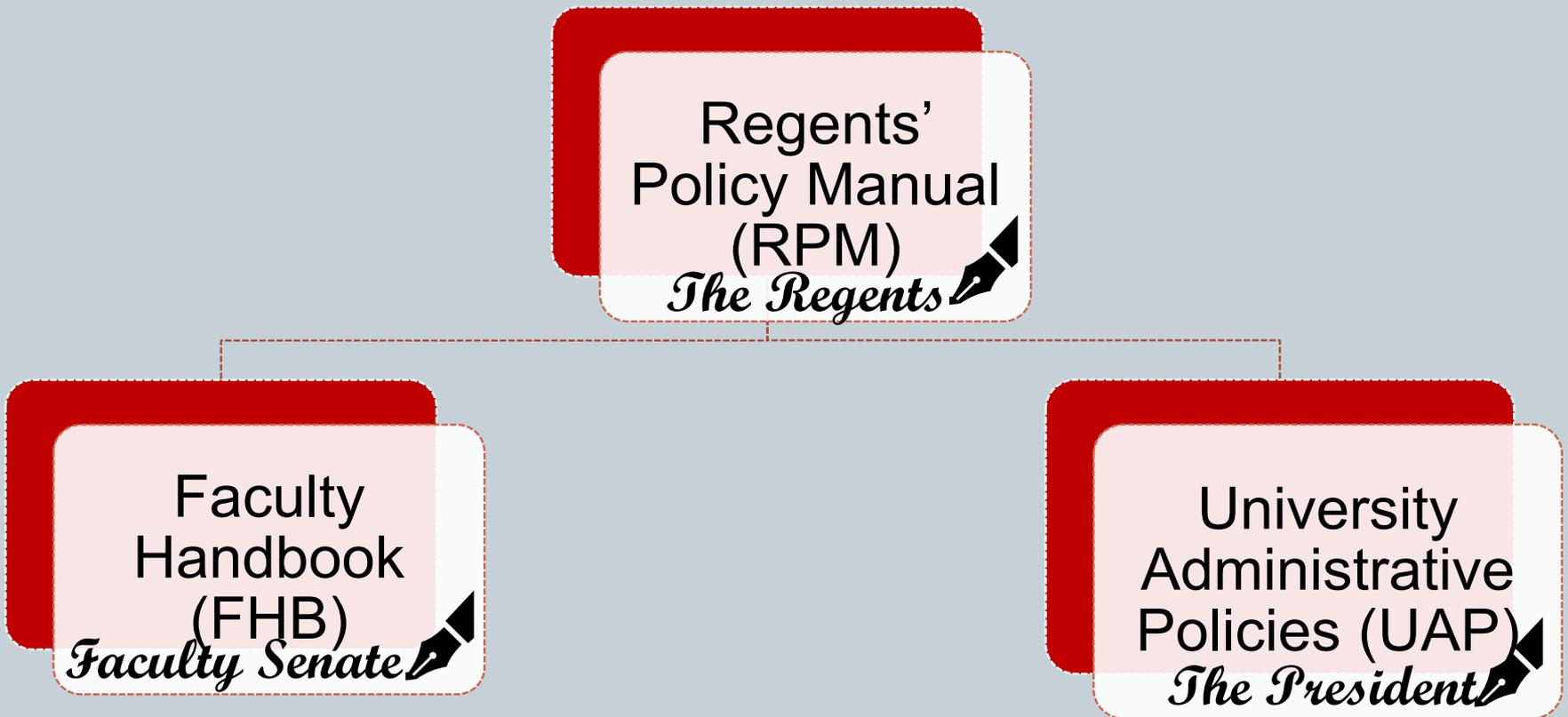
Faculty
Handbook
(FHB)

A box with a red shadow and a white border containing the text 'Faculty Handbook (FHB)'. It is connected to the central RPM box by a dashed line.

University
Administrative
Policies (UAP)

A box with a red shadow and a white border containing the text 'University Administrative Policies (UAP)'. It is connected to the central RPM box by a dashed line.

University Policies: Approvals



University Policies: Approvals



Regents'
Policy Man
APP

EXCEPT:

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

Facu
Hand

(FFB)
Faculty Senate 

University
Administrative
Policies (UAP)
President 

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



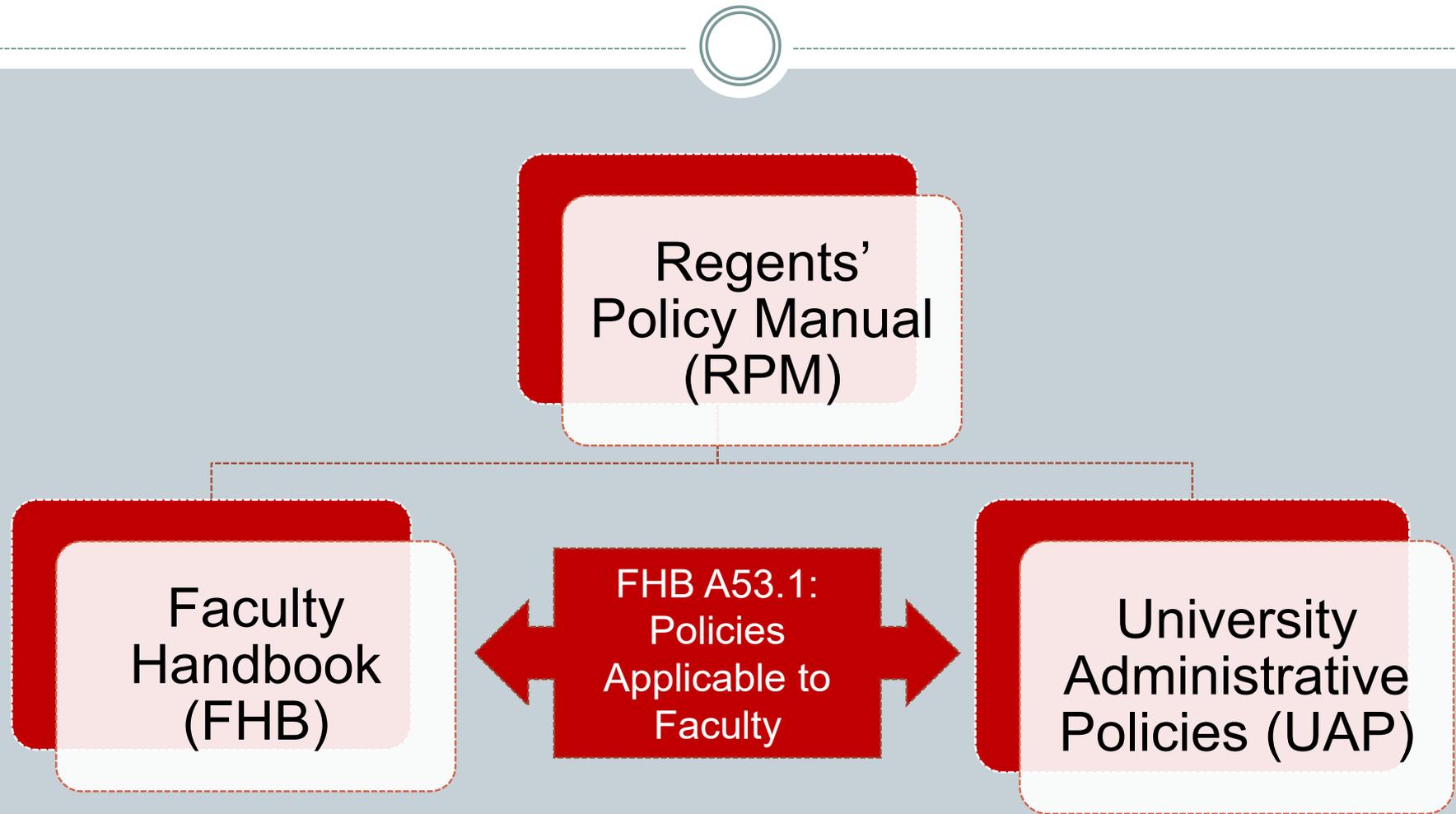
Regents'
Policy Manual
(RPM)

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 (lsmason@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: Sever Bordeianu
 - ✦ Chair of Committee on Governance: Matias Fontenla

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)

**FACULTY SENATE ATTENDANCE ROSTER
2025-2026**

Last Name	First Name	Representing	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Adolphi	Natalie	School of Medicine	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Anderoglu	Osman	School of Engineering	U	U	U	U	U	U			
Angeli	Eva	School of Medicine	P	P	P	U	P	P			
Baca	Olivia	At-Large	P	P	P	U	P	P			
Balwan	Akshu	School of Medicine	U	P	U	U	P	U			
Behrens	Brandon	School of Medicine	U	U	U	U	U	U			
Bendell	Justin	UNM-Valencia (Sabbatical Spr 26)	U	U	P	P	P	U			
Blankenship	James	School of Medicine	P	U	U	U	U	U			
Budhwar	Nitin	School of Medicine	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Caparoso	Deirdre	Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center	P	U	U	P	P	P			
Cook	Angela	School of Medicine	U	P	U	U	P	U			
Corbin-Swalin	Paula	College of Fine Arts	P	P	U	U	U	U			
Cradock	Kenwyn	University College	P	P	P	P	P	U			
Davis	Michael	School of Medicine	U	P	P	U	P	P			
Depperman	Ezra	College of Arts and Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Devetsikiotis	Michael	School of Engineering	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Diller	Emily	School of Medicine	E	P	P	U	P	U			
Dutra	Paulo	At-Large	U	U	U	U	U	U			
Endres Oliveira	Cassiano	School of Engineering	U	U	U	U	U	U			
England	Scott	School of Law									
Espey	Eve	School of Medicine	P	P	U	U	E	P			
Garza Ayala	Armando	College of Education and Human Sciences	U	P	U	P	P	P			
Gonzales-Pacheco	Diana	College of Education and Human Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Head	Michele	At-Large	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Hutchison	Liz	College of Arts and Sciences	U	P	U	P	P	P			
Islam	Mohammad	At-Large	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Izquierdo	Luis	School of Medicine	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Jackson	Margaret	College of Fine Arts	U	U	U	U	U	U			
Ketcham	Amaris	Honors College	P	P	P	P	U	P			
Lassiter	Tracy	UNM-Gallup	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Lavin	Roberta	College of Nursing	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Liotta	William	College of Fine Arts (on sabbatical Sp26)	U	U	U	U					
Lippitt	Cait	College of Arts and Sciences	P	U	P	P	P	U			
Lu	Yan	College of Arts and Sciences	U	P	U	U	P	U			
Lucas	Joan	UNM-Los Alamos	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Mackin	Melissa Lehan	At-Large	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Matthews	John	College of Arts and Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	U			
Murphy	Grace	College of Nursing	P	P	E	P	U	U			
Murphy	Megan	UNM-Taos	P	P	P	U	P	U			
Otaño Gracia	Nahir	College of Arts and Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Panikkath	Pramod	School of Medicine	U	P	U	U	P	U			
Pearson	Osbjorn	College of Arts and Sciences	P	P	P	U	P	P			
Perez	Euriko G. Torrazza	School of Medicine	U	U	U	U	P	U			
Polhemus	Mark	School of Medicine	U	U	P	U	U	U			
Poroseva	Svetlana	School of Engineering	P	E	E	P	P	P			
Ro	Min	UNM-Los Alamos	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Romero	Steven	UNM-Valencia (Resigned 1/22/26)	P	P	P	P					
Scariano	John	School of Medicine	U	P	U	U	U	U			
Scruggs	Caroline	School of Architecture + Planning	P	U	P	P	P	U			
Siegel	Patricia	School of Medicine	P	U	P	U	P	P			
Sims	Jonathan	UNM-Valencia						P			
Simcox	Kristian	UNM-Gallup	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Singh	Gurdeep	School of Medicine	P	P	P	U	P	P			
Son	Hyunsang	Anderson School of Management	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Soneru	Codruta	School of Medicine (Resigned 1/23/26)	P	P	U	U					
Stark	Cortny	College of Education and Human Sciences	P	P	P	P	U	P			
Sturgis	Meshell	College of Arts and Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Taylor	Andy	UNM-Valencia (Replacing Justin Bendell)					P	U			
Tarawneh	Rawan	School of Medicine (resigned 8/25/25)									
Tomedi	Laura	College of Population Health	U	E	P	U	P	P			
Torrazza Perez	Euriko G.	School of Medicine	U	P	U	P	P	U			
Umana	Daniel F. Gallego	School of Medicine	P	U	U	U	U	U			
Walker	Peter	UNM-Taos	P	U	U	U	U	P			
Ward	Krystal	College of Pharmacy	P	P	P	P	U	P			

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Warner	Adrienne	College of Univ Libraries & Learning Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Watson	Erik	School of Medicine	P	P	P	U	P	P			
Wilson	Eli	College of Arts and Sciences	P	P	P	P	P	U			
Winder	Samuel	School of Law	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Witt	Satya	College of Arts and Sciences	P	U	P	U	P	P			
Yang	MingAn	School of Medicine	U	P	P	P	P	P			

last updated: 2/12/26