

UNM Faculty Senate
Health Sciences Center Council
Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026 3:00 P.M.

via Zoom <https://unm.zoom.us/j/92461365072> | Passcode: 600821

Members Present: Chair Natalie Adolphi, Eva Angeli, Rae Brannon, Nitin Budhwar, Deirdre Caparoso, Emily Diller, Luis Izquierdo, Melissa Lehan Mackin, Grace Murphy, Azizi Ray, David Savage, John Scariano, Patricia Siegel, Laura Tomedi, Elise Trott Jaramillo, Krystal Ward, Erik Watson, William White

Members Absent: Acadia Buro, Angela Cook, Michael Davis, Eve Espey, Linda Felton, Michele Head, Roberta Lavin, Pramod Panikkath, Euriko G. Torrazza Perez, Mark Polhemus, Gurdeep Singh, Codruta Soneru, Daniel F. Gallego Umana, MingAn Yan

Ex Officio Members present: Akshay Sood

Ex Officio Members Absent: Shelly McLaughlin, Michael Richards, Barbara Rodriguez

Staff Present: Nancy Middlebrook and Jackie Freitas

Quorum was not met when Chair Natalie Adolphi called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The agenda and minutes were postponed until quorum was met.

HSC Council Chair Report

Chair Adolphi welcomed new members and identified that at this time the council's roster at this time has (1) one vacancy, which is an at-large position in the School of Medicine. In addition, the HSC is still seeking someone to run for Chair-Elect.

Graduation/Convocation Dates

Discussion on the issue of HSC education programs. T. Siegel expressed concern on behalf of students regarding graduation dates in order to secure venue for ceremony. N. Middlebrook clarified that graduation dates are planned in accordance with dates issued by the Registrar. Additional clarification was made for commencement ceremonies versus convocation ceremonies, with the latter being planned and conducted by schools, colleges, and various areas/departments for individual recognition. While the former encompasses the entire university with specific dates planned in accordance to the Registrar's calendar.

Quorum was met at 3:24 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented at 3:24 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from November 20, 2025, meeting were approved as presented at 3:26 p.m.

Workforce Expansion Initiative Questions

Discussion was held on potential questions in preparation for EVPHS Michael Richards's upcoming attendance at an upcoming HSC Council. Chair Adolphi would like to send Dr. Richards questions in advance in order to facilitate a more effective visit and presentation. Questions were based on various topics including advocacy for addressing systemic issues, long term plans to improve retention of faculty, recruitment of faculty to support incoming medical students, physical space & office, ancillary support staff and services, potential growth of faculty, staff, and students.

Open Discussion

The Chair requested council members to send topics for February agenda and issued another plea for members to consider Chair-Elect.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.