

Faculty Senate Policy Committee

Meeting Notes

January 14, 2026

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Roberts Room, Scholes

Members Present: Ezra Depperman, Eve Espey, Grace Murphy, Karen Patterson, Svetlana Poroseva, and Caitlin Wells

Members Absent: Michele Head, Subramanian Iyer, and Megan Murphy

Ex-Officio Members Present: Nancy Middlebrook, University Secretary; Rebecca Sanchez, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Personnel; and Akshay Sood, Interim Director of HSC Faculty Affairs

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Brandon Toensing, Office of University Counsel

Staff Present: Jackie Freitas, Operations Specialist, Office of the University Secretary; Carol Stephens, Professional Consultant, Office of the University Secretary; and Vivian Valencia, University Secretary Emerita, HSC Academic Affairs

Guests Present: Tito Busani, Chair of the Research Policy Committee (RPC), and Deb Kuidis, UNM Facilities Security Manager

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Eve Espey. Quorum was met.

1. Approvals

The agenda was approved as written.

The meeting notes from December 3, 2025 were approved as written.

2. Information/Policy updates

Policies A63.5 “Information Technology Committee” and E110 “Conflict of Interest in Research” have been updated in the Faculty Handbook.

New Policy E50 “Export Control” has been forwarded to the Faculty Senate Operations Committee to place on the January 28 Faculty Senate agenda for approval. If approved, then it will be forwarded to President Stokes for final approval.

New Policy E130 “Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs” has been forwarded to the Faculty Senate Operations Committee to request approval to go out for faculty comment.

The update on parental leave for postdoctoral fellows item was postponed to later in the agenda.

3. Planning for Spring 2026 Policy Work Discussion

Chair Eve Espey commended the committee on all the work that was done and completed last semester. The committee worked on five policies, three of which were quite complicated.

The Committee reviewed the policy listing document. Chair Espey commended Carol Stephens on creating this list. The committee discussed the policies that are on the active list and discussed the aspirational list of policies that they wanted to work on for the semester. It was decided to include A61.6 “Social Justice Committee,” A53.2 “College, School, and Department Policies,” A66 “Policy Committee,” A91 “Creation and Termination of Centers” in the active workload list. In addition, the committee discussed some policies listed on the future list that perhaps the committee could at least start looking at during the spring, if they had a draft to review, including C130 “Outside Employment and Conflict of Commitment,” C16X “Remote Work,” and C120 “Sick Leave.” They could be prioritized once some working drafts have been created.

For C130, Akshay Sood mentioned that there was going to be a roll out of a new system that reports conflict of interests. He volunteered to help pull together a group to help create a revised draft to work with including himself, Vivian Valencia, Rebecca Sanchez, Beth Tigges, and another member of the committee. Michele Head was suggested as a possible member. Chair Espey will reach out to her or other members to solicit volunteers. Nancy Middlebrook and Carol Stephens are available to help after the draft is created and will also work on alignment or recommended changes to the Regents Policy.

4. Parental Leave for Postdoctoral Fellows Update

Rebecca Sanchez reported that the Provost’s Office has been working with other university leaders on the strategy for implementing parental leave for postdoctoral fellows and that they are making progress on the initiative. The plan that is being worked on is to provide an 8-week allotment, which aligns with NIH postdoc award amounts. While it was hoped that this would be in place by January 1, there are some items that are still being worked on, but they do hope to have the timeline for implementation in place soon. There will be funds allotted for covering the leave so that it will not come out of the PI’s budget. It is not yet determined where a policy addressing postdoc parental leave benefits will reside.

5. Review of Policy Drafts for Discussion and Possible Action

E10 “Classified Research”

Research Policy Committee (RPC) Chair Tito Busani and UNM Facilities Security Officer Deb Kuidis were present to aid in the discussion of revisions to Policy E10. Because the policy has not been revised since the 1970’s, significant revisions are needed to comply with current federal regulations governing classified research. The RPC created a subgroup to review the policy and discussed some of the additions that they recommended, especially to emphasize that the review takes place first before the research begins. They also clarified that transmitting classified information should also be through methods that are authorized by the funding agency. Deb Kuidis explained that the two most important points about the policy are (1) that no classified research is actually conducted at any UNM facilities and (2) that any person conducting this research must have an appropriate security clearance to do so. She emphasized that a UNM researcher must conduct the research at an authorized off-campus facility. Due to the costs associated with building and maintaining a SCIF (sensitive compartmented information facility), it was highly unlikely that a UNM-owned facility would ever be set up for classified research. With this information, the committee also discussed adding a definition of classified research into the policy and discussed other revisions to clarify and streamline the policy. A revised draft will be provided to Chair Busani and Deb

Kuidis to review for any additional comments prior to sending it to the Policy Committee for review at their next meeting.

In addition to this policy, it was discussed that there was no general policy on research at UNM, which might help to provide guidance on research regardless of whether it is sponsored or not and funded or not. Some of the language in the policy could be moved to this overarching policy. This is something that was noted as a future item to consider.

A91 "Creation, Review, Reorganization of UNM Research Center and Institutes"

RPC Chair Tito Busani briefly introduced the policy and the need for revisions. Carol Stephens provided some information on some revisions made to what was sent from the RPC and will provide an explanatory memo to RPC Chair Busani, so he knows what was changed. It was also noted that the Health Sciences Center still needs to develop a standard regarding these types of centers that fall under HSC. Due to time constraints, the review of the policy draft will be placed on the committee's February agenda and RPC Chair Busani will be invited to attend that meeting.

A53.2 "College, Schools, and Department Policies"

Due to time constraints, the committee did not discuss this new proposed policy. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

A66 "Policy Committee"

Due to time constraints, the committee did not discuss possible revisions to the charge of the Policy Committee. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.