



The Faculty Assembly Meeting

MINUTES

August 15, 2025 12:30 PM ZOOM

MEETING CALLED BY:	Dr. Arun Muthaiyan, Faculty Assembly President
MINUTES ASSEMBLED BY:	Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary
FACULTY ATTENDEES:	Antoinette Abeyta, Robert Anderson, Lowell Bautista, John Burke, Markos Chavez, David Eberhardt, Vanessa Ferguson, Jennifer Henry, Yi-Wen Huang, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Jacob Lacroix, Tracy Lassiter, Gwen Livingston, LD Lovett, Jonathan Lumibao, Aretha Matt, Andrew McFeaters, Roseanna McGinn, Bernie Montano, Arun Muthaiyan, Sangam Pangeni, Britt Rhuart, Shynal Robinson, Chathuri Sandamali, Kristian Simcox, Keri Stevenson, Ernesto Watchman, Karen Weir, Shannon Werner, Kristi Wilson, Yuqing Zou
GUESTS: N/A	

ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

DISCUSSION	
Approval of the Agenda:	
Motion: Dr. Keri Stevenson	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

DISCUSSION	
Move to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2025 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.	
Motion: Professor Kristi Wilson	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

INFORMATION

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

Dr. Arun Muthaiyan begins the meeting by welcoming the faculty members in attendance. He then shares on the screen a list of faculty members who earned promotion and awards over the summer break. Faculty members applaud.

Dr. Muthaiyan then names all of the new faculty who were recently hired. Faculty members applaud.

He then introduces the current membership of the Operations Committee and Nominations Committee. He asks that everyone, should they have any ideas or plans to share with the Operations Committee in the future, to contact any members of that committee. Furthermore, if anyone has any ideas or proposals for the Executive Team, please share those with the Operations Committee so that it--as the representing body for the Faculty Assembly--can present them to the Executive Team. That would benefit the entire community and the campus.

Dr. Muthaiyan then reminds faculty that he will send out the committee preference form soon. He points out that service is instrumental to UNM-Gallup and for the RPT process. Faculty should submit the form by next Friday. The form can be filled out and submitted on the website.

Then Dr. Muthaiyan asks for the report from the Faculty Assembly Senators to Albuquerque.

INFORMATION

SENATOR'S REPORT

DR. SIMCOX AND DR. LASSITER

Dr. Kristian Simcox begins with a report of the most recent meeting. The previous meeting occurred last April. One of the more significant actions taken by the Faculty Senate during that meeting was that the Faculty Senate approved a resolution to establish a mutual academic defense compact in defense of academic freedom, free expression, institutional integrity and the research enterprise. It's a detailed resolution. Among other things, it urges President Stokes to take a lead in establishing a mutual academic defense compact among public and land-grant universities, all of whom are interested in protecting the actions of the university in teaching and research. Dr. Simcox asks that, if anybody is interested in seeing this resolution, let him know and he will be happy to provide them with a link or pass it on to them so that they can see it in more detail. He adds that he hopes faculty will see more movement on this now as the new academic year begins. Dr. Simcox then reports that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 26th, after which there will be more updates. He then asks if Dr. Tracy Lassiter has anything to add to the report.

Dr. Lassiter, being new to the Senate, answers that she has nothing to report at this time.

Dr. Simcox then asks faculty to feel free to share any priorities they would like addressed in future Faculty Senate and Community College Council meetings.

Dr. Muthaiyan then asks for the committee reports.

INFORMATION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budget Review Committee: Dr. Andrew McFeaters greets everyone. He reports that he, Professor Vanessa Ferguson and Dr. Keri Stevenson have thus far been exchanging emails to discuss when to schedule their first meeting. He mentions that he will attend the upcoming Executive Team meeting to get more information regarding current budgetary issues--and to learn about the Innovation Grant in

progress. Once he gathers this information, the Budget Review Committee can draft questions and survey any faculty concerns.

Committee on Teaching Excellence: Dr. Aretha Matt mentions that, once membership is determined, the committee will elect a chair. She adds that one priority will hopefully involve literacy issues for students. Another goal would be to develop a conference on campus to invite experts on pedagogy. Another possible goal is to revise teaching evaluations based more on content than numerical ratings. Dr. Matt also suggests that the committee could work towards developing posters and invite muralists to beautify the campus.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Professor Joe Kee says their committee meeting will be next week or in early September. The committee will continue to work on its priorities from last academic year, taking a look at the current bylaws to streamline language and develop consistency.

College Assessment and Review Committee: Professor Lowell Bautista reports that the committee has yet to meet, but he is in constant communication with main campus to advance the assessment and academic review process. He thanks the previous faculty participants for submitting last year's artifacts. He stresses the importance of this process and adds that the new criterion will be critical thinking. Finally, Professor Bautista says that he will send out an email for the next round of artifact submissions.

Curricula Committee: Professor Jennifer Henry greets everyone, speaking as the new chair of the Curricula Committee. She mentions that there are a couple of vacancies on the committee. The committee hopes to have nine members. She points out that the committee is currently pausing program reviews so that it can revise the review process to reduce counterproductive redundancy. For now, the goal is to fill all of the spots on the committee before scheduling its first meeting.

Library Committee: Professor Kristi Wilson mentions that the committee needs a new chair. She points out the benefits of the committee for anyone who is interested. Professor Wilson then sums up some of the previous year's accomplishments--such as the Art Prowl.

Strategic Planning Committee: Professor Ernesto Watchman welcomes back all the faculty and congratulations those who received well deserved awards. At present, the committee has yet to schedule its first meeting. He mentions that he plans to assemble many of the great ideas shared at the recent convocation. Once the committee has fully formed, he says that they will hit the ground running.

Distance Learning Committee: Professor Roseanna McGinn says that they did not meet last May because they were unable to form a quorum. That is a matter they will address in the future. One of the issues the committee does want to address is plagiarism and the dishonest use of artificial intelligence. To her knowledge, the committee needs to select a new chair for the coming year.

Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee: Dr. Keri Stevenson says that she might be the only member present here. She points out that last year's chair, Professor Jeff Hunt, has moved on to a job in Colorado. So there currently is no chair. The first task will be to establish membership and to select a new chair. One of the projects the committee will resume will be to further develop an online communications and information hub as a FAQ resource for adjunct faculty.

Dr. Muthaiyn thanks the committees for reporting and then asks for a report from UA-UNM.

INFORMATION

FACULTY UNION UPDATE

DR. KERI STEVENSON

Dr. Stevenson greets everyone. She mentions that bargaining with administration is still in process. The union has been bargaining since last November. One recent change is that Barbara Rodriguez is the new interim provost. It is unclear whether she will take a permanent position as provost. So, in some sense, the parties have to get on the same page again. Dr. Stevenson does point that the union was successful in garnering the recent pay raise for faculty--4% for full-time faculty and 5% for part-time faculty. Hopefully the rest of the bargaining will be finished sooner than later. Dr. Stevenson then reminds everyone of the social being hosted by the union later today. She then asks faculty if they have any questions.

Dr. Yi-Wen Huang asks if there has been any progress securing the 4-4 workload at the Lost Alamos campus.

Dr. Stevenson confirms that their administration pretty much agreed to the workload last February.

Dr. Muthaiyan then asks for announcements.

INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIOUS

Professor Markos Chavez provides some updates regarding Zollinger Library. They have new graphing calculators. Fourteen are available, and they can be checked out for a week at a time. The library has also added audiovisual technology. They have a podcasting kit, including microphones and headphones. Interviews can be conducted just about anywhere. This could be used for class projects. The library has also established green, yellow, and red zones to indicate the volume of noise permitted in different areas of the library, with green being the most liberal. The library is also providing some gifts for people who come to check out materials.

L.D. Lovett offers announcement and updates regarding the DEI department. He says that they don't plan to stop what they are already doing, understanding how important DEI is. This is a matter of academic freedom for everyone. He mentions that the upcoming DEI summit will be in March. It will be held on campus. If anyone wants to join the planning committee, please reach out to him.

Dr. Muthaiyan thanks everyone for their announcements and calls for a motion to adjourn.

ACTION ITEM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.	
Motion: Professor Markos Chavez	
Seconded: Yes	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	
Meeting adjourned at 1:15PM by Faculty Assembly President Dr. Arun Muthaiyan	
Recorded by: Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary, on August 15, 2025.	