



**The  
Faculty Assembly Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**January 17, 2025 12:30 PM ZOOM**

<b>MEETING CALLED BY:</b>	<b>Dr. Carolyn Kuchera, Faculty Assembly President</b>
<b>MINUTES ASSEMBLED BY:</b>	Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary
<b>FACULTY ATTENDEES:</b>	Antoinette Abeyta, Lowell Bautista, John Burke, Markos Chavez, Neysa Cox, Chris Dyer, Vanessa Ferguson, Niko Harrington, Jennifer Henry, Yi-Wen Huang, Jeffery Hunt, Hasani Jayasinghe, Thomas Kaus, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Jacob Lacroix, Carmela Lanza, LD Lovett, Jonathan Lumibao, Elvira Martin, Andrew McFeaters, Arun Muthaiyan, Sangam Pangeni, Arthur Perales, Cecile Perales, Shynal Robinson, Kristian Simcox, Chad Smith, Keri Stevenson, Ernesto Watchman, Karen Weir, Kristi Wilson, Yuquing Zou
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Matt Mingus, Richard Reyes, John Zimmerman

**ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>Move to approve agenda.</b>  <b>Motion:</b> Professor Kristi Wilson <b>Seconded:</b> Yes <b>Discussion:</b> None <b>Vote:</b> Unanimous <b>Motion Carried:</b> Yes	

**ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>Move to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2024 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.</b>  <b>Motion:</b> Dr. Keri Stevenson <b>Seconded:</b> Yes <b>Discussion:</b> None <b>Vote:</b> Unanimous <b>Motion Carried:</b> Yes	

**INFORMATION****PRESIDENT'S REPORT****DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA**

Dr. Carolyn Kuchera mentions that she has three items to cover. The first item regards a discussion that took place during the recent Operations Committee meeting. A couple of members of the Operations Committee were expressing a concern over the ways in which teaching modalities are assigned. This is an issue that is coming from the Provost's Office, but this might be an issue on a future Faculty Assembly meeting agenda.

The second item regards Calvin Hall. The contactors promised that all of the classrooms would be ready by this semester, but that's not the case. Some of the classrooms on the first floor of Calvin Hall will not be ready. That's because many of the conduits that run under the floors and in the walls of those classrooms are still retaining standing water, making the use of electricity dangerous. Everyone can expect that their chair will be contacting them to discuss this issue. If anyone is worried about a classroom, that person should contact the division chair. Please do not go to Suzette with these room changes. Go to the chairs instead. Most of the affected faculty are in Business and Applied Tech and Math and Sciences. There seems to be no timeline to indicate when the rooms will be ready.

Dean John Zimmerman adds that he met with Frank this morning. The rooms that are fine are 174 and 176. The rooms that are impacted by the water are 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 182, and 184. We should not be plugging our machines into the walls of those classrooms. Recently, one of the projectors started smoking during a test in one of those classrooms. There are still substantial issues regarding possible water exposure to electrical lines. Everything is working on the second floor. The Math Lab and Language Lab are fine. Rooms 261 and 263 are fine. The science labs are fine.

Dr. Kuchera brings up the third item in her report. Dean Zimmerman visited the Operations Committee meeting to roll out some changes that the Executive Team is proposing to make to our divisional structure. At this point, these changes have the full support of all of the chairs. The goal of the changes is to make the workload more equitable among the division chairs. This is an item that Dean Zimmerman will present at the next Faculty Assembly meeting. In the meantime, the Executive Team will hold conversations with all those who will be most affected by the proposed reorganization. The full plan will be presented in February for approval. It is important to point out that, under the proposed reorganization, no positions will be eliminated. That's all we know at this point. Faculty attendance at the next Faculty Assembly meeting will be especially important.

Dean Zimmerman says that he will not spend a lot of time presenting the plan during this meeting. One reason for that is that the Executive Team wants to first speak individually with those most impacted by the changes. That way any of their concerns can be addressed. Tina Griego has already contacted those individuals to request meetings. Dean Zimmerman will be at those meetings. The relevant chairs will also be at those meetings. Above all, the rationale for these proposed changes is meant to address the inequitable labor division between the chairs. Once again, no faculty and staff positions will be eliminated should these changes be approved.

Dr. Kuchera asks for questions. No questions are forthcoming. Dr. Kuchera introduces Dr. Antoinette Abeyta to address action items for the Curriculum Committee.

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>CURRICULA FORMS</b>	<b>DR. ANTOINETTE ABEYTA</b>
<p>Dr. Antoinette Abeyta mentions that she had sent out an email that included the proposal. The proposal unifies the process to create new programs at the branch campuses. This is a way to streamline workload. So if one branch campus has an effective program, another branch campus can adopt that program without starting from scratch. There would still be a system of checks and balances to ensure careful attention to any possible long-term consequences. At this point, all of the branch campuses have adopted the new proposal. UNM-Gallup would be the last to do so. The Curriculum Committee has unanimously approved the proposal. Dr. Abeyta asks faculty if they have any questions.</p> <p>Dr. Chris Dyer asks if the new process would impact current curriculum changes if it were approved today.</p> <p>Dr. Abeyta answers that the process would impact future changes.</p> <p>Dean Zimmerman adds that this is really a formal adoption of our existing process.</p> <p>Dr. Kuchera asks for a motion to put it to a vote.</p> <p><b>Motion to approve:</b> Professor Niko Harrington  <b>Seconded:</b> Dr. Dyer  <b>Discussion:</b> None  <b>Vote:</b> Unanimous  <b>Motion Carried:</b> Yes</p>		

<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>
<p>Dr. Kuchera asks for committee reports.</p> <p><b>UNMG Senator to ABQ:</b> Dr. John Burke mentions that there is a new ad-hoc committee in the Faculty Senate. It is the Social Justice Committee. Professor Justin Bendell is currently leading the effort. If anyone has an interest in joining the committee, please reach out to him. One item that is on the upcoming agenda is called <i>equitable access</i>. It has to do with a fixed amount of dollars that a student would pay for their textbooks. A townhall is coming up. It will be after the Faculty Senate meeting. Dr. Burke adds that he does not know how this would impact the Gallup branch. We do not run our system like the main-campus bookstore. The fixed fee is about \$279 per semester. He mentions that he will be talking to our bookstore manager to find out if this fixed fee would impact our students. Finally, one other issue is that Dr. Cris Elder, the Faculty Senate President, has asked for a branch-campus faculty member to serve on the Policy Committee in the Faculty Senate. That seat is currently vacant. In terms of its service impact, it counts as a campus-wide committee. Among other issues, the Policy Committee wants to come up with remote workload agreement guidelines. The Branch Community College Counsel met yesterday. One issue that this group has been working on is the implementation of the new faculty workload at the Los Alamos branch. There they have not been adhering to the four-four workload. As of Monday, the Dean of Instruction at Los Alamos is no longer employed by UNM. We do not know what this will mean for the branch leadership in the future. Dr. Burke concludes by mentioning that he will be stepping down as a senator and taking sabbatical in the fall of 2025. If anyone is interested in serving as a senator, please think about that now.</p>		

Professor L.D. Lovett asks what the Social Justice Committee will do.

Dr. Burke responds that the committee is developing and defining its mission at present.

**Budget Review Committee:** Dr. Andrew McFeaters mentions that he will send out an email to schedule the Budget Review Committee's first meeting of the semester. One mission is to draft some more questions for the Executive Team regarding the current legislative process. Dr. McFeaters adds that the opening day for the legislative process is January 21st, the process concluding on March 22nd.

**Committee on Teaching Excellence:** No report.

**Constitution and By-Laws Committee:** Professor Joe Kee says that the committee will be meeting within the next week.

**College Assessment and Review Committee:** Professor Bautista Lowell thanks everyone for participating in the assessment process. He will be in contact with those who were selected to submit artifacts for the 2024-2025 academic year. The deadline is May 15th. Anyone else who wishes to participate should contact him.

**Curricula Committee:** Dr. Abeyta mentions that their next meeting will be next Friday.

**Library Committee:** Professor Niko Harrington says that they are continuing to plan an upcoming library event.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Dr. Kuchera mentions that Professor Ernesto Watchman sent her a detailed committee report. The committee has identified five goals for the year: 1) institutional growth and development, 2) financial planning and resource allocation, 3) facilities and infrastructure improvement, 4) faculty and staff development, and 5) student success and support services. The committee also compiled a list of recommendations for next steps. The first recommendation is to continue strategic investment in high-impact academic and student support initiatives. The second recommendation is to strengthen collaboration between faculty, administration, and external partners to enhance resource sharing. The third recommendation is to develop data-driven approaches to inform decision-making on institutional priorities. The fourth is to advocate for additional funding and grant opportunities to support program expansion. The fifth is to enhance communication and transparency in resource planning processes.

**Distance Learning Committee:** Dr. Dyer says that they had their first meeting yesterday. They are following through with their survey on distance learning. The surveys will be directed to three cohorts: faculty, students, and community members. This is under review at the IRB on main campus. The committee is being divided into groups to handle the different surveys. The surveys will most likely be administered online. The community portion will include businesses and organizations like the Chamber of Commerce. Finally, the committee is also examining best practices. To that purpose, the members of the committee will have two references. One is called *Distance Education and Learning Environments*, by Taylor Halverson; the other is called *Teaching and Learning at a Distance: Foundations of Distance Education*, by Michael Simonson.

**Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee:** Professor Jeff Hunt mentions that the committee is establishing a forum on Teams for adjunct faculty to present concerns and ask questions.

**UA-UNM, Faculty Union:** Dr. Keri Stevenson says that she had sent out a summary of the last two bargaining sessions. The first session, which was initially scheduled for November 7th, was canceled due to snow conditions. The session on November 26th largely involved the union stating its priorities for bargaining, whereas administration focused on specifying ground rules. Among other things, those rules would prevent anyone not in physical attendance from receiving information about the bargaining proposals. The union did not agree to that. The next bargaining session on January 12th ended in the same stalemate. The session was scuttled. Now the priorities are to choose another session date and to hold bargaining committee meetings to discuss union priorities. Anyone interested in a specific issue should reach out to her or Dr. Kristian Simcox.

## INFORMATION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VARIOUS

Dr. Abeyta says that she and Professor Chad Smith are offering a research experience for undergraduates. It involves ecological forecasting. It is a great opportunity, and they have funding for three students. The application deadline is next Friday. She asks that everyone share this opportunity with their students.

Senior Public Relations Specialist Richard Reyes mentions that he will be holding a Branding 101 session today at 3PM. It will be on Teams.

Professor L.D. Lovett says that the City of Gallup and the Saint Paul Missionary will be celebrating Martin Luther King on January 20th. There will be a march that will start at the Multicultural Center at about noon. Then there will be presentations at the Larry Mitchell Center.

Professor Markos Chavez mentions that he is going to email the library menu of events to everyone. It is a menu of workshops that the library can hold for students. Workshops deal with issues like resumé writing or how to use Microsoft Word. Professor Markos also mentions that any faculty who wish to present at the library should reach out to him.

Professor Kristi Wilson mentions that Eastern New Mexico State University will feature Daryl Watchman's artwork at the Reynolds Gallery from March 6th to March 31st.

## ACTION ITEM

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion:** Dr. Andrew McFeaters

**Seconded:** Yes

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion Carried:** Yes

**Meeting adjourned at 1:15PM by Faculty Assembly President Dr Carolyn Kuchera.**

**Recorded by:** Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary, on January 17, 2025.

