



**The
Faculty Assembly Meeting**

MINUTES

November 15, 2024 12:30 PM ZOOM

MEETING CALLED BY:	Dr. Carolyn Kuchera, Faculty Assembly President
MINUTES ASSEMBLED BY:	Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary
FACULTY ATTENDEES:	Antoinette Abeyta, Chatturi Arachchige, Karla Baldonado, John Burke, Markos Chavez, Robert Encinio, Vanessa Ferguson, Bruce Gjeltma, Lucia Guerrero, Nia Harrington, Jennifer Henry, Yi-Wen Huang, Jeffery Hunt, Hasani Jayasinghe, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Jacob Lacroix, Elvira Martin, Andrew McFeaters, Roseanna McGinn, Kristian Simcox, Kristi Wilson
GUESTS:	John Zimmerman

ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA

DISCUSSION	
Move to modify agenda, changing Form As to Bs for Curriculum action.	
Motion: Dr. Antoinette Abeyta	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA

DISCUSSION	
Move to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2024 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.	
Motion: Professor Roseanna McGinn	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

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

Dr. Carolyn Kuchera reports that the new Native American Success Center will be funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Native American-Serving Non-Tribal Institutions Program (NASNTI). Regarding construction projects, she mentions that the projects for the Center for Career and Technical Education are moving forward. There are three in total. Currently, construction is underway in Welding. The next construction will apply to Auto Technology. The final project will be Construction Technology. Regarding the recent election, General Obligation Bond 3 has passed. That will free up four million dollars at UNM-Gallup. The money will be used to make renovations to the Fine Arts Department inside of Gurley Hall. That completes this meetings report.

INFORMATION**STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH****DR. ANDREW MCFEATERS**

Dr. Andrew McFeaters mentions that UNM's TimelyCare was presented by Janelle Eastman at the last Faculty Assembly meeting. He emphasizes the value of TimelyCare for student health, particularly with regard to student populations who might feel vulnerable in response to the recent election. He shares the TimelyCare website in the chatroom and briefly goes over the TalkNow and Scheduled Counseling features. Finally, he suggests that faculty consider revisiting this website in their classes to remind students of TimelyCare and that faculty emphasize that they are there for their students.

ACTION ITEM**CURRICULA FORMS****DR. ANTOINETTE ABEYTA**

Dr. Antoinette Abeyta mentions that the New Mexico Department of Higher Education wants to create uniform course numberings. Because of this, they had to change some of our programming so that three-number course headings would conform to four-number course headings. That's what the majority of today's revisions involve. Only the course headings are changing, not the content or functions. That said, this required some program structures be updated, too. The Architecture course requirement had to be removed from one program because there is no instructor to teach it. That's been updated to switch to General Ed to conform to HED requirements and to meet student needs. Dr. Abeyta recommends approving the Forms Bs and Cs as blocks.

Motion to approve Form Bs as a block: Professor Kristi Wilson

Seconded: Dr. John Burke

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried: Yes

Motion to approve Form Cs as a block: Dr. Kristian Simcox

Seconded: Professor Markos Chavez

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried: Yes

INFORMATION**COMMITTEE REPORTS****COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Dr. Kuchera asks for committee reports.

UNMG Senator to ABQ: Dr. John Burke mentions that President Garnett Stokes provided an update at the Faculty Senate Meeting in October. She discussed the General Counsel search, the Mountain West Conference, and curricula realignments. Provost James Halloway provided an update on lottery and opportunity scholarships. The push is to help students complete courses so that they can maintain their lottery and opportunity scholarships. The requirement used to be fifteen credit hours for the fall and spring semesters. That has been modified to include the full academic year, meaning that summer semesters can be used to complete the required thirty credits. UNM Albuquerque has seen significant growth in their student population. The provost wants to assess how large UNM should be, being sure to maintain a good teacher-student ratio. There was a question regarding an update from AAUP concerning a DEI statement. Anyone interested in the update can take a look at the AAUP's website. Dr. Burke then discusses Wayfinder.unm.edu, a resource available to faculty, staff, and students. It provides everyone with confidential, non-mandatory reporting. If faculty are interested, Dr. Elizabeth Quay Hutchinson could present on Wayfinder in the future. Dr. Burke then goes on to mention that the Branch Community College meeting was canceled because all campuses were closed on the first Thursday of the month. So they met yesterday to discuss how the Los Alamos campus has changed how they are reporting their work hours. The wording is confusing and inconsistent, which is why this will likely become a big issue during bargaining. There seems to be a push to return Los Alamos to its fifteen-credit hour course load. Once one adds service and scholarship requirements, that would be an eighteen-credit hour workload.

Budget Review Committee: Dr. Andrew McFeaters mentions that he had met with the Executive Team for the sustainability meeting. The purpose and parameters of the Innovation fund is still under discussion. It probably won't take form until next fall. Some of the issues being discussed involve how the moneys will be managed and indexed for the Innovation Fund. For example, using an internal index instead of an external index, the latter of which would go through Albuquerque, is important. Another question involves when the funds should be released. Once they are released, they no longer accrue interest. Dr. McFeaters then goes on to mention that the Budget Review Committee met last week. One issue that was discussed involved the concern that UNM and UNM-Gallup's funding might change in the future based on any restructuring of the Department of Education in DC. This is something everyone should watch for in the future.

Committee on Teaching Excellence: No report.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Professor Joe Kee mentions that they met this week to further discuss ways to make language in the bylaws more uniform with regard to rules of committee membership and chair elections. Issues of committee attendance and committee reports were also discussed.

College Assessment and Review Committee: No report.

Curricula Committee: Dr. Abeyta mentions that they have updated the internal writing form curricula changes. A link has been posted in the chatroom. The original form included positions that no longer exist at UNM-Gallup. Now we have an updated, streamlined form.

Library Committee: Professor Nia Harrington mentions that the committee met this week. The committee intends to continue with some of the previous year's goals as well to continue its fundamental purpose in supporting the Library Director. The library would like to host an art history event in the spring semester.

Strategic Planning Committee: Dr. Kuchera mentions that the new chair of the Strategic Planning Committee is Professor Ernesto Watchman.

Distance Learning Committee: No report.

Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee: Professor Jeffery Hunt mentions the committee had its first meeting and that he is now the chair. One goal is to push all adjunct faculty to communicate through Teams. This channel could field answers to any questions regarding technology, administration, or any other issues. By the end of the year, the information submitted to Teams will be used to draft new goals.

UA-UNM, Faculty Union: Dr. Kristian Simcox reminds everyone that the union is entering full-contract negotiation with the administration. The first bargaining session was scheduled for Thursday, November 7th. Since all campuses were closed for snow, that meeting was canceled. The first meeting is now scheduled for November 26th from 12:30 to 2:30PM. All members are invited to attend. The union is stronger when there is more support. A meeting will take place in Albuquerque this coming Tuesday. There will be a Zoom option for the branch campuses, albeit the Zoom connection cannot play a role in the bargaining room.

INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIOUS

Dr. Burke mentions that the Faculty Senate is working towards including a Social Justice Committee. The chair is Professor Justin Bendell from the Valencia campus. Anyone interested should reach out to Professor Bendell.

Dr. Abeyta asks everyone to keep an eye out for an advertisement for the Research Experience for Undergraduates in Environmental Data Science. There are four positions open. No previous experience is needed. This will be for the spring semester. It involves remote mentoring from several universities.

Professor Kristi Wilson mentions that there will be a reception for student artwork in the gallery from 5:30 to 7:30PM on December 5th. There will be music and food.

ACTION ITEM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Dr. Andrew McFeaters

Seconded: Yes

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 1:50PM by Faculty Assembly President Dr Carolyn Kuchera.

Recorded by: Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary, on November 15, 2024.