

cleared for use. AVI, our vendor, has already recommended a full replacement of all the cables, projectors, and ports. However, the state auditor has yet to accept that evaluation. The state auditor wants to send its own vendor here to conduct an assessment. UNM Albuquerque IT is also involved in the process. This morning, Eric Castillo sent out an email that adamantly supports the AVI recommendation. Because this is going to take more time, it has been recommended by our IT services that we do not use the existing technology in the aforementioned rooms. If someone were to plug their laptops into the ports, that could damage the laptop and negate our licensing agreement with AVI. Then we would be responsible for replacement. In addition, a short in the wall cables could cause a fire. It is important that we protect our institution. So please use the supplied portable TVs instead. If anyone finds it impossible to conduct their course with these TVs, that person should talk to their division chair. We are open to suggestions. For example, a class could be moved to another room. Also, we have some portable projectors on campus. Finally, we as yet have no indication of a timeframe for when these repairs will be completed. Everyone's patience is appreciated. Dean Zimmerman then opens the floor for questions.

Professor Karla Baldonado asks for confirmation that the TV port is a C-port.

Technical Analyst Frank Sanchez replies that the TV ports are HDMI ports. He also mentions that adaptors can be used if needed. If anyone needs one, that person can stop by IT.

Dr. Andrew McFeaters suggests that tape be placed over the wall ports to ensure that they not be used.

Dean Zimmerman adds that some sort of signage would help, too.

Dean Zimmerman moves onto to the next update: hiring. Since he became dean, UNM-Gallup has hired sixteen fulltime faculty. This includes new positions, visiting positions, and promotions from visiting positions to continuing positions. Regarding demographic data, thirteen of those sixteen hires comprise faculty of color, including ten women of color. This is important to state because DEI efforts are under attack at the national level. At UNM, however, DEI hiring remains a core value and commitment.

In the upcoming year, there will be less emphasis on hiring. That said, UNM-Gallup is planning for between four to seven new hires. These is due primarily to visiting faculty positions coming to their end. Visiting faculty can continue for three years; however, after that a competitive search must be conducted in order to retain that position. Aside from that, we are working on funding for a new program that has been approved, but we do not yet have faculty for the position of Community Health Worker, a case-management position that helps people with medical needs. In addition, we have two incomplete searches from last year that will resume this year: one for Human Services and the other for the position of the Assistant Director of Nursing. Finally, on the topic of hiring, there are new training requirements from the Provost's Office. Now there are two trainings that both the chair and the other members of the search committees must complete. One is the Equity and Inclusion training; the other, from Advanced UNM, involves Best Practices for hiring. If anyone is interested in joining a search committee, that person should let their chair know. Then the training can commence.

Dean Zimmerman then moves on to discuss computer refresh. There is no current fixed rotation for faculty and staff. The current budget does not support a refresh for every computer that has been in use for five years. If anyone is having issues with their computer, they should notify their chair. That chair will then reach out to Eric Castillo and Robert Griego. Dean Zimmerman adds that he and Chancellor Sabrina Ezzell are committed to making this part of the budget process. The goal is to get to the point when a rotation regularly takes place. If the computer is still under warranty, then it can be handled that

way. The goal, however, is to put enough funds in the ER&R over the next couple of years so that a rotation becomes the norm.

The final topic Dean Zimmerman discusses relates to Strategic Planning. Regarding Goal I, which comprises student support, our team is working with UNM-Albuquerque and the other branches to initiate a Needs and Belongings survey. This survey would go out to all students eighteen and over. That will happen in the next few months. It is a multipoint Wellness and Belonging survey. That way, we can get a general sense of what our students are thinking and what they need. Then, over the next year, efforts will be broadened to include students under eighteen. This will be a university-wide survey. Regarding Goal III, which comprises the one-campus group, new tactics have been developed for staff hiring and onboarding. We are trying to make the process more substantive and welcoming for new staff hires. We are planning a quarterly recognition ceremony for people who have received campus kudos. That way we can recognize their hard work. This will begin in October. It will cover the timeframe from July 1st to September 30th. Everyone still has time to nominate someone for campus kudos. The last issue for the One Campus Group relates to how we develop the Dean's List. Students who get 3.5 or above for their GPA are on the Dean's List. At present, this is handled on the main campus as a function of the registrar. We, however, want to do more on our campus. From this point on, the Dean's Office will send out personalized letters to our students who have achieved the Dean's List. In addition, these students' names will be posted publicly--to our website and potentially to our local newspaper. Goal III, Inclusive Excellence, will hold an accessibility listening session. The main goal is to make our campus fully accessible to everyone that visits. They want members in their group. If anyone is interested, please contact Richard Reyes. Finally, the last item to bring up--which is very exciting--relates to Goal II, which is Sustainability. That relates to both financial and organizational sustainability. The Executive Team has agreed to a new initiative: each year an index will be created to hold the interest from our reserves. For this year, that is about \$120,000. That money will be put in that index for what will be called an Innovation Fund. We shall solicit calls for proposals from faculty and staff for innovative, large-scale, sustainable projects that will grow the institution and move the institution forward. This will take place each year. As the reserves grow, this fund will grow. Over the next several months, we will work out the nuts and bolts for this process--regarding expectations, parameters, and the kinds of programs that are desirable. We shall probably work with the UNM Rainforest Team, because they do work in this area. Dean Zimmerman concludes his report.

Dr. Carolyn Kuchera and faculty thank Dean Zimmerman for his updates. Dr. Kuchera then introduces the next presentation, Frank Sanchez's presentation for Toastmasters.

INFORMATION TOASTMASTERS' PRESENTATION FRANK SANCHEZ

Frank Sanchez discusses what Toastmasters does in Gallup. He plays a video to introduce the program. After showing the video, he mentions that Toastmasters meets every week at 7AM on Thursdays at the Veteran Center at Ford Canyon. The group is small but growing. People attend the event live as well as on Zoom. Frank Sanchez invites faculty to join the event. It makes people better teachers. It makes people better at answering questions. It makes speakers more articulate. Attendees and speakers critique each other at the event, providing pointers and advice. Frank Sanchez invites everyone to stop by IT if they are interested. They can pick up brochures and learn more about Toastmasters. The goal is to grow the event large enough to move to UNM, and to include events for adults and for high school students.

INFORMATION

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA

Dr. Kuchera provides an update on our mission to establish a food bank on campus. Two faculty representatives are being sought for to serve on the UNM-Gallup Food-Bank Taskforce. If anyone is interested, please email her by the end of the month. In the event that more than two faculty members express interest, the Operations Committee will pick the two faculty primarily based on prior service commitments. Those two faculty members' names will then be forwarded to Jayme McMahan.

Dr. Kuchera then mentions that we have a new Faculty Research Support Officer, Andrea Orzoff. We have her for a .25 FTE, and we shall be sharing her with the Taos branch. She is available to help faculty identify funding opportunities and to help them through the funding process. She will be presenting at our next Faculty Assembly meeting. She will also visit our campus on October 25th. She can meet one-on-one with interested individuals. There may also be workshops.

Finally, Dr. Kuchera adds that she had sent out emails to members of the various committees to ask for confirmation for their committee rosters, for chair selection, and for a stated committee goal for the year. Please respond before the next Operations Committee meeting on October 8th.

INFORMATION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dr. Kuchera asks for committee reports.

UNMG Senator to ABQ: Dr. Kristian Simcox begins by mentioning that there is availability for branch-campus faculty seats on a couple of faculty senate university-wide committees. First there is the Policy Committee. This committee is responsible for the development and revision of policies in the faculty handbook. This is a great opportunity for anyone seeking university-wide service. Second, there is the ad-hoc Student Success Committee. This is an ad-hoc committee that will be cochaired by the Associate Vice President Provost, Pamela Cheek. This committee does not require a branch representative, but it could be helpful to have branch faculty serving on that committee. These are both university-wide committees. Anyone interested should contact Dr. Burke, himself, or UNM Faculty Senate President Cris Elder. Dr. Simcox then moves on to discuss the last Faculty Senate meeting on August 27th. A representative from Ombuds Services was invited. Ombuds Services is here to help faculty with professional barriers and conflicts. They offer a neutral sounding-board for faculty. These are off-the-record, informal and confidential meetings for faculty. If email is used to set up a meeting, that email is deleted. No records are kept. Also, during the Faculty Senate meeting, breakout groups were formed to discuss priorities for the academic year. A detailed list was drafted. These priorities will be further discussed at the next meeting on September 24th. If anyone has any priorities that they would like the Faculty Senate to address, please reach out. Finally, the Branch Community College Council also met to discuss priorities for the academic year. One of those priorities is for the BCCC to schedule meetings with admin at each campus.

Budget Review Committee: Dr. Andrew McFeaters mentions that the committee has been communicating through email. He was nominated as the chair. The goal is to set up a meeting to develop questions that he can ask administration regarding budgetary issues. He will then report back the answers.

Committee on Teaching Excellence: No report.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Professor Joe Kee says that he has been communicating with committee members. New members are familiarizing themselves with the current by-laws. One goal will be to further develop and refine by-laws regarding committee chair elections.

College Assessment and Review Committee: Dr. Kuchera reports that Professor Lowell Bautista emailed her to inform her that they are meeting next week. Faculty should expect an email regarding how to submit artifacts for assessment.

Curricula Committee: Dr. Antionette Abeyta mentions that the committee met earlier in the morning to conduct reviews.

Library Committee: Professor Kristi Wilson reports that she has initiated the conversation for chair selection. The committee will likely meet this coming Monday at 1PM. Most members can meet then. Those members who cannot meet can communicate their ideas via email.

Strategic Planning Committee: No report.

Distance Learning Committee: No report.

Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee: Professor Jeffery Hunt mentions that they have yet to meet. They will hold a meeting soon to select a chair and to discuss an agenda for the academic year.

UA-UNM, Faculty Union: Dr. Simcox reports that the union held a general membership meeting on Zoom on September 11th. Onboard training occurred on Wednesday via Zoom and on main campus on Thursday. The union is preparing to bargain the full contract for the second time. Faculty should contact him or Dr. Keri Stevenson to communicate any issues that they feel should be brought up during bargaining. One major issue on our campus is that some faculty have not been getting paid on time. This was especially the case for parttime faculty. Dr. Simcox reminds everyone that faculty have a right to seek representation during any grievance meeting. If anyone has any questions about the grievance process, they can contact him. Dr. Simcox chairs the Union Grievance Committee. Finally, Dr. Simcox reminds everyone that Union President Ernesto Longa will be visiting campus next week on Thursday. A lunch will be hosted in Gurley Hall from 11AM to 1:30PM. Please come by to discuss union issues.

INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIOUS

Professor Kristi Wilson mentions that a master print-maker, Dan Grissom, will be sharing a demo of his process from 6-7PM on October 8th in the Ingham Chapman Gallery. Among other projects, he designed the merchandise and posters for Metallica's last album.

Professor Markos Chavez reminds everyone to celebrate Banned Book week by stopping by the library.

Richard Reyes asks faculty to join the Inclusive Excellence Strategic Planning Group. Please reach out to him. They need more faculty input.

ACTION ITEM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Professor Kristi Wilson

Seconded: Yes

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM by Faculty Assembly President Dr Carolyn Kuchera.

Recorded by: Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary, on September 20, 2024.