

**UNM GALLUP
FACULTY ASSEMBLY
ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025–2026



24 April 2026

Accomplishments of the UNM Gallup Faculty Assembly

Academic Year 2025–2026

The Assembly Operations Committee (OPC) pleased to present the Faculty Assembly Accomplishment Report for the 2025–2026 academic year and to celebrate the excellent service of our Assembly Operations Committee, Standing Committee Chairs, and committee members.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the dedication, collaboration, contributions, and shared commitment that define our faculty governance. Through engaged leadership and collective effort, the Assembly and its Standing Committees advanced initiatives that strengthened faculty representation, supported academic excellence, and enhanced the effectiveness of our campus.

We are deeply grateful for the time, expertise, and professionalism contributed by all who served in leadership and committee roles. The Operations Committee also acknowledges the spirit of partnership and mutual respect demonstrated across committees, which has been essential to achieving meaningful outcomes. As this report is shared with the campus community, we recognize these accomplishments as a testament to the Faculty Assembly's collective efforts and look forward to continued collaboration in the coming year.

Compiled and published by the Faculty Assembly Operations Committee
on April 24, 2026:

Dr. Arunachalam Muthaiyan (MBST Division), President

Dr. Keri Stevenson (LAE Division), Vice President

Dr. Andrew McFeaters (LAE Division), Secretary

Dr. Aretha Matt (LAE Division), Member

Prof. Sangam Pangen (MBST Division), Member

Dr. Kristian Simcox (LAE Division), Faculty Senator

Dr. Tracy Lassiter (LAE Division), Faculty Senator

Faculty Assembly Operations Committee

1. Chair

Dr. Arunachalam Muthaiyan (MBST Division), President

2. Members

- Dr. Keri Stevenson (LAE Division), Vice President
- Dr. Andrew McFeaters (LAE Division), Secretary
- Dr. Aretha Matt (LAE Division), Member
- Prof. Sangam Pangen (MBST Division), Member
- Dr. Kristian Simcox (LAE Division), Faculty Senator
- Dr. Tracy Lassiter (LAE Division), Faculty Senator

3. Accomplishments

To support faculty and advance shared governance and transparency, the Assembly Operations Committee (OPC) completed the following tasks:

- Redesigned the Assembly meeting agenda format to create a clearer, more organized, and easier-to-follow structure, thereby enhancing governance and transparency.
- Implemented centralized access to Assembly action-item materials by storing files in a shared folder and including the link directly in the agenda, ensuring members had timely access to information needed for informed decision-making.
- Replaced the traditional hand-raise voting method with digital polling, allowing action-item voting results to be displayed immediately to Assembly members and improving transparency in decision-making.
- Invited the Student Resource Center (SRC) Director to the OPC meeting and discussed strategies for strengthening student accommodation support in classrooms.
- Addressed ongoing inequities in the MBST Division's workload policy by presenting the issue to the Assembly and supporting MBST Division members in elevating the concern to the Division Chair and the Dean for appropriate action, emphasizing shared governance and equity (*ongoing*).
- Developed proposed amendments to the Assembly Constitution and By-laws and engaged in multiple discussions with the Chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee to support updates to these governing documents (*ongoing*).
- Elevated the Student-AI issue to the Executive Team to support faculty and initiate discussions aimed at identifying a viable long-term solution.

- Convened meetings with the Chairs of the Distance Learning Committee and the Committee on Teaching Excellence, as well as the Digital Learning Coordinator, to recommend a plan for developing a standardized, campus-wide AI Guidebook (*ongoing*).
- Working with the Budget Review Committee, the OPC enhanced financial transparency by making information on the Special Administrative Component (SAC) and the Assembly budget accessible to the campus community and facilitating discussions on the effective use of future Assembly funds.
- Identified and presented concerns regarding irregularities in the Division Chair Appointment process to both the administration and the Assembly, emphasizing the importance of shared governance and the need for standardized, transparent procedures to ensure unbiased future appointments and strengthen campus culture. The Dean was invited to the Assembly to engage faculty in dialogue on this process.
- Organized and hosted three guest speaker sessions (*Faculty Research Support, Campus Clinic, and Digital Collegial Communication*) focused on faculty professional development and collegial engagement.
- Led the publication of the Faculty Assembly Accomplishment Report, advancing transparency, shared governance, and highlighting faculty dedication and impactful contributions to the Assembly and campus.

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Adjunct Affairs Committee

1. Chair

Dr. Keri Stevenson (Liberal Arts & Education)

2. Members

- Britt Rhuart (Liberal Arts & Education)
- Robert Anderson (Liberal Arts & Education)
- Jacob LaCroix (Applied Technology & Allied Health Sciences)
- Skyler Stevens (Mathematics, Business, Sciences, & Technology)
- Bernie Montano (Nursing & Human Services)

3. Accomplishments

The Adjunct Affairs Committee held a discussion on whether part-time faculty members should be required to be members of the committee, which the current by-laws state. We decided to revise these by-laws for the next year, because while adjunct participation is welcome and we will seek it out, requiring them to be part of the committee when they do not receive compensation for doing so gave us ethical qualms. As well, members volunteered to serve as observers for part-time faculty's teaching if they wished for peers to observe them; worked on compiling a list of frequently asked questions such as where adjuncts can go to obtain ID cards and print materials out; and made contact with division chairs to ask about adjunct faculty workspace. (This is mandated by the union contract for part-time faculty but does not appear to currently exist in all buildings). Next year, we hope that all part-time faculty teaching face-to-face will have the needed workspace, and all adjuncts will have the information and observations they require. We also hope to identify other adjunct needs and present our by-laws for revision when the constitution goes up for revision in the fall semester.

4. Additional Comments

None

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Budget Review Committee

1. Chair

Dr. Andrew V. McFeaters

2. Members

- Vanessa Ferguson
- Lucia Guerrero
- Shannon Werner
- Shawnadine Becenti

3. Accomplishments

Throughout the academic year, the Budget Review Committee provided budgetary updates to the Faculty Assembly. These updates, acquired from the Executive Team, related to cuts in the Department of Education that could impact pre-existing grants that had previously been secure. The Budget Review Committee also brought attention to the Innovation Grant Funds process, soliciting faculty input on areas that could be more transparent in the application and evaluation process. The Budget Review Committee updated financial documents on the Faculty Assembly website, streamlining access to financial indexes. The Budget Review Committee solicited SAC details (for both appointed and elected positions) from the dean in order to make that information available to faculty on the Faculty Assembly website. This also included the index details and monetary amounts for the Faculty Assembly budget. The budgetary subcategories, along with their own indexes, are also being revised to better reflect the monetary needs of the Faculty Assembly in the future (providing a food budget, for example). Lastly, the committee will conclude the year by recommending the aforementioned revisions to the Innovation Funds Grant so that these revisions can be implemented before the next application cycle in the fall of 2026.

4. Additional Comments

None

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College Assessment Review Committee (CARC)

1. Chair

Dr. Chathuri Edirisinghe

2. Members

- Jennifer Henry
- Neysa Cox
- Norhayati Hasnan
- Gwendolyn Livingston

3. Accomplishments

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the College Assessment Review Committee (CARC) met on September 19, 2025, November 21, 2025, February 13, 2026, and April 10, 2026. Throughout the year, we worked with faculty by informing and supporting them with General Education assessment artifact submissions in both semesters, helping whenever questions or issues came up. After receiving the General Education assessment analysis report in Fall 2025, we had several discussions about how to make this process more meaningful and clearer for faculty. In particular, we felt that sharing the report would help faculty better see how their submitted work aligns with the General Education rubrics and expectations. We also talked about encouraging faculty to attend General Education Essential Skills workshops during kickoff week in both Fall and Spring semesters as another way to build this understanding. In addition, the Curricula Committee initiated conversations about working more closely with CARC. As Chair, I met with the Curricula Committee Chair to start this discussion, and we are planning to hold at least one joint meeting beginning in the next academic year.

4. Additional Comments

None

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Committee on Teaching Excellence

1. Chair

Dr. Hasani Jayasinghe

Dr. Antoinette Abeyta (Fall Semester)

2. Members

- Dr. Aretha Matt
- Dr. Antoinette Abeyta
- Dr. Carmela Lanza
- Avelina Casanova
- Bernie Montano
- Casey Tom
- Richard Cooper

3. Accomplishments

The committee came up with different ideas for the year, including organizing a teaching symposium, guest speaker series, teaching workshops, discussion groups, and revising the teaching evaluation form. From those ideas, we prioritized organizing a teaching symposium as it attracted everybody's interest. The theme for the symposium was 'Literacies Across the Curriculum.' Once we finalized the theme, we started planning and organizing the symposium. The original plan was to hold the symposium as a one-day in-person event. The proposed date was Friday, 06 March 2026. The committee decided to keep it local since it was the first teaching symposium. Due to the low number of proposals submitted, we had to reframe it as 'Teaching Excellence Showcase' and decided to hold a 2-hour online event with 4-5 presentations. However, we had to cancel the event since the number of presentations decreased further. Although the first planned event was not successful, the committee has decided to move forward by organizing a Teaching Excellence Showcase speaker series by inviting faculty members at our campus to deliver a one-hour talk. As the first step, we reached out to the faculty members who submitted proposals to the teaching symposium. Dr. Arunachalam Muthaiyan accepted our invitation to deliver a talk titled 'Unlocking Biology: Teaching Non-Majors to Read, Think, and Talk Science. The talk will be on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 2.00 p.m. via Zoom. Additionally, the committee agreed to work with other parties, including other faculty assembly committees on campus-wide AI policies, following a discussion with the faculty assembly operations committee.

4. Additional Comments

The committee would like to see the Teaching Excellence Showcase speaker series to continue in the next year, recognizing faculty members at our campus.

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Curricula Committee

1. Chair

Prof. Jennifer Henry

2. Members

- Robert Anderson (Liberal Arts & Education)
- Garrett Becenti (Applied Tech & Allied Health Sciences/CCTE)
- Markos Chavez (Zollinger Library)
- Chathuri Arachchige (Math, Business, Sciences & Technology)
- Vanessa Ferguson (Liberal Arts & Education)
- Joe Kee (Liberal Arts & Education)

3. Accomplishments

We had 7 regular meetings and 2 special meetings this academic year.

Program requests: We carefully reviewed course and modification requests for the following programs and certs/degrees: Dental Assisting, Medical Laboratory Technology, Secondary Teacher Education, Health Information Technology, EMS/First Responder/EMT, and Early Childhood Education. We're proud to have approved Navajo Rug Weaving I (NAVA 1310) for our catalog as a transferable course throughout New Mexico. Deleting four programs from our catalog that do not have enrollment or the requisite faculty increased transparency for current and prospective students.

APR process review: We're actively revising UNM-G's Academic Program Review process and documents. The purpose of this work is to reduce "busy work" for program directors and chairs, make the process more streamlined and effective, increase learning opportunities and outcomes for our students, and increase APRs as transparent and supportive assessments rather than an adversarial process. We're also updating the APR schedule, creating a database of previous APRs and reports, and working with our UNM-G institutional researcher to make APR data collection easier and more meaningful. Last, this project has led us to work collaboratively with CARC, which hasn't previously happened on our campus. CARC and CC will be holding occasional joint meetings beginning Fall '26 to collaborate on program assessment plans (CARC responsibility) which become a part of every APR (CC responsibility). It makes sense for us to work together for our programs and students.

UNM-G's Curricula Committee website's updated now, and we're working to add links to our agenda and minutes and a more robust database of program reviews and outcomes.

4. Additional Comments

We had a really active and hard-working committee this year! Many thanks to the FA for keeping us accountable and to chairs/program directors for being so responsive to our questions and concerns about curricula requests they've submitted to us.

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Distance Learning Committee

1. Chair

Dr. Tracy Lassiter (Fall semester) (Liberal Arts & Education Division)

Dr. Yuqing Zou (Spring Semester) (Liberal Arts & Education Division)

2. Members

- Shawnadine Becenti (Nursing & Human Services Division)
- Evalena Boone (Math, Business, Science & Technology Division)
- Christopher Dyer (Liberal Arts & Education Division)
- Tracy Lassiter (Liberal Arts & Education Division)
- Elvira Martin (Math, Business, Science & Technology Division)
- Skyler Stevens (Math, Business, Science & Technology Division)

3. Accomplishments

One of our committee's main accomplishments this academic year was the development of a UNM-Gallup Canvas course template, created by Dr. Tracy Lassiter. This template is designed to support online course development, particularly benefiting new faculty with limited teaching experience. In addition, the committee has focused on helping faculty navigate the use of AI in the classroom. We are tasked with developing a Faculty AI Guidebook, which will be shared across campus to gather input. The guidebook includes sections on writing AI policies and syllabus language, identifying AI-generated student work, incorporating AI as a learning tool in assignments and class activities, and understanding why students may misuse AI as well as strategies to prevent it. Overall, the committee's work demonstrates steady progress and provides practical support for faculty exploring online course design and AI integration in their teaching.

4. Additional Comments

None

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Library Committee

1. Chair

Prof. Kristi Wilson, LAE

2. Members

- Jacob Lacroix, ATAHs
- Chad Smith, MBST
- Lucia Guerrero, ATAHs
- Daniel Primoizic, LAE
- Shannon Werner, MBST
- Markos Chavez, Ex-Officio

3. Accomplishments

For the Fall 2025/Spring 2026 academic year the committee met regularly in the library conference room with Markos. After getting to know one another and having a semester of brainstorming ideas we settled on the idea of providing an Adult Basic Education graduation ceremony for all students who will pass the Hi-Set test this academic year. After months of planning with Jacinta Sice, the committee will host a graduation ceremony for 35 adults who have passed the Hi-Set test. The ABE graduation ceremony will take place on Tuesday, April 28th from 4-5pm in the Library Atrium. Each graduate can invite 2 loved ones. The following is a lineup of the event.

3:45-4pm Kristi Wilson welcomes audience and introduces Jacinta

4-4:05 Jacinta Sice speaks on ABE services, age groups, orientation + introduces Amber

4:05-4:15 Amber Gallup speaks on graduates' accomplishments

4:15-4:30 Former Graduate Guest Speaker - Sadie Acevedo speaks on her experience

4:30-4:50 Ceremony - Jacinta announces names of Graduates while library committee passes out the swag bags + cookie

4:50-5pm Program Closure - Chancellor Ezzell

4. Additional Comments

Each member has volunteered to contribute to this event as follows; Shannon Werner organized the swag bag request from PR, Chad Smith put the swag merch together, Jacob Lacroix has helped transport all bags and plans to set up and take down the event with me. Daniel Primoizic and Lucia Guerrero will pass out the bags to the attendees. Lucia Guerrero organized tablecloths and backdrops for the after party. Markos purchased a cake and photo props for the after-ceremony celebration.

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Strategic Planning and Resource Committee

1. Chair

Prof. Ernesto Watchman (Applied Technologies & Allied Health Sciences)

2. Members

- Joe Kee (Liberal Arts & Education)
- Sangam Pangen (Math, Business, Science & Technology)
- Karla Baldonado (Center for Career & Technical Education)
- Christopher Dyer (Liberal Arts & Education)
- Casey Tom (Applied Technologies & Allied Health Sciences)

3. Accomplishments

The Strategic Planning and Resource Committee (SPRC) made substantial progress in advancing Academic Affairs strategic priorities through a structured, shared governance process.

Key accomplishments include:

- Launched a campus-wide Mission, Vision, and Values (MVV) initiative for Academic Affairs, engaging faculty, and staff in defining institutional direction
- Designed and distributed a comprehensive survey instrument, ensuring broad opportunity for input across divisions
- Collected, reviewed, and synthesized faculty and staff feedback, identifying key institutional themes including student success, academic excellence, workforce readiness, community engagement, cultural inclusion, innovation, and integrity
- Facilitated cross-campus dialogue and engagement, reinforcing shared governance and transparency in decision-making
- Developed multiple draft Mission, Vision, and Values statements grounded in faculty and staff input
- Established a phased framework for MVV development, including data collection → theme analysis → drafting → campus review → finalization
- Coordinated with Academic Affairs leadership, including the Dean of Instruction, to ensure alignment with institutional priorities and the UNM 2040 strategic framework
- Prepared to implement a campus feedback and selection process (e.g., faculty/staff review or vote) to finalize MVV statements
- Strengthened the foundation for long-term strategic planning, ensuring future decisions are aligned with clearly defined institutional priorities

The committee is currently in the drafting and refinement phase, with the goal of presenting finalized Mission, Vision, and Values statements by the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

This work represents a foundational step in defining the long-term identity, priorities, and direction of Academic Affairs at UNM–Gallup.

4. Additional Comments

The committee remains committed to strengthening shared governance and ensuring that faculty and staff voices are central to shaping the future of Academic Affairs at UNM–Gallup. Continued collaboration and campus engagement will be key as we finalize and implement the Mission, Vision, and Values framework.

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