



**The
Faculty Assembly Meeting**

MINUTES

August 16, 2024 12:30 PM ZOOM

MEETING CALLED BY:	Dr. Carolyn Kuchera, Faculty Assembly President
MINUTES ASSEMBLED BY:	Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary
FACULTY ATTENDEES:	Chathuri Arachchige, John Burke, Christopher Chavez, Markos Chavez, Vanessa Ferguson, Lucia Guerrero, Jennifer Henry, Jeffery Hunt, Hasani Jayasinghe, Michael Johnson, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Jacob Lacroix, Carmela Lanza, Jonathan Lumibao, Elvira Martin, Aretha Matt, Andrew McFeaters, Roseanna McGinn, Arun Muthaiyan, Sangam Pangeni, Arthur Perales, Cecille Perales, Kristian Simcox, Chad Smith, Keri Stevenson, Casey Tom, Kristi Wilson, Yuqing Zou.
GUESTS:	John Zimmerman

ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA

DISCUSSION	
Move to approve agenda.	
Motion: Dr. Keri Stevenson	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA

DISCUSSION	
Move to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2024 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.	
Motion: Professor Kristi Wilson	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

INFORMATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT DR. CAROLYN KUCHERA

Dr. Carolyn Kuchera introduces herself as the new Faculty Assembly President and welcomes faculty to the new academic year. As of this year, there are 56 fulltime faculty. That includes thirteen new	

fulltime faculty, some of whom were promoted from parttime. Dr. Kuchera welcomes Professors Dana Aldis, Garrett Becenti, Vanessa Ferguson, Evelyn Garcia, Yati Hasnan, Jennifer Henry, Jeffrey Hunt, Janette Mendoza, Authur Perales, Alex Tallant, Ernesto Watchman, Karen Weir, and Maggie Zou.

Dr. Kuchera then introduces the Operations Committee members, including Vice President Roseanna McGinn, Secretary Andrew McFeaters, committee member Hasani Jayasinghe, committee member Arun Muthaiyan, and Senator John Burke.

Dr. Kuchera mentions that the Operations Committee met on Monday to discuss priorities for the coming year. These include continuing efforts to establish a food pantry on campus, to create a smoother transition in transferring membership in the Operations Committee--including a clearer path of year-to-year succession in the officer positions guided by experienced members--to resume conversation on how to handle issues of student academic dishonesty in a collective and supportive manner, and finally to address the need to increase faculty engagement on committees. Dr. Kuchera then asks that if any faculty would like to add goals to the Faculty Assembly's priorities, they should reach out to members of the Operations Committee.

The next item Dr. Kuchera addresses is the Committee Preference Form. While committee participation is a great way to ensure that faculty voices are heard and to promote faculty interaction, membership is also required. Committee membership is part of our service obligation, which is part of the workload agreement in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Committee Preference Forms will be sent out after the meeting. Be sure to fill out the document. Faculty should indicate what committees they participated in last year--and how many years they sat on those committees. Then faculty should select their first, second, and third choice for joining committees this year. We have nine faculty committees, so there should be something for everyone. The form is due by August 23rd.

Dr. Kuchera then shares updates from our Senior Public Relations Specialist, Richard Reyes, who has been doing a fantastic job. He wants everyone to know that they have developed a new Public Relations Request Form. Anyone who wishes to make a public relations request should do so by filling out the online form. It is available on the Public Relations website. Richard Reyes also wants everyone to know that they are using a new format for their email newsletter. It includes Canvas announcements. The plan is to publish a newsletter at least once per month but no more than once per week. Finally, the Public Relations Department will no longer send individual email blasts to the listservs unless they involve a special request from executive leadership or are prompted by an emergency. If anyone wishes to communicate via the listservs, that person should submit a Public Relations Request Form. Then that message will be included as part of the campus announcements in the next email newsletter. This could be used for upcoming events, workshops, and the like.

ACTION ITEM CURRICULUM PROGRAM REVIEWS PROFESSOR MARKOS CHAVEZ

Professor Markos Chavez mentions that the Curriculum Committee met earlier in the day to approve two Form Cs, one in ASS and the other in AAS in order to reduce redundant course work and to align them with the articulation in the BSN degree program. The committee also approved a FORM C for the BSN to align it with UNM's General Education requirements. It only impacted the AAS by adding two credit hours because two labs were added. The committee voted to approve them as a block.

Dr. Kuchera advances the block of Form Cs for approval. Dr Kuchera asks for a motion.

Motion: Professor Roseanna McGinn

Seconded: Professor Kristi Wilson

Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carried: Yes

ACTION ITEM SECOND SENATOR ELECTION PROFESSOR CHAD SMITH

Professor Chad Smith reminds everyone that, due to last spring's election delay, no one was nominated for the second senator position. There was a last-minute nomination, but it would have delayed the election further due to the time needed to revise the ballot. Dr. Kristian Simcox was the last-minute nomination. Unless someone else would like to add a nomination, the election for the second senator position can be advanced now, with Dr. Kristian Simcox on the ballot for the position.

Dr. Kuchera asks for a motion

Motion: Professor Chad Smith
Seconded: Dr. Keri Stevenson
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 offers an update on the vote to support a 4-4 workload at UNM-Los Alamos. As of spring, all branch campuses voted to support the motion. Within a week of all of these motions being sent to Albuquerque, we saw the branch-campus work-load policy come out from all of the branch-campus chancellors and deans. The last sentence in that workload policy says that branch-campus faculty will have a fifteen credit-hour workload total. Previous to that, Los Alamos fulltime faculty were teaching a five-course workload along with service and scholarship. Our support has made a huge difference. Los Alamos now has more fulltime faculty and fewer parttime faculty. Dr. Burke then moves on to discuss that he was elected to serve on Faculty Senate Operations Committee in addition to his role on UNM-Gallup's committee. The Operations Committee will meet every Tuesday. If anyone has any specific concerns related to branch campuses, send those concerns to him and he will pass them on to the Branch Community College Council. The Branch Community College Council represents all of the senators from the branches. They report directly to the Operations Committee. Regarding another issue, a request for participation has been made by Faculty Senate President Cris Elder. Branch campus faculty have seats open on a variety of Faculty Senate committees. As soon as Cris Elder shares those openings with him, he will forward the openings to everyone. This is an opportunity for service on a university-wide committee. The next senate meeting will be in ten days, on the last Tuesday of the month.

Budget Review Committee: No report.

Committee on Teaching Excellence: Professor Chad Smith mentions that the committee has not yet met. An email will be sent out early next week. There should be two openings on the committee.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Professor Joe Kee says that he will communicate with committee members next week to determine a meeting date.

College Assessment and Review Committee: No report.

Curricula Committee: Professor Markos Chavez adds that their committee has approved two program reviews, one involving an AS in Emergency Medical Services and the other a certificate in Health Information Technology.

Library Committee: Dr. Andrew McFeaters mentions that he was the previous chair. As present, there is no report.

Strategic Planning Committee: No report.

Distance Learning Committee: No report.

Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee: Professor Kristi Wilson mentions that the recognition of service letters were sent out last spring. The committee is now looking for a new chair. An initial goal will be to contact Eric Castillo from IT in order to update the adjunct faculty listserv. Teams also will be updated.

UA-UNM, Faculty Union: Dr. Keri Stevenson introduces herself to the new faculty. Dr. Stevenson reminds everyone that the CBA is being renegotiated. One goal is to codify policies that were left vague or up in the air in the original contract. If any issue is important to faculty--like healthcare benefits, workload compensation, adjunct pay, office space, or job security, for example--please let her know about it. This is important especially because branch-campus issues won't always be the same as main-campus issues. Dr. Stevenson also reminds everyone that there will be a social at Fratelli's Bistro this afternoon. It will be from 4-6PM. Free drinks and appetizers will be provided for union members. If anyone needs more information, please contact her.

INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIOUS

Professor Kristi Wilson mentions that there is a new sculpture on campus--in the Gurley Hall courtyard. The sculpture was inspired by a poem. Please take some time to appreciate its beauty.

Professor Markos Chavez mentions that he will send out an email today to let everyone know what the library can do for faculty. The workshop schedule will be included. He encourages faculty to come by on Tuesday. There will be self-guided tour, and some goodies will be handed out.

ACTION ITEM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Professor Joe Kee

Seconded: Yes

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM by Faculty Assembly President Dr Carolyn Kuchera.

Recorded by: Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary, on August 16, 2024.