



The Faculty Assembly Meeting

MINUTES

January 16, 2026 12:30 PM ZOOM

MEETING CALLED BY:	Dr. Arun Muthaiyan, Faculty Assembly President
MINUTES ASSEMBLED BY:	Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary
FACULTY ATTENDEES:	Antoinette Abeyta, Robert Anderson, Avelina Casanova, Chathuri Arachchige, Karla Baldonado, Evalena Boone, John Burke, Markos Chavez, Neysa Cox, Vanessa Ferguson, Bruce Gjeltema, Jennifer Henry, Hasani Jayasinghe, Thomas Kaus, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Gwen Livingston, LD Lovett, Elvira Martin, Aretha Matt, Andrew McFeaters, Bernie Montano, Arun Muthaiyan, Sangam Pangeni, Britt Rhuart, Shynal Robinson, Kristian Simcox, Chad Smith, Keri Stevenson, Casey Tom, Ernesto Watchman, Karen Weir, Kristi Wilson, Yuqing Zou.
GUESTS:	

ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

DISCUSSION	
Approval of the Agenda:	
Motion: Professor Kristi Wilson	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

DISCUSSION	
Move to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2025 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.	
Motion: Dr. John Burke	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

INFORMATION**PRESIDENT'S REPORT****DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN**

Dr. Arun Muthaiyan begins his report by congratulating Dr. Tracy Lassiter for earning sabbatical leave for the spring semester. He then asks that faculty please reach out to him or the other Operations Committee members to share their accomplishments so that they can be announced during future Faculty Assembly meetings. He then congratulates Dean John Zimmerman for organizing a informative kick-off week.

Dr. Muthaiyan proceeds to announce that new furniture will be arriving for the classrooms at Calvin Hall, including new stools for the labs. Dr. Muthaiyan then mentions the helpful email that Dean Zimmerman had sent out regarding student preparation for the new semester. This included advice to students that they familiarize themselves with their course syllabi in order to understand what is expected in each course. It is their responsibility to know the policies for their different courses.

Dr. Muthaiyan moves on to summarize the points of discussion at the Operations Committee meeting that had taken place earlier in the week. He asks that all standing committees schedule their first meeting of the semester. By the semester's end, the Operations Committee would like to receive reports of what each standing committee accomplished during the semester. Another issue discussed at the Operations Committee meeting had to do with developing a policy on the student use of artificial intelligence. The Operations Committee has decided to invite the chairs of the Teaching Excellence Committee and Distance Learning Committee to their next meeting in order to further discuss AI. Aside from that, the chair for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented an update to the Operations Committee. These latter two committees are working on revising the constitution and bylaws. The hope is that these revisions can be presented to faculty at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

Dr. Muthaiyan then brings up that the Budget Review Committee chair is working towards gathering information on SACs and the Faculty Assembly budget so that this information is regularly publicized for faculty access. By making that information transparent for faculty, more faculty will be encouraged to run for positions in the Operations Committee in the future. The Budget Review Committee chair should share this information at the next Faculty Assembly meeting. As part of this preparation for the next election, the Nominations Committee chair will also be invited to the next Operations Committee meeting to discuss the nominations and elections process.

Dr. Muthaiyan adds that the Operations Committee chair discussed issues of inequity in the Math, Business, Science, and Technology Division with regard to the workload policy. Members of that division have anonymously signed proposed changes to that workload policy and submitted that proposal to the division chair as a step towards approving those changes.

Dr. Muthaiyan says that the final item discussed at the Operations Committee meeting pertained to rescheduling the Faculty Assembly meeting for March due to the fact that the third Friday of March occurs during spring break. To that purpose, Dr. Kristian Simcox will present an action item to reschedule that meeting. Dr. Muthaiyan then asks if there are any comments or questions from faculty. None follow. He concludes the President's Report and invites Dr. Simcox to introduce the action item.

ACTION ITEM VOTE TO RESCHEDULE MARCH MEETING DR. KRISTIAN SIMCOX

Dr. Kristian Simcox thanks Dr. Muthaiyan. Dr. Simcox iterates that the issue is that the third Friday of March occurs during spring break. This necessitates rescheduling the Faculty Assembly meeting in March. He says that it is necessary to entertain a vote to move the meeting from March 20th to March 27th. He says that the reason why March 27th is being proposed is because there must be thirty days between readings for proposed revisions for the constitution and bylaws. This is why March 27th is being proposed rather than March 13th.

Dr. Simcox then makes the motion to vote on the action item. He asks for a second.

Professor Ernesto Watchman seconds the motion.

Dr. Muthaiyan launches the poll to take the vote. The vote is in favor of moving the meeting date to March 27th.

Dr. Muthaiyan thanks Dr. Simcox for presenting the action item. He then asks for the Senator's Report.

INFORMATION SENATOR'S REPORT DR. SIMCOX AND DR. LASSITER

Dr. Simcox reports that the last Faculty Senate meeting was held on November 25th. Among the important issues addressed was the presidential search. The search for a new president is underway. A proposed timeline is forthcoming from the search committee. Dr. Simcox adds that it is fortunate that Professor Joe Kee is a member of the search committee. In addition, a strategy for the provost search is in development. That decision won't be made until there is a new president.

Dr. Simcox then mentions that Dr. Keri Stevenson attended the Faculty Senate meeting to present on the coming health insurance cost increases. Dr. Stevenson's presentation outlined several possible ways to help mitigate those increases. Dr. Simcox shares a Powerpoint file in the chat for faculty who wish to review the possible options. He says that they will continue to hear from the vice president of Human Resources. He then shares a link to a video recording of the Senate Faculty meeting in the chat.

Dr. Simcox informs faculty that the next Faculty Senate meeting will include a discussion of the ad hoc Social Justice Committee. That committee has drafted a joint resolution of the Central New Mexico Community College Senate and UNM's Faculty Senate. The resolution opposes the compact for academic excellence in higher education, a compact which comes from the current presidential administration. It offers preferential funding to universities in exchange for restriction on academic freedom along with some other issues. Thus far, the compact has not been offered to UNM, but the joint resolution is intended as a preemptive measure should that occur. Dr. Simcox invites anyone who is interested in this matter to attend the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Muthaiyan thanks Dr. Simcox for the report. He asks for the committee reports.

INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee: Dr. Keri Stevenson greets everyone. She says that the committee is in the middle of scheduling its first meeting for the spring semester. She contacted Dr. Matt Mingus to attain a full list of adjunct faculty teaching this semester. She says that no one knows who

has access to the adjunct faculty listserv, so the list of adjunct faculty will have to be reassembled. Dr Stevenson says that she will contact all of the division chairs in order to complete the list. When the committee meets again, they will discuss issues such as office space availability for adjunct faculty. They will also set up a FAQ to help new adjunct faculty navigate their new jobs--making sure they know where to get their UNM IDs, how to get tech support, and so on.

Budget Review Committee: Dr. Andrew McFeaters says that the committee is working towards gathering SAC information in anticipation for the next election. He will also find out details about the Faculty Assembly's budget. He is going to set up a meeting with Dean Zimmerman to discuss these issues. Once the SAC details and Faculty Assembly budget are known, they will be posted on the Faculty Assembly website for faculty access.

College Assessment and Review Committee: Dr. Chathuri Arachchige thanks faculty for submitting their artifacts in the fall. She reminds everyone that new artifacts are due later in the spring semester.

Committee on Teaching Excellence: Dr. Antoinette Abeyta greets everyone. She says that the committee will be scheduling its first meeting for the semester. She reminds faculty that there is a call for proposals for the upcoming teaching symposium, which will be held on March 6th. The proposals are due on January 30th. The symposium will afford faculty the opportunity to share the excellent things they are doing to address literacy across the curriculum. The committee has been discussing the recent challenges created by students using AI. The committee has proposed the idea of potentially starting a working group to address pedagogical approaches to addressing AI rather than focusing on policy or punitive ways to handle AI.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: No report.

Curricula Committee: Professor Jennifer Henry wishes everyone a happy new year. She says that they met yesterday. There is nothing particularly substantive to report at present. Several changes to programs were approved. Those will be presented as an action item in February. The committee is continuing to revamp the APR process. Surveys were sent out to directors, coordinators, and chairs before Thanksgiving. The committee received only four responses, so reminders will be sent out. The surveys seek to find out the thoughts of those who have completed APRs. The committee is also tracking down some HLC, the creditor's information, in order to better understand program assessment measures. Professor Henry adds that, because a representative from the committee participates in the Faculty Senate Curricula Committee, updates from those sessions will be provided to the Faculty Assembly in the future.

Distance Learning Committee: No report.

Library Committee: Professor Kristi Wilson says that the committee has been collaborating with Jacinte Sice, who is the Program Manager of Adult Basic Education. The plan is to hold a graduation ceremony for the upcoming graduates of the program. A previous graduate will present a talk at the ceremony, sharing how the program benefitted them. Professor Markos Chavez will be helping with refreshments. The ceremony will occur in late April or early May.

Strategic Planning Committee: Professor Ernesto Watchman says that over the last several weeks he has been gathering faculty and staff feedback on academic affairs, mission, vision, and value statements through campus surveys. The committee appreciates everyone who has already taken the time to respond and share their input. They are at the stage where they will begin reviewing and organizing the themes and ideas that have been submitted. This information will be used to help draft

