



**The  
Faculty Assembly Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**March 22, 2024 12:30 PM ZOOM**

<b>MEETING CALLED BY:</b>	<b>Dr. Keri Stevenson, Faculty Assembly President</b>
<b>MINUTES ASSEMBLED BY:</b>	Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary
<b>FACULTY ATTENDEES:</b>	Antionette Abeyta, John Burke, Markos Chavez, Sonya Damon, Christopher Dyer, Robert Encinio, Lucia Guerrero, Yi-Wen Huang, Hasani Jayasinghe, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Carmela Lanza, Sarah Llanque-White, Elvira Martin, Aretha Matt, Andrew McFeaters, Arun Muthaiyan, Dan Primozić, Chaturi Sandamali, Keri Stevenson.
<b>GUESTS:</b>	

**ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. KERI STEVENSON**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>Move to approve the agenda.</b>  <b>Motion:</b> Dr. Sarah Llanque-White <b>Seconded:</b> Yes <b>Discussion:</b> None <b>Vote:</b> Unanimous <b>Motion Carried:</b> Yes	

**ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. KERI STEVENSON**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>Move to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2024 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.</b>  <b>Motion:</b> Dr. Christopher Dyer <b>Seconded:</b> Yes <b>Discussion:</b> None <b>Vote:</b> Unanimous <b>Motion Carried:</b> Yes	

**INFORMATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT DR. KERI STEVENSON**

Dr. Keri Stevenson begins the report by discussing how Chancellor Sabrina Ezzell wants to set up a food pantry for students, ideally by fall of 2024. This is something that many faculty have been interested in for a long time. The goal is to set up a taskforce, likely to be directed by Jayme McMahon, Director of Student Services. They want faculty participation on the taskforce. The Operations	

Committee has discussed food pantry issues--for example, where the pantry might be located and how LOBOS IDs would secure access to the pantry. Ideally, students would be able to access the pantry even when no one is there to supervise it. Ops Committee members mentioned that UNM might work with the community pantry or with Gallup Community Health, which has its own pantry. There was concern, however, that if the pantry were to be located off campus, students might not know about it. Overall, this is part of a push to address issues of student needs. Dr. Ezzell is very serious about addressing student mental health as well. There is currently a pilot program with student peer specialists who can help students access programs for food relief, transportation, and housing insecurities.

Dr. Sarah Llanque-White adds that she has reached out to the main campus food pantry. She has yet to hear back from them.

Dr. Stevenson mentions that the next item of business involves an update on strategic planning. June 1st is the deadline for the various strategic planning taskforces to unveil the plans. Dean John Zimmerman and Director McMahon said that this will include issues such as the food pantry. They are focused on getting faculty participation and feedback. The survey went out last fall. If anyone has questions or ideas related to the strategic planning, feel free to contact Dean Zimmerman, Director McMahon, or Dr. Carolyn Kuchera, the chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

On another subject, Dr. Ezzell also discussed the legislative session at the Executive Meeting. HB2 had a lot of funding. Our operational funding had a 4% increase. The 4% was already partially spent because a line item for workforce development was rolled into the balance. We shall also be receiving \$100,000 for tribal education initiative funding. This will go towards student advisement recruitment. There will be funding for nursing. GRO funding was given to legislators to spend on public entities. Representative Patricia Lundstrom said that we shall receive \$160,000 for classroom improvement. Dean Zimmerman said that those funds would most likely go towards Calvin Hall classrooms--updating the furniture and hopefully the technology. The legislature also voted for a 3% compensation increase. Unfortunately, as Dr. Ezzell has mentioned, they are only funding 80% of that 3%. The remaining 20% is supposed to come from the various branches and colleges that get it. Dr. Ezzell is going to talk to the provost about how this funding will be achieved.

HB308, which is the GO bond funding, will hopefully go towards the improvements at Gurley Hall and the Art Department. That would waive our matching requirement. Usually we have to match 25% of a GO bond. Dr. Ezzell has said that the waiver was approved, but we are only going to receive a one million dollar GO bond. She has, however, spoken to Senator George Muñoz with the hope that the bond will be increased to four million. We also have a 3.9 million funding imperative for outlay projects that breaks down into the Gurley Hall improvement and the CTE renovation project. Dean Zimmerman said on Wednesday that the faculty and the architects are working together to move the CTE renovation project forward. The old collision tech area has been largely cleared out. That will be where the welding classes move to while the area is repaired. The electrical equipment for that was being delivered.

Also, there is Bill SB159, which will create a higher education trust fund to help ensure higher education stability, 20 million funding for student services, and 2 million for a IBEST pilot program. Although we don't have ideal news regarding the funding for compensation, we are, at the very least, getting substantial funds for other projects. Another issue is that we are focusing on the demolition of Lions Hall, which will be demolished in the summer. Another development is that Dr. Ezzell will be doing a walkthrough today with architects to assess the first and second floors of Gurley Hall. We don't know whether the bookstore will have to be relocated during renovations. Aside from these issues, Director McMahon is working towards getting a more detailed idea of what our students need. The last

assessment was before the pandemic. Our student demographics have shifted since then. She will be conducting assessment days. Director McMahon has received confirmation on this year's graduation venue from the schools. It will be held at the football stadium again. It will occur at 6PM on May 10th. It will be a longer graduation since we no longer hold December graduations. The IT Department is looking to set up a BYOD (bring your own device) stations for students. Finally, everyone should know that there is a website for the College Council. Minutes and agendas will appear there.

Dr. Stevenson asks if anyone has any questions.

Dr. Carolyn Kuchera remarks that it is concerning that there is so little printing available to students.

Dr. Stevenson mentions that, according to Technical Analyst Frank Sanchez, students are still going to the library for printing. Unfortunately, the computer lab at SSTC is typically locked. IT is skeptical that IT staff would actually be used at that lab. If that lab is unlocked, we could gather data on how often students actually use it.

Dr. Sarah Llanque-White asks if students have to bring their own paper for printing.

Dr. Stevenson mentions that there is a set allotment of paper per student at the library.

Dr. Markos Chavez mentions that it is twenty pages per student. He suggests that opening the lab at SSTC would be a good idea.

Dr. Llanque-White inquires whether ID cards could be used to access the labs.

Dr. Stevenson replies that physical keys are used for those rooms.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEM    OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ELECTIONS    DR. STEVENSON**

Dr. Stevenson mentions that the nomination process expired on March 15th. There were seats open for several positions. Unfortunately, we did not receive nominations for the two-year Senator positions or for the Nominations Committee member. The latter is not a huge problem since the work is minimal. It is concerning that no one was nominated for the Senator positions. If Dr. John Burke wishes to continue his position as Senator, he has to petition the Committee on Governance because he has served so long. He can take a one-year position. Other than that, Dr. McFeaters has run for Secretary. Professor Roseanna McGinn has run for Vice President. Dr Carolyn Kuchera has run for President. Everyone should realize that, without positions filled, shared governance is in jeopardy. People should keep in mind that the Los Alamos branch--where fulltime faculty still teach 5-5 and parttime faculty teach 3-3--has no faculty assembly. Faculty have no voice for shared governance.

Dr. Llanque-White adds that participation does not take up that much time. She urges people to participate.

Dr. Stevenson reminds everyone that is through the senators that the branch campuses access information from main campus.

Dr. Aretha Matt recommends that the upcoming leaders develop a policy for succession. For example, the Vice President can be prepared for the position of President. Likewise, the other members could be prepared for other roles. By building it into the system, a mentoring process will strengthen faculty governance.

Dr. Chris Dyer mentions that, should he not become part of the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee, he would be willing to become a senator.

Dr. Stevenson asks Dr. Dyer to email Professor Chad Smith to indicate his interest in the position.

Dr. Antionette Abeyta verifies that the current bylaws do not address issues of succession.

## INFORMATION

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### **Dr. Stevenson asks for committee reports.**

**UNMG Senator to ABQ:** Dr. Llanque-White mentions that they attended the Senators meeting in ABQ on February 27th. President Garnett Stokes gave a lot of information. UNM did get additional monies for I&G. This helps main campus and Gallup campus. Most of our faculty and staff are covered under this funding umbrella. Also, the Research and Public Service Projects were not all approved. The legislature is reviewing the process of funding these projects. The good news is that there is a big push for faculty salary increases. Dr. Elder, our Faculty Senate President on main campus, mentioned that there is a proposal for a 3% tuition increase for main campus. Gallup's tuition increases are approved by our own board. There is also a discussion to increase our health benefits. There will be a nomination period for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. Nominations are currently open. This is for main campus. Also, the HED requirement is requiring UNM to make sure its General Education courses conform to the courses at other institutions. Finally, the Senators are setting priorities for 2024 at the next meeting on March 26th. Anyone can participate.

Dr. John Burke adds that all branch campuses have sent the letter regarding the workload at Los Alamos.

**Budget Review Committee:** Dr. Llanque-White mentions that the committee held a meeting with the President and the Executive Team. Dr. Ezzell discussed how the budget was formed. She is pushing for increased funding. Dr. Ezzell is willing to meet at any time to ensure transparency in the process. If faculty have budgetary concerns, she urges them to meet with their respective chairs. Then the chairs can meet with her. There will be a budget meeting following the present meeting. Participation is invited.

**Committee on Teaching Excellence:** No report.

**Constitution and By-Laws Committee:** Professor Joe Kee mentions that there is nothing to report at present. He adds that the changing of bylaws to address succession in the Faculty Assembly is something worth promoting in the future. Currently, the deadlines for changing bylaws have passed for the academic year. Changes require two Faculty Assembly meetings.

**College Assessment and Review Committee:** No report.

**Curricula Committee:** Dr. Antionette Abeyta mentions that the Curricula Committee did not meet. There are no current program reviews. The next meeting will be in April.

**Library Committee:** Dr. Andrew McFeaters mentions that the committee did not meet this month but is working behind the scenes. The committee is still working on a survey to assess library needs. The committee is also trying to develop a streamlined product for the publication for student research, a model that could be improved in later iterations. The goal is to establish the groundwork for next year.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Dr. Carolyn Kuchera mentions that she met with Dean Zimmerman to talk about ways in which to loop the committee into the campus' larger strategic planning initiatives. She will be attending the meeting on issues of budget and sustainability this afternoon.

**Distance Learning Committee:** Dr. Chris Dyer mentions that the committee has emailed everyone a draft survey for everyone to read. It relates to the three populations to which the questions should address: faculty, students, and community. One email respondent suggested that three simple demographic questions be included in the survey. For example, the student portion could address adult learners, transfer students, and McKinley Academy students. The faculty portion would address different faculty--tenured, new faculty, and so on. Those are variables the committee might add to the survey. He would appreciate any input on the surveys. Aside from that, there will be a Distance Learning Committee meeting next month to revisit a potential program that would boost enrollment of adult learners. It's called the GOAL program. It would require a different kind of teaching population. Faculty would be community-based. Employers would possibly pay for these teachers to pursue advanced degrees.

**Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee:** No report.

**UA-UNM, Faculty Union:** Dr. Stevenson mentions that there was a general membership meeting on the 7th of March. One of the issues that concerned people was that faculty are only up for a 3% compensation increase, and only 80% of that 3% will be funded by the legislature (the remainder to somehow be funded by UNM-Gallup). That is something to be focused on during compensation bargaining. The re-bargaining of the whole contract is coming up. We can reopen bargaining as early as June 30th--and possibly before that if both parties agree. The administration at UNM does seem to be open to early bargaining. Dr. Stevenson mentions that she would like to hold a couple of listening sessions for faculty. At least one session would be on Zoom. The question is whether there should be an in-person session.

Faculty echo that Zoom would be ideal for both sessions.

## INFORMATION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VARIOUS

Dr. Abeyta mentions that the STEM Education Grand Challenges Team is leading a grant-writing symposium on April 18th. It addresses STEM education, but it addresses broad issues, too. Anyone not part of STEM is also invited to attend. There is some support for travel.

Professor Markos Chavez mentions that his Big Brothers Big Sisters bowling team still needs a member to make a full team. Please reach out to him if anyone is interested. There is also a staff team on campus. Donations are being accepted for both teams. The event is at 1:30PM on April 27th.

Professor Sonya Damon asks that if anyone is interested in EMS courses, that person can be referred to the website. The program process is changing. Please send an email to Division Chair Lewis Gambill if anyone has questions about the program.

#### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion:** Dr. Dyer

**Seconded:** Yes

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion Carried:** Yes

**Meeting adjourned at 2:00PM by Faculty Assembly President Dr. Keri Stevenson.**

**Recorded by:** Dr. Andrew McFeaters, Faculty Assembly Secretary, on March 22, 2024.