



The Faculty Assembly Meeting

MINUTES

September 19, 2025 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, Chathuri Arachchige, Lowell Bautista, Markos Chavez, Neysa Cox, Lucia Guerrero, Hasani Jayasinghe, Joe Kee, Carolyn Kuchera, Jacob Lacroix, Carmela Lanza, Tracy Lassiter, Gwen Livingston, Elvira Martin, Aretha Matt, Andrew McFeaters, Roseanna McGinn, Bernie Montano, Arun Muthaiyan, Sangam Pangeni, Britt Rhuart, Shynal Robinson, Chathuri Sandamali, Kristian Simcox, Chad Smith, Keri Stevenson, Ernesto Watchman, Shannon Werner, Kristi Wilson.
GUESTS:	Dr. Andrea Orzoff

ACTION APPROVAL OF AGENDA DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

DISCUSSION	
Approval of the Agenda:	
Motion: Professor Roseanna McGinn	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES DR. ARUN MUTHAIYAN

DISCUSSION	
Move to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2025 UNMG Faculty Assembly meeting.	
Motion: Professor Bernie Montano	
Seconded: Yes	
Discussion: None	
Vote: Unanimous	
Motion Carried: Yes	

Dr. Arun Muthaiyan begins his report by welcoming the faculty members in attendance. He then mentions that the Operations Committee had met with the Executive Team in the previous week. He says that, among other issues, that meeting involved a discussion regarding assembly operations and the standing committees. The Executive Team said that they would be happy to provide updates at future Faculty Assembly meetings should they be requested. If anyone has a request, they should reach out to the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee will then raise the issue at the next Executive Team meeting.

Dr. Muthaiyan then goes on to discuss the most recent Operations Committee meeting. That meeting entailed some discussion about ways to strengthen the assembly and the standing committees. It was decided that the Operations Committee should invite all committee chairs to their next meeting. At the meeting, working goals will be suggested to those chairs. Dr. Muthaiyan then mentions that six of the committees have elected their chairs. Three committees have yet to do so: the Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee, the Distance Learning Committee, and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Professor Roseanna McGinn mentions that she was elected as the chair for the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Dr. Muthaiyan expresses his thanks for the update. He then goes on to state that there are many important changes that will be made to the constitution and bylaws in order to strengthen the assembly. Committee chairs often struggle to get responses to emails to schedule meetings. He asks that all members respond to those emails. Then those meetings can be scheduled. Mutual support is needed. Dr. Muthaiyan also asks that the committees report their membership to him so that he can update the committee information on the Faculty Assembly website. Aside from the issues, the Operations Committee also discussed the plan for a multi-branch assembly meeting wherein faculty from the various branches, representing their respective committees, could get to know each other. This plan was recently recommended at a meeting for Faculty Assembly presidents held at the Valencia branch. The meeting will be held on November 7th. Everyone should respond to the survey recently sent out.

Concluding his report, Dr. Muthaiyan then asks faculty for questions.

Dr. Carolyn Kuchera asks for clarification regarding the plan to invite the committee chairs to meet with the Operations Committee, asking if that meeting would involve the meeting with the Executive Team.

Dr. Muthaiyan responds that it would be with the Operations Committee only, and that would occur only once. He then asks faculty if there are any further questions.

No questions follow.

Dr. Muthaiyan then introduces the next agenda item: Dr. Andrea Orzoff's presentation on faculty research development.

INFORMATION FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT DR. ANDREA ORZOFF

Dr. Andrea Orzoff, Faculty Research Support Officer, presents a PowerPoint to the Faculty Assembly. The PowerPoint includes research opportunities provided by the Faculty Research Development Office.

After the presentation, Dr. Orzoff asks for questions.

Professor Roseanna McGinn asks about the UNM internal policy that was mentioned

Dr. Orzoff answers that when a faculty member contacts her with an idea, that faculty member should also send the email to the division chair. There are couple of reasons for this, one being that the external funding could potentially affect the faculty-chair agreement. Another reason is because that proposed idea might involve a commitment of university resources. That is why the institution needs to know, too. Dr. Orzoff asks for further questions.

No questions follow.

Dr. Muthaiyan thanks Dr. Orzoff for the presentation. He then initiates the next Curricula Committee action item, asking Professor Markos Chavez to take lead.

ACTION ITEM CURRICULA COMMITTE FORMS PROF. MARKOS CHAVEZ

Professor Markos Chavez mentions that both Dental Forms B and C had been emailed to faculty for review prior to the meeting. He points that the revisions were made in order to meet compliance with state guidelines on course numbering. He recommends that faculty begin the vote. The poll is shared with the assembly.

95% of voting faculty vote in favor of approving Form B. 5% vote against. The revisions to Form B are approved.

96% of present voting faculty vote in favor of approving Form C. 4% vote against. The revisions to Form C are approved.

Dr. Muthaiyan thanks Professor Markos. He then asks for the report from the Faculty Assembly Senators to Albuquerque.

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

Dr. Kristian Simcox states that the Faculty Senate had its first meeting on August 26th. A major objective was to identify priorities for the academic year. There were a series of breakout groups to develop ideas. Several priorities were identified. A sample of those priorities are as follows: a subcommittee will be formed to focus on workload and leave equity across UNM's campuses. Another subcommittee on equity and cohesion across campuses, including Albuquerque's Health Sciences and the branch campuses. That subcommittee will focus on issues of treatment and resources. Campus safety and security, including both physical and psychological wellbeing will be a focus. Dr. Simcox then adds that the Branch Community College Council met earlier this month. The council likewise worked to identify priorities for the year. There are overlapping concerns. One goal is to monitor and support workload equity among branch campuses. The smaller campuses will need help with tenure

and promotion review. For example, Los Alamos does not have enough tenured faculty to review the dossiers of candidates for tenure. So the goal is to create a network of branch-campus faculty to assist with the promotion process. Dr. Simcox then mentions that UNM-Valencia plans to host a kind of town hall event for all branch faculty to network. Finally, Dr. Simcox discusses a priority to support and protect students who feel threatened by recent immigration policies. Dr. Simcox then asks Dr. Tracy Lassiter if she has anything to add.

Dr. Lassiter adds that another priority is to better help branch-campus students who transfer to Albuquerque. It's important to gauge their success rates. Dr. Lassiter says she has already initiated conversations with faculty at main campus. She states that it is crucial to equip transfer students with tools to succeed in Albuquerque.

Dr. Muthaiyan thanks the senators for their reports. He then asks for the committee reports.

INFORMATION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Adjunct Faculty Affairs Committee: No report.

Budget Review Committee: Dr. Andrew McFeaters greets everyone. He says that the committee met earlier in the day. They are in the process of reacquainting themselves with the roles of the Budget Review Committee. He mentions that two issues were discussed in the meeting. The Innovation Fund has been unveiled by the administration. The website and application are now available to faculty. As the website indicates, the deadline for application is March 1st. This year the fund contained \$120,000. Dr. McFeaters asks faculty to take a look at the website and application and to let him know if the process needs more clarification. The Budget Review Committee could share faculty questions with administration. Dr. McFeaters then shares the bad news regarding federal funding for the Native American-Serving Nontribal Institution grant. The Department of Education has canceled plans to fulfill the remainder of funds. That is a financial loss of \$1,878,238. Only \$900,000 of the previous disbursement remains, which needs to be spent before September 30th. That said, an email from the Vice President of Research went out to faculty yesterday. It states that a legal appeal is forthcoming. Dr. McFeaters asks if there are any questions.

Professor Roseanna McGinn asks if the Campus Development Advisory Committee could be useful. The committee is currently taking applications.

Dr. McFeaters asks if they could discuss the issue through email.

Professor McGinn says that she will forward him the information.

Dr. Aretha Matt asks if there are restrictions to the Innovation Funds application process. She asks how much funding could an application request. She also asks if a faculty member can send in multiple applications.

Dr. McFeaters says that he will raise these questions to the Executive Team.

College Assessment and Review Committee: Dr. Chathuri Arachchige reports that the committee had met briefly so that members could get to know one another. The responsibilities of CARC were reviewed. One goal is to work with the Curricula Committee to finetune how artifacts can better reflect Student Learning Outcomes.

Committee on Teaching Excellence: Dr. Antoinette Abeyta greets everyone. She says that she and Dr. Hasani Jayasinghe will be co-chairing the committee. One issue discussed relates a plan to hold a teaching symposium in the spring semester--on campus or somewhere nearby. This would allow faculty to share pedagogies and teaching methods across disciplines. Another goal is to reevaluate the teaching evaluation form. Dr. Antoinette asks Dr. Jayasinghe if there is anything to add.

Dr. Jayasinghe mentions that the committee wants to invite guest speakers to campus.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Professor Roseanna McGinn says that the committee recently voted to present to the Faculty Assembly a motion to change some of the wording in the Constitution and Bylaws. Two readings were presented last year. The committee proposes that the voting action be added to the next Faculty Assembly meeting agenda.

Dr. Muthaiyan says that he will raise the issue at the next Operations Committee meeting.

Curricula Committee: Professor Markos Chavez says that the committee had discussed the Forms that were addressed earlier. He says that the committee also focused how to streamline the program review process. There are several new members on the committee, so a major focus to get everyone up to speed on the review process.

Distance Learning Committee: Dr. Lassiter says the committee has held informal conversations so far. A poll has been sent out to establish the next meeting time. There has been some discussion on revisiting the online surveys that were sent out previously to staff, faculty, students, and community members regarding the value of online learning. The results of that survey were not robust. So the survey will be relaunched. Dr. Lassiter then discusses that there are major accessibility changes coming down from the Department of Justice in order to meet new ADA requirements. This will be a massive undertaking, which Albuquerque is already working on with procurement teams and policy teams--as well as with legal, CTL, and faculty training teams. The overhaul will impact how faculty uses OERs, Canvas, as so on. Even HR forms will have to be revised to meet the new requirements. Technically, it's supposed to be completed by April, but even main campus recognizes that it will take longer than that. It is Dr. Lassiter's hope that the Distance Learning Committee can act as a hub for disseminating information to faculty.

Library Committee: Professor Kristi Wilson greets everyone. She says that they met yesterday. The committee worked on brainstorming ideas for the year. One issue that the committee would like faculty input on is the new Library Collection Development Policy Form. The draft of the form will be sent out to all faculty for review. Any suggestions for revision are welcome. A key element of the form addresses how to handle potential challenges to books or other items held in the library. This is a strategy being implemented by libraries across the nation.

Strategic Planning Committee: Professor Ernesto Watchman greets everyone. He reports that the Strategic Planning and Resource Committee has been tasked with reviewing and revising the college's current mission, vision, and value statements. These statements are central to who we are and where we're going. Updating them will help ensure they reflect our current realities, priorities and aspirations for UNM-Gallup. They also serve as a foundation for strategic planning and organizational growth going forward to make this a collaborative process. The committee will be creating some type of word document tool so that faculty and staff can post anonymously three words or three phrases that they feel should be represented in the mission, vision and value statements. This will allow the committee to identify themes and ideas from across campus. At the same time, the committee will begin reviewing and drafting language. The tentative timeline to finalize the mission statement is before just after winter

