



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2025

Location: SUB 321

ZOOM <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/92457318161>

Approved September 10, 2025

1. Call meeting to order.

2. Roll Call.

	ATTENDANCE		
	Present	Absent	Excused
Art & Music; Edward Harrington	X		
Biology; Maureen Romine	X		
Business Administration; Gerardo Moreira, At-Large	X		
Chemistry; Steven Karpowicz	X		
Computer and Mathematical Sciences; Gil Gallegos, At-Large	X		
Education - Counseling; Diane Lacen	X		
Education - Curriculum & Instruction; Daniel Olufemi	X		
Education - Educational Leadership; Sheree Jederberg	X		
Education - Special Education; PJ Sedillo	X		
Education - Teacher Education; Angela Redondo [E. Valenzuela proxy]	X		
English and Philosophy; Lauren Fath	X		
Exercise and Sport Sciences; Kathy Jenkins	X		
Forestry; Michael Remke (he/him/his)	X		
History and Political Science; Bilgesu Sümer	X		
Languages and Culture; Norma Valenzuela	X		
Library; Katie Gray, Secretary (she/her)	X		
Media Arts and Technology; Miriam Langer	X		
Natural Resources Management; Jennifer Lindline, Chair (she/her)	X		
Nursing; Siri Khalsa (she/her)	X		
Psychology; David Pan	X		
Social Work; John Tourangeau	X		
Sociology, Anthropology, and CJ; Gloria Gadsden, Vice Chair	X		
President; Neil Woolf	X		
Provost/VPAA; Dann Brown	X		
Staff Senate; Carlos Nevarez			X
Student Senate; Lydia Okojie	X		

Also Present: Daniel Chadborn (Psychology), Geri Glover (Interim Dean, Education), Roxanne Gonzales (Educational Leadership), Todd Lekan (Dean, CAS), Anna Nelson (Dean, Social Work), Veena Parboteeah (Dean, Business, Media, & Technology), Mike Petronis (Natural Resources Management), Megan Shudde (Instructional Design), Ian Williamson (AVPAA/Graduate Dean)

3. Approval of Agenda.

Secretary noted discrepancies on the roll that need to be updated.

Secretary presented amendment to add item to New Business under 11.c., election of Faculty Senate Representative to Academic Affairs Committee.

MOTION to approve agenda with amendments. Seconded. 17 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

4. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2025 (attachment).

MOTION to approve minutes. Seconded. 18 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

5. Communication from the President (N. Woolf).

Dr. Woolf reported the following:

- Welcomed faculty to the new semester.
- Welcomed the Provost, Dr. Dann Brown.
- September 4 will be the public launch of HU's first comprehensive campaign, Highlands Elevated. Will be meeting with donors at governor's mansion and announcing 2 \$1 million donations.
- The Foundation will be launching a planned giving process.
- The hiring of a General Counsel, Doajo Hicks, was announced in the global weekly Presidential message. By hiring counsel, the university will save money and will get better service and have someone here on campus and in the community. Mr. Hicks' start date is 9/22.
- A. Nelson, D. Brown, B. Pacheco and the President, and met with UNM Taos administrators. There is no 4-year school in Taos, and the chancellor invited HU to teach in Taos under the HU banner at their facilities.
- In 2 weeks, a few HU individuals, including Faculty Senate Chair J. Lindline, are going to Anahuac University in Mexico to work on exchange program of faculty and students.
- The Board of Regents incorporated a land development corporation allowing HU to leverage funding vehicles to build homes on land adjacent to the golf course. An RFP is out for a master developer.
- The Foundation is working on the parking lot next to the SUB with the goal of having some transitional housing available (bungalows).
- Met with state officials. The State of NM is focusing higher ed funding on capital. There are additional funds available. The state is looking to backfill grant loss from the Federal level. New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute will lose around \$1M, and the university will lose indirects on other grants. Administration is working hard to get those back. The only new RPSPs will be for loss of federal funding.
- The Foundation hired a lobbyist to work for HU for Federal funding in Washington DC.
- The Board of Regents is meeting on 9/19, mostly in the afternoon. There will be a ribbon cutting for the new mental health center and food bank.
- 11/1 is the Matanza event.

- Dr. Woolf stated that he is aggressive in taking chances to build programming and asked faculty to let him know about any collaborative projects.
- Dr. Woolf noted that he received questions about why there are so many parking spots that are reserved on campus. Dr. Woolf stated that he has pulled back on those and made more open parking.

Question from a Senator, will the board at the next meeting have on the agenda the new Human Resources employee manual? Dr. Woolf stated that the Board Chair is undecided whether it will be on the next agenda or the one after.

Comment from a Senator that they have been receiving feedback about the Global emails and is hearing now that they do not come out often enough. Senator noted that faculty cannot search and find the info they are looking for. Dr. Woolf stated that time sensitive announcements should go out when needed and will follow up to make sure that they do.

Senator agreed that a global once a week is not enough and also asked that the number of announcements per email be limited.

Senator noted that they liked the President's address at Professional Development Days and found it hopeful.

6. Communication from the Vice President of Academic Affairs (D. Brown).

Dr. Brown reported the following:

- Enrollment numbers are still not confirmed but indicate the following:
 - Full time enrollment is up 8%.
 - New freshman enrollment is up 10% .
 - New transfer enrollment is up 23%.
 - Undergraduate population at Las Vegas campus is up 5%.
 - There is a lot of work to do, and the Provost wants to look at how students are coded. Percentages down at all centers.
 - Online enrollment increased 7%
 - Fall 2025 is up 2.1%, and there only 8 beds available on campus.
- Position search updates:
 - G. Glover will chair the search for the next Dean of the School of Education Search & Screen Committee. She announced her retirement on 12/31.
 - There is an internal candidate for Interim Registrar, who will begin on 9/8.
- Provost will be making an offer for the new Coordinator of CTE.
- Provost has visited the "Education Service Centers" in Farmington and Santa Fe. They will be doing a deep dig into enrollment, facilities, and staffing. Provost had a conversation with San Felipe Pueblo about providing some courses.
- Provost heard a lot of exciting responses to Professional Development Days and noted that A, Kent is working on one more survey.
- HLC will be on campus 11/3 and 11/4 for focused visits.

- Provost's Office will be doing training and development on Ad Astra. The university will be designating "first call classrooms" for departments that frequently use specific rooms but will have some guardrails for usage.
- HU will not use an automated scheduling process.
- Survey going out after Labor Day; quick timelines.
- Provost reported on the Donnelly Library renovation and that he met with librarians and will seek input from other stakeholders. The plan is to move more toward a hub for learning.
- In Mid-October the Provost will begin hosting "Donuts with Dan."
- Provost is working with Deans who have faculty in Bernalillo County.

Comment from a Senator that there were discussions about closing the Albuquerque Center and a rumor about closing the Farmington Center. Dr. Brown stated that the intent of visits is to improve services and opportunities at these sites and the intent going in is not to close any.

Comment from a Senator that they want to applaud faculty and staff who work to recruit, retain, mentor, and graduate students.

Dr. Woolf noted that the lease at the existing Albuquerque location is bad and the building is bad. The university is attempting to find a new location. Dr. Woolf stated that HU will always have a presence in Albuquerque and that they are looking to see what the possibilities are. Dr. Woolf stated that the university will not force people into Rio Rancho.

Comment from a Senator that there has been a light decrease in international enrollment due to issues with students getting visas. Dr. Brown stated that as of this morning, there are 96 international students this year compared to 80 last year. Dr. Brown noted that he is hearing about challenges nationally to visa applications but that HU is continuing to do well.

7. Communication from the Faculty Senate Chair (J. Lindline).

Chair Lindline reported the following:

- Chair sent individualized emails to each administrator and chair and their supervisor (where appropriate) with the results of the Spring 2025 Annual Evaluation of Administrators. She received 17 responses.
- Human Resources task force continued to meet throughout the summer. The workflow for student employment requests was completed. Per course contracts will be addressed.
- Chair received an email from the Director of Institutional Research (B. Wharton) offering to present at Faculty Senate concerning anything Senators want to hear about enrollment or assessment. Chair stated that invitations have to come to the Senate are issued via vote. Dr. Wharton also asked about a subcommittee to address Outcomes Assessment, and Chair informed her of the Senate committee.

- Chair has received inquiries about service on the Pino Committee. Chair reported that the committee has been defunct and she is working to identify what funds are in the budget.
- Concerning the issue of the adoption of 7000 level classes, there was a motion made and passed in the Spring for departments to work with the Registrar on creating a proposal, which will go out to the programs that were interested.
- Chair has been working with the AVPAA to get an individual that will provide training for the Grievance and Conciliation Committee and they will be meeting next week to discuss the training.
- I. Williamson sent out information about the 2035 strategic plan asking for faculty input. The Chair will circulate the proposal to faculty for input.

Dr. Woolf expressed gratitude to everyone who participated on the strategic plan re-draft.

8. Communication from Academic Affairs Committee (M. Remke).

M. Remke reported the following:

- Dr. Remke is no longer on the AAC, and B. Cespedes will be serving on that committee from the Forestry Department but not in the Chair role.
- At the previous meeting, the committee unsuccessfully attempted to nominate a Chair. The committee agreed that per Roberts Rules, the Secretary will call the next meeting and ask for nominations.

Question from a Senator about who is next in rank. Dr. Remke noted that K. Munro is the Secretary.

Question from a Senator about what the handbook says about AAC elections. Chair Lindline stated that she is leaning on the handbook language and will call the next AAC meeting and will communicate that to Dr. Munro.

9. Communication from the Student Senate (L. Okojie).

L. Okojie reported the following:

- A group of students went kayaking on Saturday.
- Housing assisted students with their needs.
- Concerning the state of the country, student presidents across the state had a meeting about security issues. Ms. Okojie stated that they have come to the opinion that if the university needs a short code for students to have in case of emergency and that the university should have security orientation for students at the beginning of semester to teach them how to handle emergencies.

Question from a Senator about whether the students have approached K. Blea to facilitate the security orientation program. Ms. Okojie stated that the Student Senate still has not been able to come together and that once seats are occupied, the issue will be brought before Dr. Blea.

10. Communication from the Staff Senate (C. Nevarez).

G. Medina stated that C. Nevarez had an emergency and was not able to attend.

11. New Business

a. Required Syllabus Statements Revisions (attachment)

Chair noted that the syllabus statement revisions include changes about positions and location of offices and contacts but that the substance of the statements remains the same.

MOTION to approve. Seconded. 20 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

b. Graduate Council Proposals (attachments)

i. Graduate Student Discipline

G. Gadsden provided an overview of the proposal. Dr. Gadsden stated that the university does not have a policy addressing the discipline of graduate students. Dr. Gadsden reported that this proposal sprung out of an issue a couple of years ago about an accused FERPA violation and that the Graduate Council has put together a process to protect the university and students if they need to be disciplined.

Comment from a Senator thanking the Council and noting that it was one of their students who was involved and that it was a very upsetting situation and it was not de-escalated properly.

ii. Thesis/Professional Paper Committee Makeup

G. Gadsden provided an overview of the proposal and noted that the Council has had several inquiries about who can serve, particularly as 3rd and 4th readers. Dr. Gadsden also noted that they received a question about field projects, and that this does not cover that situation.

Question from a Senator about where the list of graduate faculty is housed. Chair suggested it might be in the office of the Graduate Dean. Dr. Williamson stated that it is not housed in his office Dr. Williamson stated that there is discussion going on about the definition of “graduate faculty” and that there is current language that there is departmental vote, but that process has not been in place for over a decade.

Comment from a Senator that they have an issue with the Graduate Dean reviewing the committee late in the process and that program of study and committee should be submitted early. Dr. Gadsden noted that she had a similar concern but that the Graduate Dean is reviewing NOT approving the committee.

Comment from a Senator disagreeing that the committee review should happen early.

Question from a Senator about whether this would be a change to the graduate handbook. Dr. Williamson noted that procedurally, they already do this and that the Graduate Handbook is housed in the Graduate Office and when a policy change is approved, they immediately update the handbook.

Dr. Gadsden noted that she did not think the council would oppose putting in wording about an effective date.

D. Pan stated that the Graduate Council will meet on Friday, and they can add it to their discussion.

Comment from a Senator about the wording that the third member **MUST** be from another discipline or outside rather than **MAY** be outside.

Dr. Pan stated that there are already members from one department and that this keeps committees from having 3 members from within the department and helps protect against shenanigans.

Chair noted that her department has always made their students find an outside member and mentioned that this on the form.

Dr. Gadsden stated that the Council had a lengthy discussion and felt the change protects the university and student and agreed with the Chair that the form asks for an "outside member."

Comment from a Senator that are using discipline and department interchangeably, which are different things.

Comment from a Senator that they are only person in their discipline and that they struggle finding another person in their discipline. Dr. Pan noted that this a change because of this issue, so that faculty can go out to find more readers.

Comment from a Senator that the 4th reader could be in the discipline.

MOTION to send the Thesis/Professional Paper Committee Makeup proposal back to the Graduate Council to address the effective date issue. Seconded. 21 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

MOTION to approve the Graduate Student Discipline proposal. 21 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

c. Handbook Reviews (attachments)

i. Outcomes Assessment Handbook

Chair noted that the Outcomes Assessment Handbook was approved through governance years ago and has a stated end date of 2023.

Comment from a Senator that it is good for the Senate to review our handbooks and that we do not need to reinvent the wheel. Senator suggested that instead of having an end date, we could include when it has been revised and approved.

Question from a Senator about when the last time that the handbook was revised. Secretary stated that it was August 2021.

Question from a Senator about how often the Senate needs to review the handbook per best practices.

Comment from a Senator that this should be reviewed by the Outcomes Assessment Committee.

MOTION to remove the effective dates from the Outcomes Assessment handbook and to charge the Outcomes Assessment Committee with evaluating the handbook for potential updates. Seconded.

Dr. Brown noted that this is a powerful way to demonstrate HLC that we go through the governance process.

Question from a Senator about whether removing the effective dates would necessitate the handbook moving through the other governing bodies.

Dr. Williamson noted that this is also true of the Contingent Faculty Handbook and that we should consider these updates across the board.

Comment from a Senator that that is exactly what we are trying to do and that we need clarification about whether this is a policy or procedure. Senator asked the President if the change needs to go the Board. Dr. Woolf stated that non-substantive changes can go on the consent agenda for the Board of Regents minutes and that he would use the Senate's discretion about whether the changes are substantive.

21 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

ii. Contingent Faculty Handbook

Chair noted that this handbook was also developed a handful of years ago.

Comment from a Senator that they have had several questions concerning the handbook and that misinformation has been shared. Senator stated that this one needs a close read.

Comment from a Senator that the Contingent Faculty Handbook is the purview of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

MOTION to remove the effective dates from the Contingent Faculty Handbook and to charge the Faculty Affairs Committee with evaluating the handbook for potential updates. Seconded. 19 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

iii. Faculty Handbook

Chair noted that the previous Chair had created an ad hoc committee to address this issue.

Comment from a Senator that in the past, the Senate would charge the Executive Committee with creating the language and bringing it back to the Senate.

Chair asked the Senators if there are any sections they would like the Executive Committee to look at.

Comment from a Senator that they need to look at the fact that the School of Education and School of Business did not have departments previously but do now, so the committee structure needs to be reviewed.

Comment from a Senator suggesting the Executive Committee look at how Senators are elected and the suggested oversight.

Chair mentioned the shorter terms of committees such as Outcomes Assessment.

Dr. Pan stated that the Graduate Council has some suggestions for updates.

Comment from a Senator that the Outcomes Assessment Committee used to assess the core, which is extremely time consuming. That is the reason for the shortened term on that committee. Senator stated that the system has changed so maybe a change to the term is in order.

Comment from a Senator that the Senate needs to get back to evaluating the core, so maybe the term needs to stay at 2 years.

Comment from a Senator that the Technology Committee and their manual needs to be reevaluated.

Comment from a Senator that we need to think about what might be missing and if there is something on which we should establish a committee.

Suggestion from a Senator that this be added as an agenda item for future meetings.

Chair suggested that the Executive Committee could try to have a portion for review, with side-by-side comparisons, at each Senate meeting.

c. Faculty Senate Committee Nominations/Elections

MOTION to entertain nominations from individual departments of Schools.
Seconded. 18 ayes. Motion passed.

i. Athletic

Two vacancies on committee.

Comment from a Senator that the Athletic Committee must be gender balanced.

Chair stated that all committees need parity.

Cindy Black nominated to serve. 9 ayes.

Jedidiah Bragg nominated to serve. 11 ayes.

Frances Ortega nominated to serve. 7 ayes.

Cindy Black and Jedidah Bragg elected.

ii. Faculty Grievance and Conciliation

Three vacancies on committee.

Todd Christensen nominated to serve. 19 ayes. Nominee elected.

iii. Financial Planning

Two vacancies on committee.

Rey Martinez nominated to serve. 14 ayes. Nominee elected.

Roxanne Gonzales nominated to serve. 13 ayes. Nominee elected.

iv. International Education

Three vacancies on committee.

Senator commented that the department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice is part of Arts & Humanities, not Math and Sciences.

Jeff Propster nominated to serve on behalf of the College of Arts & Sciences [Math & Science]. 18 ayes. Nominee elected.

Jeanette Baca nominated to serve from School of Social Work. 17 ayes. Nominee elected.

Jacob Avery nominated to serve in at-large position. 4 ayes.

Erika Derkas nominated to serve in at-large position. 6 ayes.

Debbie Deneen nominated to serve in at-large position. 4 ayes.

Mercedes Valenzuela nominated to serve in at-large position. 4 ayes.

Erika Derkas elected to at-large position.

v. Student Affairs

8 vacancies on committee.

John Tourangeau nominated to serve as Faculty Senate representative.
17 ayes. Motion passed.

Jedidiah Bragg nominated to serve. 16 ayes. Nominee elected.

Bilgesu Sümer nominated to serve. 18 ayes. Nominee elected.

KwangJong Park nominated to serve. 16 ayes. Nominee elected.

Cindy Black nominated to serve. 18 ayes. Nominee elected.

Roxanne Gonzales nominated to serve. 16 ayes. Nominee elected.

Debbie Deneen nominated to serve. 18 ayes. Nominee elected.

MOTION to table remaining items and adjourn. Motion passed.

d. Faculty Senate Committee Charges

12.Executive Session.

13.Action and Statements as Necessary on Executive Session Discussion.

14.Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.