

Report to Faculty Senate
Wanda Eastman, Chair
January 17, 2008

- Academic Programs Review Committee met November 30 and January 4. Dean Titus is chair and I am a member. Purpose of committee is to draft a policy for the systematic review of academic programs. The committee has affirmed that program review is important to be doing. Questions being explored by the committee are funding for external reviewers and dedicated resources to accomplish reviews. Another important question concerns programs that have an external accreditation process already in place. (Examples are College of Education with NCATE and College of Business) The committee continues its work.

- The University Administrative Council meet on December 11 and January 8. The consideration of the Teaching Load Policy that the Faculty Senate approved in October was postponed in December to be considered in January. In January it was postponed to be considered in February. A moratorium on personnel actions (i.e. hiring freeze) for the University is in place from January 8 until April 1 while the NM Legislature is in session and waiting for Governor Richardson to sign or veto bills. This does not apply to “restrictive funds.” An example would be personnel hired from grant and contract funds. Approximately 200 positions from around campus have not been posted. If position was already posted and permission to hire was already made, the hiring process can go forward. Some of the vacant staff positions may be eliminated and those salaries may be used for pay raises. Jennifer Taylor reported that outside consulting firm is to be hired to do a salary equity review to see what would need to be done to bring NMSU salaries “up to market.”

- NMSU Board of Regents met on December 14. Contract for lease to have hotel built on NMSU land was approved. Regents voted to approve change in titles: President of the Las Cruces Campus (previously called “Main” campus) will also be Chancellor of NMSU System. Community College campus CEOs are now CC Presidents. Provost will also be Vice Chancellor of NMSU System.

- Academic Dean’s Council met December 8 and held a Dean’s Retreat on January 8. Accreditation visit and self study document discussed at both meetings. Dean Titus spoke about the One Library concept as part of the One University concept to provide more integration of libraries at CC campuses and LC campus. An emphasis of the Dean’s will be transfer initiatives. Transfer guides for general education classes at many CC in our region are now on-line under the “Prospective Students” link. Programs are being encouraged to develop transfer guides specific for their programs. Another emphasis is on retention of first year students. The best faculty in a department should be the instructors for freshman classes. A “Student Success Center” at one location (Library) is being developed. Another initiative is “Dual Enrollment,” where NM high school students are taking lower division college classes while still enrolled in high school. This is popular with CC campuses, but LC campus is going to be more active with this program. The LC campus is encouraged to offer classes for dual enrollment that are not already being offered by CC campuses dual enrollment programs.

- I attended the NMSU Diversity Council on December 13. They are seeking a Faculty Senate representative. We will elect a Faculty Senate representative later in this meeting.

- Vice-Chair Joe Pfeiffer, Lisa Warren, and I continue to work on the revision to the NMSU Policy Manual.