

Report to Faculty Senate
Wanda Eastman, Chair
February 7, 2008

- NMSU Board of Regents met on January 28 in Santa Fe. Legislative update was given by NMSU Director of Governmental Affairs Dennis Hazlett and by Richardo Rel, Assistant VP for Governmental Affairs. Discussion on capital projects and salary increases followed. Legislative Finance Committee is recommending a 2 % salary increase with a 0.75% increase to the retirement fund contribution. Regents, President Martin, and myself all added discussion to the need for higher faculty salaries. The Professional Master's Degree in Financial Mathematics received the approval from the Regents.

- President Martin invited Faculty Senators to meet with him and Provost Cruzado on February 1 to discuss the issue of faculty salaries. We had six senators and myself who were able to attend and provide input and discuss concerns. Faculty Salaries are a very important issue and discussions are taking place amongst our faculty colleagues. Senators are encouraged to brainstorm about strategies to make improvements in our NMSU faculty salary scale.

- Provost Cruzado is requesting that the Faculty Senate take a look at the wording of what constitutes "in good academic standing" for freshman. The student-athletes have NCAA standards to adhere to and there is some concerns that students-athletes will not lose their eligibility to participate after one semester with intercollegiate athletics because of the wording of our policy.