



Minutes

Faculty Senate Regular Meeting

03/27/26

1:00-2:00 PM on Google Meet

- I. Establishment of Quorum: Mari Hill, Gene Martinez, Kevin Williams, Billie Mathews, Nichole Collins, Chantel Rivera, and Linda Salazar
- II. Call of Meeting to Order: Chair Mari Hill called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
- III. Approval of Agenda: Gene Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda. Linda Salazar seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: Upon a motion made by Billie Mathews and seconded by Nichole Collins, the minutes of the February 27, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
- V. Welcome of Guests/Public Comment (3 minutes per person): Dr. Henrietta Romero
- VI. VPIS Report (Limited to 10 minutes): Dr. Romero reported that she attended the HLC annual conference with Dr. Linder, Jeff Gamblin, Dr. Smith, and Trustee Medrano, Ortega, and Sandie. She encouraged faculty to request to attend in the future. She will alert faculty in the future of deadlines to request to attend. We are going to begin preparing for our comprehensive visit in November of 2027. The Fall of 2027 will be an exciting time due to going live with the transition to Workday for students. In relation to the HLC comprehensive visit, we will be contacting people who have specific talents to assist with the assurance argument. It is imperative that we have full campus participation and support to be able to write this assurance argument and be sure that we are representing the college in the best way we can, especially under the new criteria. Or you might be asked to be a part of the reading group. This group will read and proof the assurance argument for clarity and structural and grammatical improvements. The faculty has an important place in the process of Luna getting our reaccreditation. With all the work and progress we are making, we hope to be approved for a 10-year slate, meaning we wouldn't have another visit for 10 years. Another exciting thing is that we are finalizing the budget priorities for fiscal year 2027, which will include some additional new faculty lines. We are investing in creating more full-time faculty support lines in specific departments. Once she knows more, she will share with the Faculty Senate. She has pushed hard for departments to have more than just one full-time faculty position. We will be submitting our Student Success Improvement Plan with HLC by April 10. With Sierra Fernandez, Michael Montoya, and several others she has been working on that plan. Dr. Romero would like to welcome faculty to the Town Halls that will be held at all satellite locations. The Town Halls are to listen to our community members about what kinds of programming they need from us—whether it is work force development, community education, etc. She expressed gratitude to all of the faculty for their participation and support in the Blackboard Ultra training.

VII. Information/Discussion:

A. Senator Reports

1. Mari Hill (Education Senator, Senate Chair) – Mari Hill reported that she was out doing educational observations with her students. One of her classes also held a meeting with the preschool parents to plan a family engagement night. Nine parents showed up, as compared to just 1 last year.
2. Gene Martinez (CTE Senator, Vice Chair) – Gene Martinez submitted a supplemental grant proposal to LANL. He asked for \$100,000. Half of that would be for upgrades to the electrical system in the welding shop. The other part is for travel for students who want to do internships at LANL, and for replacing some obsolete equipment within the shop. He also talked with his counterpart at Santa Fe CC to see about transferring some of his obsolete equipment to them for repair. He also talked to them about a possible adjunct instructor. Gene is preparing to take the other parts of CWI exam. He has to send in a new visual acuity test to AWS and once that is done he can schedule to take the other parts of the exam. They are having an event through AWS at SFCC in the next two weeks. One of their vendors Matheson Tri-gas is having an event at SFCC and is bringing industry professionals to provide hands-on use of some of the new equipment coming out. He is going to try to take a couple of his students to that. He is working on getting his shop taken care of with a lot of upgrades. He will be losing his another adjunct this summer to a higher paying job. They will be making roses for Mother's Day and crosses for Memorial Day. They also will be making signage for Luna and gates for the preschool.
3. Kevin Williams (Associates Senator, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary) – Kevin Williams reported that he will be reaching out to adjuncts to encourage them to run for Faculty Senate for the 2026-27 year.
4. Billie Mathews (Humanities Senator) – STEM and Humanities met on March 16. Dr. Castillo had Dr. Smith speak about his experience presenting in Washington, DC about the impact of Square Dancing on school instruction. He talked about how student use of AI is impacting learning. He visited with a professor there who said that he is retiring for good because he cannot deal with the impact of AI on learning. She has come up with a few strategies for dealing with it, but it is really a challenge. She reported that 100% of her classes are now on Blackboard Ultra. The theater presentation on April 10 at 10:00 is for children/school-aged students. Amy Huffnall, the coordinator, has invited schools from all over the northeast corner of the state. The evening performance at 6:00 is for the general public and our staff. If you are unable to attend the evening performance there will probably be some room for you in the morning performance. Ben Koldyke will be the MC. He is a Hollywood actor who lives in Las Vegas now. He starred in How I Met Your Mother, and It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia.
5. Nichole Collins (STEM/Assessment Senator) – At the STEM and Humanities meeting Dr. Castillo reported that the PLOs for STEM and Humanities had been submitted to the Curriculum Committee and were approved (minus Nichole's).

He talked about the catalog edits. He informed the group that he has completed science and some of the upper level math classes as well as humanities courses. In STEM all is going well. They have their plotters set up and paper in. Testing is next to see what we can provide. Then I'll create an invoice and present it to the CFO and Dr. Romero to see if we can provide some poster printing from our department for the campus. Students are progressing well in our courses.

6. Chantel Rivera (Allied Health/Nursing Senator) – For dental, students just completed their second week of clinical rotations so they are starting Term 2 at a new dental off site office. The nursing department is hosting their ATITs pre-course to allow prospective nursing students to come take their Ts for free after they've completed the course.
7. Linda Salazar (Ex Officio/LRC) – Nothing new to report on the library side. We do need to think about upcoming Faculty Senate elections. We need to start today getting nominations. An email needs to be sent out to faculty requesting nominations. It would be best coming from Mari Hill. Dr. Romero's assistance could help. Mari Hill said she would send out an email. Dr. Romero expressed her support in any way. Nichole suggested including an encouraging email to Directors to encourage their faculty staff to participate.

B. Standing Committees

1. Curriculum Committee - They met on March 16th. Humanities and STEM (minus technology courses) were approved, and they didn't approve Allied Health yet, but will at the next meeting. They reviewed the proposed changes from Denise Fox for Dental, however, they were not approved. They want to wait for CODA to approve them first. Once they hear back from CODA, then they will approve them. They discussed the need to update forms and the first form that needs updating is the sunset/deletion form. There is a three-stage process that needs to be followed to delete a program. Nichole has created a rough draft based on conversations with Kathleen Sena last year, and has submitted it to Dr. Romero and to Rachael Lucero. Nichole made a plea for faculty to reach out to directors to remind them to have their instructors review the catalog before the next deadline. Class descriptions and numbers need to be proofed, as well as prerequisite and co-requisites.
2. Assessment Committee - Nichole Collins reported that the Assessment Committee met and went over the processes and procedures manual again. They are trying to finalize the schedule plan for when CLOAs go out. They are working on getting their chairperson. A couple of nominations were made. They will be meeting again in two weeks to vote for the Chair. They talked about the ARC and what they are working on currently, and the committee discussed end-of-the-semester inservice plans, which they will discuss more at the next meeting.

C. Follow-Up Items - None

VIII. Action Items:

- A. Vote to approve revision of Senior tuition classification - Dr. Romero gave background information as to why this vote was necessary. We are out of alignment with the New Mexico Administrative Code for senior tuition classification. In order to bring us into compliance we need to revise our policy. Nichole Collins moved to revise Luna's Senior tuition classification to align with the New Mexico Administrative Code for senior tuition classification. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Executive Session

- A. Discussion Items
 - 1. Fall in-service ideas - Nichole Collins said we need to include Blackboard support or office hours.
 - 2. Revised Employee Handbook - Mari Hill asked if the Faculty Senate had seen the revised sick leave accrument changes in the proposed employee handbook. Mari Hill shared the changes. Nichole questioned why faculty accrues less than staff. Mari Hill mentioned that we can donate sick leave to a pool. The question arose as to why we cannot donate to a specific person, when staff can.
- B. New or Follow-up Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:
 - 1. Faculty Handbook

IX. Next Regular Meeting: The next regular meeting of the LCC Faculty Senate will be held on April 10, 2026.

X. Adjournment: Billie Mathews moved to adjourn. Gene Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.