



Faculty Assembly Meeting Draft Agenda
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)

Zoom Meeting: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/97526594300> (Passcode: Mar26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)

12:04 Andisheh: Meeting called to order

2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)

Motion to accept: Michael Gonzales
Second: Ian Burch

3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)

Motion to approve: Ian Burch
Second: Mindy Schartz

4. Interim Chancellor and Dean of Instruction Report's - Dr. Laura Musselwhite (30 min)

Leadership Transition & Search Timeline

- Permanent leadership search likely to **launch August 2026**
- Rationale:
 - Avoid summer when faculty are largely away
 - Ensure meaningful faculty participation
- Anticipated start date for permanent hire:
 - **July or August 2027**
- Dr. Musselwhite expects to serve **approximately one year** in the interim role
- Timeline affected by:
 - UNM presidential search
 - Provost search at main campus

Administrative Structure Changes

- Decision **not to appoint a separate interim dean**
 - Avoid overburdening faculty
 - Avoid imposing leadership roles unexpectedly
- New **liaison model** established:
 - **Externally-facing academic affairs liaison**
 - Handles statewide, UNM-wide committees
 - **Confirmed:** Julia So
 - **Internally-facing academic affairs liaison**
 - Handles internal faculty issues (e.g., instructional council)
 - Provides intermediary between faculty/division chairs and Chancellor
 - Still under consideration
- Emphasis on:
 - Maintaining procedural protections for faculty
 - Ensuring faculty have a safe escalation path

Institutional Climate & Faculty Relations

- Dr. Musselwhite addressed concerns about:
 - Sudden leadership changes



- Faculty discomfort and division
- Clarified that:
 - Recent changes were **not abrupt**, but the result of ongoing issues
 - A specific catalyzing event accelerated decisions
- Expressed commitment to:
 - Collegiality
 - Respect for differing viewpoints
 - Rebuilding trust and morale
- Key themes:
 - **Consistency** → **Stability**
 - Acknowledgment of emotional impact on faculty and staff

Faculty Discussion on Healing & Communication

- **Julia So**
 - Asked how administration plans to reunite faculty
 - Emphasized value of open conversation
- **Suggestions Raised**
 - Smaller group discussions to avoid escalating conflict
 - Avoid large public forums that could become heated
- **Andisheh Dadashi**
 - Proposed an **anonymous feedback platform**
 - Allows junior faculty to speak safely
 - Visible to faculty while protecting identities
- **Administrative Response**
 - Dr. Musselwhite open to anonymous/platform-based dialogue
 - Emphasized need for respectful, healthy discourse
 - Commitment not to “sweep issues under the rug”
- Faculty encouraged to:
 - Speak directly with Dr. Musselwhite
 - Engage constructively, without fear of retaliation
- **Ana June**
 - Offered to speak individually with faculty to explain her position

Staffing & Budget Updates

- **Library Cataloger position**
 - Will be filled
- **STEM position**
 - Will be filled
- Funding notes:
 - Savings identified in library and STEM budgets
 - Possibility of immediate hiring
 - July 1 start dates if needed (new fiscal year)
- Budget outlook:
 - Typical pattern of large early-year deficit shrinking by late March
 - Current deficit considered manageable



5. Treasurer's Report – Dr. Piotr Filipczak (1 min)

- Faculty fund balance: **\$275.75**
- Residual “snack” fund: **\$78.85**

6. Committee Accomplishments for AY 25-26 (3 min per)

- Adjunct Faculty Committee: Karen Walter

Reported wins via union negotiations:

- Movement toward full-time and longer-term positions
- Compensation for pre-semester preparation week

Communication success:

- ~80% of adjuncts opened union updates

Ongoing challenge:

- Low adjunct participation in meetings

Continued efforts:

- Exploring strategies to improve adjunct engagement

- EIRG: Joshua Cardenas:

Focused on:

- Coordination with other campus committees
- Avoiding duplication of effort

Participation in cross-branch diversity committee

Internal restructuring after chair departure

Current priorities:

- Capacity building
- Strategic planning

Goal:

- Present clearer mission and structure in Fall 2026

7. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)

Jonathan Sims: **Key Senate Topics**

- Health insurance changes:
 - Four plan options
 - Premium increases:
 - ~10% without GLP-1 drug coverage
 - ~20% with GLP-1 coverage
 - Approx. **480 faculty** using GLP-1 medications
- Joint resolution (UNM & CNM):
 - Opposing the Compact for Academic Excellence
 - Cited concerns over ideological conditions
- Formation of working group:
 - Reviewing Dean's Evaluation Surveys
 - Open call for participation



Other Senate Business

- Breakout sessions to set priorities for next year
- Discussion of branch-to-main campus student visits
- Approval of a posthumous degree (pending Regents)
- Branch Campus Colleges Council:
 - Ongoing quorum challenges
 - Bylaw revisions underway
 - Meetings to be shared via faculty listservs
- Adjunct benefit update:
 - Benefits eligibility now at **0.5 FTE** (previously 0.75)

8. Faculty security and safety on campus – Dr. Andisheh Dadashi (5 min)

- Concern raised previously about faculty safety
- Recent safety trainings shared (FEMA, workshops)
- Some sessions already underway
- Administration invited faculty with safety concerns to:
 - Speak directly with Dr. Musselwhite or Rick Goshorn

9. New Business / Announcements

Campus Garden

- Ongoing gardening activities and meetings
- Events:
 - Garden meeting: Friday (10 AM)
 - Major work party: **Saturday, April 4, 9 AM–12 PM**
 - Snacks and egg decorating included
- Faculty encouraged to visit greenhouse and garden

Academic Events

- **All-Campus Academy**
 - Friday at 10 AM (Zoom only)
 - Presentation on **CURE in the Classroom**
- **Undergraduate Research Day (Dual Credit)**
 - April 9, 6–7 PM
 - ~40 students from Belin High School
 - Focus on microbiology and disease topics

Recognition

- **Andisheh Dadashi**
 - Recipient of Teaching Excellence award (Communication)
 - Ceremony: April 8 at 4 PM (Center for Teaching & Learning)

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:49



In Attendance:

Laura Musselwhite
Andisheh Dadashi
Cindi Goodman
Piotr Filipczak
Ana June
Elisa DiMenna
Andy Taylor
Debra Venable
Precious Andrew
Jonathan Sims
Michael Gonzales
Dominique Rodriguez
Stephen Takach
Frances Duran
Tim Gutierrez
Jerry Godbout
Renee Depres
Joshua Frank Cardenas
Patricia Gillikin
Karen Walter
Kat Gullahorn
Ian Burch
Ben Flicker
Mindy Schwarz
Julia So
Barbara Lovato