NOVEMBER 2026
FACULTY NEWSLETTER

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VALENCIA



Dean and Interim Chancellor Update

Dr. Laura Musselwhite

UNFORTUNATELY, I NEED TO BEGIN MY REPORT WITH SOME SOMBER NEWS.

One of our advisory board members, Roberta Scott, passed away on October 23. Roberta was a current and past member for many years, as well as being a past member of our development board and the head of our Small Business Development Center for over a decade. There was a lovely memorial to Roberta in the Valencia County News Bulletin (https://www.news-bulletin.com/news/roberta-scott-dies-remembered-for-her-intellect-passion/3156123). Her memorial service will be held here on campus on Saturday, November 21 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm in LRC101.

Amongst all of the important ballot items from November 3, I am happy to report that both Bond #3 (higher education) and Bond #2 (libraries) passed. These are funds designed to assist with infrastructure and resources around the state. UNM-Valencia will use proceeds from this bond sale to assist with the remodel of a wing of the Workforce Training Center to accommodate more CTE programs, specifically an Automotive program space.

This week kicked off the Trauma-Informed Workshops being led by Veronica Salcido and Brittany Padilla. The first session had a mix of faculty and staff, which was great to see! If you have an interest in learning more about operating from a more trauma-informed perspective, please contact either Veronica or Brittany. The sessions are designed to be small, so space may be limited. As we see more and more students (and faculty and staff) who are under stress of various kinds, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn communication and interaction techniques that come from this vantage point.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 18 at 5pm
Reading New Mexico (Tomé Community Center)

November 19 at 4pm
Opening Reception for the Faculty and Staff Art Show. Show runs from November 13 through December 12.

November 26 and 27
Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2
Luminaria Stroll

Humanities Update

LA SKINS Festival

Adjunct English instructor Rebekah Rendón had the opportunity to do set decoration, props, and costumes on a local New Mexico short film entitled This Land. The film is an indigenous horror story set in New Mexico; it was produced by Broken Glass Media (@brokenglass.media). On November 22, This Land will be premiering in Los Angeles, CA on 22 November 2026 at the TCL Chinese Theater.



Please join us for

UNM-Valencia's Reading New Mexico Event!

With Laura Paskus, special guest

This event welcomes community members from Valencia County, UNM students, staff and faculty to enjoy an evening of writing—fiction, non-fiction, poetry—music, and refreshments! This year's theme is "people, place and connection" in our beloved New Mexico, where local writers will share their stories, experiences, and creative imaginings.

Wednesday, November 18th | 5:00-7:00 PM
Tomé Land Grant Community Center
2933 State Highway 47, Tomé, NM 87031.



Leeanna T. Torres
Leeanna T. Torres is a native Nuevomexicana writer, born and raised in the communidad de Tomé. Her creative non-fiction essays have appeared in various print & online publications, including more recently, A New Mexico Land Ethic Handbook (Rubin, Gulliford, & Torres, 2024, NightHawk Press), and Water Bodies: Love Letters to the Most Abundant Substance on Earth (edited by Laura Paskus, (2024).



Iris Keltz
Iris Keltz is an award-winning journalist and author of two historical memoirs. Scrapbook of a Taos Hippie: Tribal Tales from the Heart of a Cultural Revolution (2000) and Unexpected Bride in the Promised Land: Journeys in Palestine and Israel (2017).



Percy James
Percy James has lived throughout Northern New Mexico most of her life. She works in Valencia and Luna County. She is a multimedia artist primarily creating writing and film and a leader in the Valencia County Literacy Council.



Kaiya 'Kai' Hodge
Kaiya 'Kai' Hodge is a poet, and the secretary of the UNM-Valencia Poetry club.



Liné
Liné is an independent singer/songwriter and a poet who is almost done with their first album. Its central theme is storytelling, and uses a fusion of genres from country, folk, Irish folk, a bit of mariachi, as well as Native American elements. Their goal as an artist is to expand what the music genre can be, musically and lyrically.

This event is made possible by partnerships with the Tomé Land Grant community, the Valencia County Literacy Council, the UNM-Valencia poetry club and faculty from English, Spanish and Education at UNM-Valencia.





Improv Showcase

Patricia Gillikin performed in a student Improv Showcase on October 31 with her Level 2 class.



Dominique Rodriguez writes:

With leadership from the Spanish Program, Fine Arts, Pasos, and Student Activities, students from the Arts Collective, Poetry Club, and Student Government presented the inaugural Día de los Muertos: Ofrendas Colectivas Exhibition. The exhibition featured art and ofrendas in honor of loved ones and community leaders like Dolores Huerta and Juan Gómez Quiñones. The Pasos celebration on October 28th saw tremendous turnout from students, community members, faculty and staff. We are excited to continue the event next fall and invite everyone to participate.

Peel U Off - Madison Rose

Rebekah Rendón was able to set decorate (tie the bow) and assist on the cover shoot for artist Madison Rose's new single, Peel U Off. It currently has 24k listens on Spotify.



SWPACA & PCA Conferences

Rebekah Rendón's independent research entitled "Found Family: Robert Rodriguez and the Spy Kids Franchise" has been submitted and accepted to the Southwest Popular / American Culture Association conference. The conference is taking place in Albuquerque, NM at the Louisiana Marriott on 17-20 February 2027.

Rebekah's independent research entitled "Queering the Family in Zoraida Córdova's Labyrinth Lost" has been submitted and accepted to the national Popular Culture Association conference. The conference is taking place in Boston, MA on 24-27 March 2027.





FAFDM Division Update



Winners!

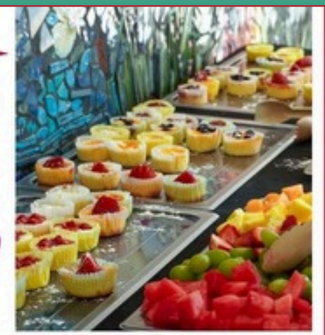
FAFDM won third place in the Valencia Campus Halloween Decorating Contest with the theme of Corpse Bride. Marlena Campos, one of our student workers, was the artist behind the display!

News for Spring Term

For the first time, we are offering Introduction to Theatre in the spring. Our instructor will be Mike Kimmel, who has taught theater and acting at community colleges in California and Louisiana before moving to New Mexico. He has written books on acting, appeared in many commercials, and was a sketch actor for over a decade on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

UNM-VALENCIA CAMPUS FINE ARTS GALLERIES

Fall 2026 Art Exhibition Schedule





SEPT 4 - OCT 9 — **tender**
Stephanie Lerma
Reception: Sept 17th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

SEPT 28 - OCT 16 — **Comanche Highway**
Sounding Genizari in Contemporary New Mexico



OCT 19 - NOV 2 — **Dia de Los Muertos: Ofrendas Colectivas Exhibition**

OCT 28 — **Dia de Los Muertos Celebration**
presented from Noon-2:00pm

NOV 13 - DEC 12 — **When Music & Art Come Together**
Annual Faculty and Staff Art Exhibition
Reception: Nov. 19th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

For more details and updates about these events, please visit valencia.unm.edu

UNM VALENCIA

Sarah Heyward's Accomplishments

Sarah was awarded Honorable Mention for a piece in the show Backwards/Forwards at the Light Art Space in Silver City, NM.
Sarah currently has pieces on display in the show Spirited: New Mexico Art for the Afterlife at the Santa Fe Community Gallery, including the piece below.
Sarah will have a piece on display in the upcoming show SMALL INFINITY – Art in a Shoebox at My Micro Gallery in Milan, Italy.
Sarah recently gave a guest artist lecture at the University of Wyoming.

Jon Sim's Accomplishments

Jonathan Sims created a video for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation on their recent work with the Navajo Nation and various Pueblos.
Jonathan Sims created video documentation of several important events: the 3rd Pueblo Convocation, the Water Protectors international conference held in ABQ, and a commission by the Univ. of Minnesota of a piece by Jemez Pueblo sculptor Cliff Fragua (creator of the Po'Pay statue at Statuary Hall, DC).



Alexa Wheeler's Accomplishments

Alexa participated in the True Inspiration Artist-in-Residence at Furman University as a part of her Academic Leave last spring semester. Alexa has had gallery showings at the Woman Made Gallery and the Harwood Art Center.

Alexa has been accepted to a residency for 2027 at the Vermont Studio Center. Alexa had a show entitled kept + carried at the ARC Gallery in Chicago, including the piece below.



Anna Rotty's Accomplishments

Anna Rotty has two shows coming up: Northlight Gallery at ASU and the Northern Kentucky State University gallery.

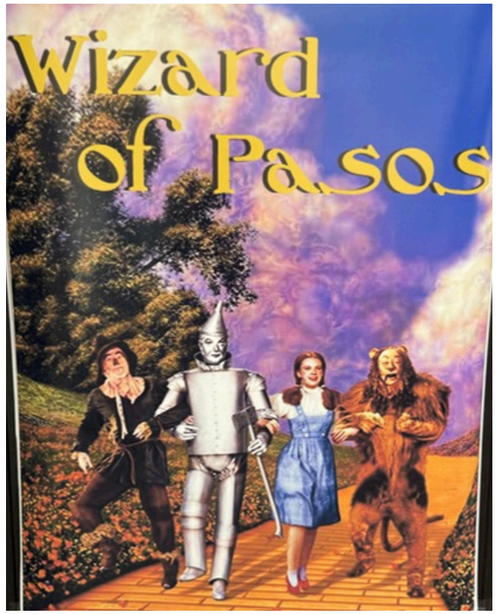
Tutoring Services Update

Shalaine Castillo and Patricia Gillikin



PASOS HALLOWEEN

We won 2nd Place for our "Wizard of Oz" theme!
We couldn't have achieved this without the creativity, dedication, and collaborative efforts between student employees and staff under Pasos, STEM Tutoring, and Writing Center.





FINAL EXAM WEEK HOURS OF OPERATION

STEM Tutoring will have limited availability during Final Exam Week starting Monday, December 7 through Thursday, December 10.
The Writing Center will not have tutoring available during Final Exam Week.
The last day of writing tutoring will be Friday, December 4

PASOS LATE NIGHT THURSDAYS

We only have two Late Night Thursdays left! We are open until 7pm on Thursday evenings in the Pasos Resource Center – November 19 and December 3. Peer Lead Soren June will be available for any peer mentoring assistance and STEM Tutor Aaron Parra-Erivez will be available for biology, chemistry, math, and Spanish tutoring support. We will not have Late Night Thursdays during Thanksgiving Break or Final Exam Week.

For more information, please contact Shalaine Castillo at sbuck07@unm.edu or 505.925.0689.

INTERNATIONAL WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bilingual Writing Consultant Pau Acosta-Marta and Patricia Gillikin joined a team from the Valencia County Literacy Council (VCLA) including Devon Hoffman, Cecy Rodriguez, Kathy Pickering, and Karen Walter, to put together a session for the International Writing Center Association Annual Conference online on October 30. Their session, "Vínculos del pueblo para un cambio sistémico: Growing a Community of Praxis between a Literacy Program and a Community College Writing Center," was about the ongoing collaboration between the Writing Center and VCLC.

That collaboration will continue with the Writing Center's participation in VCLC's November Quarterly and future gatherings and planning sessions. Additionally, Writing Consultants attended online sessions of the IWCA conference, joining and learning from the worldwide community of writing center professionals.



Library Update

Barbara Lovato



A LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS COMES TO THE LIBRARY

Each year, the UNM-Valencia Campus Library embraces the campus-wide Halloween theme, transforming the Library through a combination of teamwork, resourcefulness, and creativity. Most of the decorations are handmade by library staff and student employees using cardboard, surplus materials, and repurposed items.

This year's Warner Bros. movie theme inspired the Library to recreate the iconic flower shop from Little Shop of Horrors. The transformation featured a larger-than-life Audrey II, eight baby Audrey IIs, a handcrafted vintage cash register and payphone, and a cabinet repurposed from a previous display to showcase flowers. Library staff and students created an impressive array of colorful handmade flowers and floral arrangements, along with a large cardboard shop façade to complete the setting.

While operational and staffing constraints limited our ability to incorporate costumes, theatrical performances, or special lighting, the Library remained open and fully functional throughout the process.

Although the Library did not place in this year's competition, the experience was rewarding in many ways. Our annual Halloween decorating project provides a wonderful opportunity for team building while allowing student employees to develop valuable workplace skills, including collaboration, problem-solving, creative thinking, and project management. From initial brainstorming to the finished display, students have the opportunity to see a project through from concept to completion and take pride in what they have accomplished together.



KAT GULLAHORN NAMED NEW MEXICO ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

The UNM-Valencia Campus Library is pleased to announce that Kat Gullahorn, Senior Lecturer III and Public Services Librarian, was named the 2026 New Mexico Academic Librarian of the Year by the New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries (NMCAL). She was recognized at the New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference awards banquet on Thursday, October 22, 2026, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.
The award recognizes a librarian whose significant contributions and achievements have advanced academic librarianship at their institution or across the consortium.

Kat's work at UNM-Valencia includes information literacy instruction, research assistance, online learning support, and programs that strengthen connections among students, faculty, and the broader campus community. Her longstanding commitment to student success and creative collaboration makes this recognition particularly meaningful for UNM-Valencia.

THANKSGIVING BREAK LIBRARY CLOSURE:

Thursday, November 26-Friday, November 27, 2026

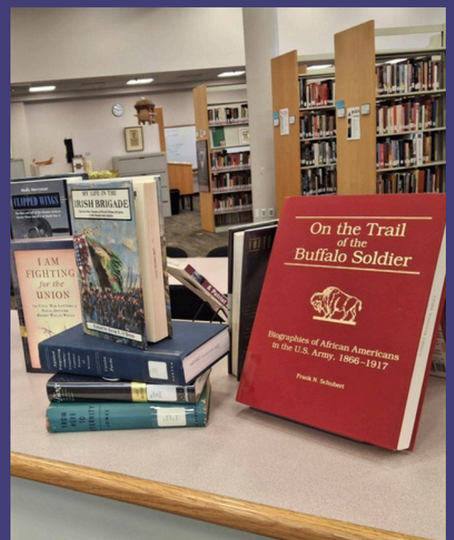
WINTER BREAK LIBRARY CLOSURE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

December 20, 2026 – January 3, 2027









VETERAN'S DAY DISPLAY

In recognition of Veterans Day, the Library created a patriotic display honoring the men and women who have served our nation. The display featured an extensive selection of books from the Library's collection, exploring American military history, personal accounts of military service, and the contributions of women and African Americans in the armed forces. Military insignia representing the various branches of service complemented the display, paying tribute to the dedication and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS

Need supplemental materials to support your classes? The library is very happy to consider purchasing resources that you feel would be beneficial to support students in your classes. Let us know in plenty of time to acquire what your students will need.
Remember that we do not purchase textbooks, but we continue to put instructor-provided copies of textbooks on Reserve in the library for your courses.

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Library instruction helps students formulate topics, develop search strategies, locate, evaluate, and effectively use targeted, high quality academic sources for any projects or academic product requiring research. These can be anything from short speeches to mufti-media demonstrations to research papers on historical figures in a variety of disciplines and so much more! Instruction sessions are typically conducted in the Library classroom (LRC 143) or in other classrooms or labs in order to provide students hands-on experience using the resources during the session. Sessions can also be conducted in synchronous Canvas courses or Zoom classes or Librarians can provide assistance via email or text. Library instruction can provide general library information or be customized to specific assignment.

Next Steps Update

THIS FALL SEMESTER HAS HELD MANY CHANGES FOR NEXT STEPS.

Our very own math teacher extraordinaire, Michael Carriere, is now program manager extraordinaire! We are all very excited about helping him implement our plans for growth over the coming year. Of course this means that we've lost Michael in the math classroom, so we have hired Edric Chavez, who also happens to be a math teacher extraordinaire! We are very lucky to have him. We have also welcomed back Elizabeth Wilkinson, aka DataTRON, for her much needed expertise in all things data related. We have a great team and a fearless leader and the whole program is excited about the future.

We are currently working on creating new bridge courses to help our students, who are working on their high school equivalency and/or their English proficiency, transition to college courses. The first class we are creating is focused on preparing our students for the medical IET classes offered at UNM Valencia. The course will have a demanding workload that will not only prepare students for the challenging content of these courses, but also prepare them for the high standards they will be expected to meet. Students can begin taking this course this Spring. We are hoping to add more bridge classes in the future directed to other types of IETs, so we can provide the education and preparation our students need when they need it.

Our numbers this semester are looking good. We have more new students attending in person and online. We are all working hard to keep them motivated, encouraged, and learning! We still have much work to do to improve the program and make it more effective, but we are motivated and committed to the project. Together we have over 100 years of experience helping adult learners access the benefits of education.

UNM VALENCIA

Faculty Assembly Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: https://unm.zoom.us/j/92424468917 (Passcode: Nov26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)
3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)
4. Interim Chancellor's / Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite (20 min)
5. Treasurer's Report – Kat Gullahorn (1 min)
6. Committee Accomplishments for AY 26-27 (2 min per)
    - EIRG
    - Faculty Handbook Committee
    - Faculty Communication Committee
7. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)
8. New Business / Announcements
9. Adjournment

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: https://unm.zoom.us/j/93422900811 (Passcode: Oct26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)

   Called to order 12:03 pm

2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)

   Motion by Michael Gonzales, Second by Justin Bendall

3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)

   Motion by Ana June, Second by Justin Bendall

4. Interim Chancellor's / Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite (20 min)

   - Dr. Laura Musselwhite reported that all ADN nursing graduates passed the NCLEX on their first attempt and that all but two bachelor's-level nursing students had completed and passed the exam.

   - The nursing program has now met and exceeded the required 80% NCLEX pass-rate benchmark.

   - As a result:

     - Nursing admissions will continue as scheduled.
     - The program will return to its traditional two-cohort model beginning in Fall 2027.

   - Confirmed that UNM-Valencia officially received the Strengthening Institutions Grant.

   - The grant will fund five new positions:

     - Project Director/Manager
     - Budget/Administrative Specialist
     - Academic Advisor
     - Resource Navigator Manager for the Food Pantry and Pasos Center
     - Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) Specialist

   - Explained that the TLC position will focus on faculty development and training, similar to the Teaching and Learning Center model at Central Campus.

   - Provided an update on the Chancellor search:

     - The Provost's Office selected AGB (Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges) as the search firm.
     - AGB was chosen because of its experience conducting community college leadership searches.
     - Faculty, staff, and community members are being invited to participate on the search committee.
     - The process will begin with stakeholder listening sessions.
     - A search profile describing desired qualifications and expectations will then be developed before candidate recruitment begins.
     - No official search timeline has been released.

   - Julia So asked whether the Strengthening Institutions Grant is primarily academic or student-services focused.

   - Laura Musselwhite clarified that:

     - The grant is considered a student-support initiative.
     - It combines both academic support and student-services programming.
     - The overall emphasis is more academic than student-services oriented.

5. Treasurer's Report – Kat Gullahorn (1 min)

   - Report was presented by Piotr in the absence of Kat Gullahorn.

   - Current Faculty Assembly Fund balance: $476.78.

   - No questions or discussion followed.

6. Committee Accomplishments for AY 26-27 (2 min per)

   - Faculty Professional Development Committee: Precious Andrew

     - Approximately $28,400 has already been spent from the committee's $35,000 annual budget.
     - Faculty members were encouraged to submit professional development funding requests as soon as possible because available funds are becoming limited.
     - In response to a question from Piotr regarding second-round funding:
       - Precious Andrew explained that additional funding rounds will no longer be offered.
       - Unused funds now roll over into future years.
       - If money remains available at year-end, funding caps for individual faculty members may increase the following year.

- Faculty Online Teaching & Review Committee: Cindi Goodman

  - The committee met and selected four online courses to undergo Initial Course Review (ICR).
  - Review teams will:
    - Evaluate course content and design.
    - Work directly with instructors during review discussions.
    - Complete review reports.
    - Submit finalized reports for quality review and approval.
  - Dominique Rivera asked whether the goal is to eventually review all online courses.
  - Cindi Goodman explained that the committee is:
    - Working to review a variety of courses across multiple departments.
    - Attempting to involve different instructors.
    - Focused on improving online course quality and student learning experiences.
    - Avoiding repeated reviews of the same courses whenever possible.

  Precious Andrew asked whether upcoming accessibility standards would require a minimum Ally accessibility score for course compliance.

  Cindi Goodman indicated the question would be better addressed Laura Musselwhite.

  Laura Musselwhite responded that:

  - Initial accessibility compliance efforts will focus primarily on institutional websites.
  - Federal audits are unlikely to initially examine individual course sites.
  - Faculty should aim for the highest accessibility levels possible.
  - Although 100% accessibility is the ideal, there is currently no mandated minimum score.
  - Scores around 90% or higher would be considered strong targets.

  Cindi Goodman added that current guidance focuses heavily on demonstrating effort and continual progress toward accessibility compliance.

- Curriculum Committee: **Jon Sims**
  - The committee recently approved:
    - Changes to welding program coursework.
    - A new mechanical-related course.
    - Revisions to nursing degree requirements.
  - Upcoming work includes:
    - Review of mathematics curriculum proposals.
    - Additional curriculum items expected at the November meeting.

Chancellor Search Committee Discussion

- **Justin Bendell** emphasized the importance of including union-affiliated faculty representation on Chancellor search committees.
- **Laura Musselwhite** stated that:
  - She had not heard that union affiliation was being used as a formal selection criterion.
  - The Provost has solicited committee nominations.
  - Faculty members may communicate recommendations or concerns directly to the Provost's Office.

- Adjunct Faculty Committee: Karen Walter

  - The committee continues to update and expand the adjunct faculty SharePoint resources.
  - Current resources include:
    - Calendar information.
    - Unit 2 bargaining agreement materials.
    - Labor and union-related information.
  - Karen reported serving as a representative for Higher Education Labor United (HELU) and plans to share additional resources with faculty.
  - Scott Kamen provided additional updates:
    - Committee members discussed developing welcome letters for new adjunct faculty.
    - He drafted a sample welcome letter and shared it with department chairs.
    - The project is intended to provide new adjunct instructors with basic information and guidance about campus resources.
    - Materials may be added to SharePoint before the beginning of next semester.

7. Faculty Senate Report (5 min): Andy Taylor

   Enrollment and Student Success

   - Branch campuses have experienced approximately 12.5% enrollment growth over the past five years.

- UNM's third-semester student retention rate increased to 79%.

Institutional Accomplishments

- UNM's Nursing Program was ranked 56th nationally by U.S. News & World Report.
- The Accelerate New Mexico capital campaign continues to exceed expectations.
- The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center received National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Designation, placing it among only 58 institutions nationwide with that designation.

Chancellor Searches

- Chancellor searches are underway at:
  - UNM-Valencia
  - UNM-Gallup
  - UNM-Los Alamos
- Search committees are currently being assembled.

Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

- Provost Rodriguez reaffirmed UNM's commitment to community-engaged teaching and scholarship.
- Discussion included whether promotion and tenure guidelines should better recognize community engagement efforts.

Faculty Senate Actions

- Faculty Senate approved:
  - Consent agenda confirming committee appointments.
  - Policy A53 revisions regarding faculty policy approval.
  - Policy C170 revisions concerning endowed chairs and named professorships.
  - Policy C305 revisions that simplify eligibility for emeritus faculty status.

AI Steering Committee Update

- Significant discussion focused on the Nebula One AI pilot project.
- Faculty are currently testing an AI token-allocation system.
- Concerns raised included:
  - Unequal allocation of AI resources among departments.
  - Potential equity issues.
  - Long-term costs associated with maintaining AI infrastructure.
- The AI Steering Committee, chaired by Mark Emmons, is gathering feedback from faculty, staff, students, and administrators regarding:
  - AI use.
  - Institutional policy development.
  - Future implementation strategies.
- Faculty were encouraged to complete AI surveys to contribute to the policy-development process.

Healthcare and Compensation Issues

- Faculty Senate endorsed a Staff Council resolution advocating for:
  - An 80/20 employer-employee healthcare cost split.
  - Salary adjustments related to recent compensation concerns.
- Ongoing BCCC discussions focused on:
  - Faculty pay equity.
  - Differences in compensation structures between main campus and branch campuses.
  - Instructional pay rates.
  - FTE-related equity concerns.

8. New Business / Announcements

Piotr Filipczak revisited an issue discussed during the September meeting concerning approximately $78.85 in cash collected from faculty contributions before establishment of the current Faculty Assembly account.

- Julia So asked where the money originated.
- Piotr explained that:

- Faculty members previously contributed money for refreshments and other informal expenses.
- The cash has remained unused and stored rather than deposited.

 Julia So suggested donating some of the money to the student food pantry before the holidays.

 Additional suggestions included:

- Depositing the money into the Faculty Assembly fund.
- Supporting student assistance efforts.
- Dividing the money among multiple purposes.

 Following discussion, faculty generally supported combining the funds with existing resources while continuing to explore charitable uses.

 The Faculty Executive Committee will review options and bring back a formal recommendation.

New Mexico Coalition of Higher Ed Senates

Announcement by Justin Bendell

- Introduced the newly forming New Mexico Coalition of Higher Ed Senates.
- The coalition will:
    - Include faculty and staff representatives from colleges and universities across New Mexico.
    - Serve as a communication and advocacy network.
    - Promote mutual support and statewide collaboration.
    - Ensure representation from community colleges and branch campuses.
- One of the coalition's current priorities is supporting statewide efforts to establish an 80/20 healthcare cost-sharing model.
- Faculty interested in participating were encouraged to contact Justin Bendell.

Nursing Curriculum Clarification

- Piotr clarified that despite curriculum revisions, students generally still need Biology and Chemistry prerequisite coursework before enrolling in:
    - Anatomy & Physiology
    - Microbiology
- He emphasized that foundational science requirements remain important for nursing students.

Reading New Mexico Event Announcement by Anicca Cox

- Faculty were invited to attend Reading New Mexico.
- Event details:
    - November 18
    - 5:00–7:00 p.m.
    - Tome Community Center / Tome Land Grant
- The event will include:
    - Student writers
    - Local and regional authors
    - Readings
    - Music
    - Refreshments
    - Community engagement activities

Mole Day Celebration Announcement by Piotr

- Faculty were invited to attend the campus Mole Day celebration taking place in LRC 101.
- Activities include:
    - Chemistry demonstrations
    - Student exhibits
    - Faculty participation
    - Food and refreshments
- The event continues through 1:30 p.m.

Empowering Young Minds Workshop Announcement by Piotr

- Faculty were reminded about the upcoming Empowering Young Minds workshop.
- The event:
  - Focuses on encouraging middle-school students in STEM.
  - Was organized through women-in-STEM initiatives.
  - Was spearheaded by Dr. Claudia Barretto, Professor Emeritus.
  - Will feature local school participation and hands-on activities.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Presentation by Piotr

- Faculty were encouraged to participate in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).
- Key information:
  - Open to all academic disciplines, not only STEM fields.
  - Students present research projects under faculty mentorship.
  - Abstract submissions are due during the first week of December.
  - The conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Funding is available for:
  - Registration fees
  - Travel expenses
  - Lodging
  - Conference participation costs
- Laura Musselwhite noted that undergraduate research funding and grant resources are available and may be used instead of Faculty Professional Development funds.
- Piotr reported that approximately five to six student researchers are already preparing submissions.
- Benefits highlighted included:
  - Undergraduate research experience.
  - Professional conference participation.
  - Student mentoring opportunities.
  - Travel experiences for students who may never have attended a national conference.

Union Representation on Chancellor Search Committees

- Justin Bendell announced that faculty leaders are preparing a letter to the Provost requesting union faculty representation on all three Chancellor search committees.
- Faculty interested in signing the letter or assisting with drafting efforts were encouraged to contact him.
- Julia So reported that she had already submitted a nomination for a union-affiliated faculty member to be considered for committee service.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

In Attendance:

Laura Musselwhite	Cindi Goodman	Piotr Filipczak
Ana June	Andy Taylor	Precious Andrew
Jonathan Sims	Michael Gonzales	Dominique Rodriquez
Frances Duran	Joshua Frank Cardenas	Patricia Gillikin
Karen Walter	Julia So	Michael Carriere
Justin Bendall	Annica Cox	Sarah Heyward
Hamim Md Adal	Nicole Reyna	Scott Kamen
Melinda Schwartz	Lizbeth Axelrod	