

Staff Association General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026

The meeting came to order at 2:07 pm in Academics 101 and over teams.

Attendance:

Sarah Clawson, President.....Present
Paulette Tafoya, Vice-President.....Present
Amanda Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer.....Present
Brittany Padilla, Representative.....Present
Alana Torres, Representative.....Absent
13 other staff members attended in person and online via teams.

Approval of Agenda

With no disapproval, the agenda from 07/15/26 and minutes from 04/16/26 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- 225060 Supplies/Travel: \$3000
- 225006 Fundraising: \$663.88
- 225000 Professional Development: \$6000

Committee Updates

- Professional Development: New fiscal year so funds may be requested.
- Employee Relations: Table. Will get into detail below.
- Rewards & Recognition: Table. Will get into detail below.

Old Business

Wellness Center Access

Sarah met with Milan regarding the extending hours request. Milan said they had extended hours before and it was almost never used by anyone. With the current short staff issue, it's not feasible to keep the Wellness Center open for extended hours. Employees can continue to utilize the gym using tuition remission or pay \$45 per semester if not using tuition remission.

Benefits Changes Update

Sarah left the floor open for any questions or concerns regarding new health insurance premiums/providers. There was a question if we have heard any response from Main regarding the resolution we shared. Sarah answered that we have not. We have had an invitation by Main Campus Staff Council to join one of their meetings to discuss the resolution but Staff Association members have not had a chance to attend. We have not heard anything back from UNM-Valencia. There was a suggestion that UNM do a study on what percentage of salary are people losing. Sarah said she would follow up to see if

she can get the answer to that. There also was a suggestion that supervisors push creative ideas such as working from home a day or two a week to help offset the cost of gas the employee uses to drive to work. Supervisors are encouraged to come up with other ways cost of living can be improved.

Chancellor Awards

The Chancellor Awards are open and ready for nominations. Every year the campus nominates one exempt, non-exempt and a student employee to win these awards. These are voted on by the Staff Association Executive Committee, as well as the committee choosing the Calistra Award.

Change from Give Thanks to Staff of the Quarter

Give Thanks will now be taken over by the Rewards and Recognition committee. This award will now be known as UNM-Valencia's Quarterly Excellence Award and will be awarded quarterly to two staff members. The nomination form is active, and we ask for employees to submit their nominations.

For Quarter One the awardees were Miia Alexander and Nathaniel Cook and for Quarter Two the awardees were Monica Padilla and Elizabeth Raaff. We will announce Quarter Three awardees at the next general meeting.

New Business

Introduction of New Staff

Upcoming Retirements

- 2 retirements

Open Positions

- 4 Staff Positions Open

Open Forum

Food Truck Fridays

There was a question if they are profitable.

Some have been profitable, some have not. We are trying to get schedule down.

Sarah put out an open call for food truck recommendations. Any individual with a recommendation is asked to send an email request to the Valencia Staff Association email at valenciastaff@unm.edu.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.