

Staff Association General Meeting

Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2026

The meeting came to order at 2:00 pm in Academics 101 and over teams.

Attendance:

Paulette Tafoya, PresidentPresent
Monica Padilla, Vice-President.....Present
Amanda Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer.....Present
Beatriz Villa, RepresentativePresent
Elizabeth Raaff, Representative.....Present
12 other staff members attended in person and online via teams.

Approval of Agenda

With no disapproval, the agenda from 09/23/26 and minutes from 07/15/26 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- 225060 Supplies/Travel: \$3504
- 225006 Fundraising: \$718
- 225000 Professional Development: \$6000

Committee Updates

Call for volunteers for all committees

- Professional Development
- Employee Relations
- Rewards & Recognition

Old Business

New Executive Committee Members

FY27 Staff Association Executive Committee Members have been announced:

- Paulette Tafoya, President
- Monica Padilla, Vice-President/President-Elect
- Amanda Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer

Food Truck Fridays

Food Truck Fridays is back after a short hiatus over the summer. We have the following on the schedule and are actively working to bring new food trucks. As always, we welcome suggestions which can be sent via email to valenciastaff@unm.edu.

- 10/02 Red Wagon Coffee Truck
- 10/09 Mandy Rae's & The Lemon Tree
- 10/16 Lonchera Morada
- 10/23 Mandy Rae's

Halloween

The annual Halloween decorating contest is upon us. This year's theme is Warner Bros. We will be judging October 29th. We have 7 departments who have already sent in their themes. We are changing it up a little this year and no two departments can have the same theme. Departments were reminded that they still have time to register their department by sending an email to valenciastaff@unm.edu.

New Business

Staff Appreciation Breakfast

We will be hosting a staff appreciation breakfast for all staff members during Fall break. This will take place on October 8th at 9:00 am in the LoboCafe. Please join us in appreciation for all you do for UNM-Valencia!

UNM-Valencia Quarterly Excellence Award

For Q3, we would like to award Matthew Lopez (Marketing) and Alana Torres (IT) with the Quarterly Excellence Award! These two employees have shown time and time again what it takes to be exemplary staff members. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication to UNM-Valencia.

Introduction of New Staff

- Audrey Vargas, Nursing
- Elizabeth Wilkinson, AE
- Emilio Gutierrez, Upward Bound
- Wanda Rodarte-Presley, Upward Bound
- Rhoda Rivera-Ross, Financial Aid
- Eileen Davis, WTC
- Michael Carrier, AE

Upcoming Retirements & Departures

- Richard Sisneros, PPD
- David Bencomo, PPD
- Rhonda Flores, Upward Bound
- Shoni Henderson, Upward Bound
- Gabriela Peterson, Upward Bound

Open Positions

- Admin Assistant III, EMSS
- Manager, Facilities
- Recruiter, EMSS

Open Forum

Upcoming Events

- Art Exhibit on October 1st: Commanche Highway, reception from 5:00-7:00 pm with a performance by Felix.
- Hispanic Heritage Event on October 28th.
- Halloween Department Contest on October 29th.
- Luminaria Stroll with Cowboy Concert December 2nd from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Communication from Main Campus

Three important emails to look out for:

- Resolution from Main Campus Staff Council regarding health increase should have been sent out on 09/14
- Basic Needs Survey
- UNM HR Staff Engagement Survey sent on 10/05

Open Call for Volunteers for Sub-Committees

We are looking for members to join our sub-committees: Professional Development, Rewards & Recognition, & Employee Relations. If you are interested there are sign up sheets at the back of the room or you can email your interest to valenciastaff@unm.edu

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.