



FACULTY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

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DEAN OF INSTRUCTION REPORT

Dr. Laura Musselwhite

As we wind down the semester, I want to thank you for another great term. We have had some excellent presentations and professional development opportunities over the fall, and new initiatives such as the Community Garden and the Pedagogical Partnership Program. Currently, the Faculty and Staff Art Exhibition is up, with the opening reception set for Wednesday, November 19 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. If you have never attended the show, it is a lovely expression of the creative talents of our colleagues; and it will wrap up just in time for you to get home and log into Zoom for Reading New Mexico, happening that same day at 7:00pm.

We will soon be into the last weeks of the semester, and I hope you have time to take advantage of some of the fun events in December, such as the Luminaria Stroll and Holiday Concert. Also, of course, take some time to recharge over the break. I value your work and your input, but most importantly your passion for teaching and how you are positively affecting our students and their futures.

NM VALENCIA



Late Night TUTORING

October 1 - December 4

OPEN UNTIL
7PM ✨ **THURSDAY
EVENINGS**

UNM-Valencia's Tammi Duncan-Teller receives National Association of Biology Teachers award

By Simon Reseigh © November 05, 2025

Categories: **Inside UNM** **Branch Campuses** **Latest News**

UNM-Valencia faculty member Tammi Duncan-Teller will receive the 2025 Two-Year College Biology Teacher Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT).

Click to read!



MECS UPDATE

Michael Gonzales

Andy, Cindi, and Michael attended the AMATYC (American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges) Conference in Reno, Nevada this past weekend (November 13-16). We attended sessions and workshops focusing on: equity, diversity, and social justice in providing mathematics education to all students; professional development; use of technology in course delivery, engagement of students, and collaboration of students and faculty; pathways for students' success; math for non-stem majors; practices regarding the teaching and learning of mathematics; and strategies for enabling students to take ownership for learning, dealing with math anxiety, and gain confidence to succeed by developing a mathematical mindset. These sessions were highly informative and demonstrated methods that we can implement in our classes to improve our student's success!



SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Dr. Cheryl Bryan

A fond farewell! As my time at UNM Valencia comes to a close, I want to thank you all for your support and guidance over the years! I have learned a great deal from each of you, and will take many of those lessons into my next journey of retirement.

Scott Kamen will be the new Social Sciences Division (SSD) Chair as of Fall 2026—maybe Summer 2026. Scott will be on sabbatical during Spring 2026, but continuing as the SSD Coordinator. Meanwhile, Laura Musselwhite will pitch in as SSD Interim Chair.

While I am sad to be leaving Valencia Campus, I look forward to new adventures!

Wishing you all the best, Cheryl

Coming in 2026: Submit a cover photo!
NOVEMBER COVER:
Whitfield Wildlife Refuge, by Ana June



Creative Writing & Social Justice Workshop

Tuesday, Nov. 18 | 11am-1pm | LRC A/B/C

This workshop invites participants to discover how creative writing can serve as a tool for reflection, resistance, and community transformation. Through poetry and short stories, we'll explore how storytelling amplifies marginalized voices and engages with themes of identity, belonging, and justice. Together, we'll read work by writers who use language to challenge inequity and imagine new possibilities. Participants will also have the chance to create and share their own pieces in a welcoming and supportive environment. No previous writing experience is needed.



Dr. Ana Gabriela Hernández is the Coordinator of Spanish as a Heritage Language and a Lecturer III in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of New Mexico. She earned her Ph.D. in Spanish from UNM in 2017. Before joining the faculty, she taught at Emory University and the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua. Dr. Hernández is a creative writer whose poetry has appeared in literary journals and co-authored books. Her writing often explores themes of identity, memory, and cultural heritage. As SHL Coordinator, she focuses on integrating creative writing and social justice into language learning.



HUMANITIES UPDATE

Ana June

Students and faculty participated in the 33rd Annual Muertos y Marigolds Day of the Dead Celebration and Car Show on November 2nd. Students in the Spanish and English Conversation Group made the decorations for the car show, and we plan to carry this momentum forward into next year's día de muertos celebrations with the potential for a parade float and students including their own vehicles in the show.

Dominique Rodriguez



On October 25, Patricia Gillikin performed with her classmates in the Box's Longform improv class, taught by Nando Fresquez. In the scene shown here, she is a dancing spider.



FDMA NEWS

This fall, Art's professor, Jonathan Sims, was honored to be a part of Pulitzer Prize winner Raven Chacon's latest work called "Tiquex". Jonathan worked alongside Raven to formulate and execute the on-site location sound recording of his latest work of performance art. The performance art piece required the coordination of over 20 overlapping artists and locations around Abq in a single day. You can find more info her at <https://www.tiguex.com/>

Additionally, Jonathan is proud to serve as the digital media coordinator for an exhibition opening at the Penn Museum of Anthropology. The newly reconfigured North American Cultural portion of the exhibit opens on November 22nd. Jonathan created the media for the Southwest tribes portion of the exhibit. More info can be found at <https://www.penn.museum/on-view/galleries-exhibitions/native-north-america-gallery>

Not to be missed, as chair of the events committee for the New Mexico Arts Commission, Jonathan helped lead his team in curating the annual New Mexico Arts Awards ceremony. The ceremony highlights influential and accomplished New Mexico artists each year. The event includes a brunch hosted at the Governor's mansion, an artist gallery opening in the State Capitol Roundabout, as well as an evening awards ceremony at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in SF. This is Jonathan's third year as co-chair of events. The Governor appoints the commission members, which oversees public art projects and funding, as well as honor NM's artists annually.

NM VALENCIA

READING NEW MEXICO

UNM-VALENCIA'S ANNUAL LITERARY EVENT

Featuring the literary talents of

Sara D. Rivera, Kristian Macaron,
Drew Sowers, Grace Gannon &
Anthony McQueen.

WED., NOVEMBER 19th

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



ZOOM LINK:

UNM.ZOOM.US/J/9782161262

Email Professor Bendell for details: jbendell@unm.edu

zoom

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting

Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise cloud communications.

 Zoom

LIBRARY NEWS

Dr. Barbara Lovato

Halloween Decorating Contest

Each year, UNM-Valencia Campus Library Halloween decorations are designed around a campus-wide theme. Most items are handmade by our librarians and student employees. We use surplus materials and cardboard, teamwork, and lots of creativity. This year's theme was Disney Pixar movies. The Library chose the movie "Coco". We had a large homemade bell and guitar made of cardboard. Library staff and students created a very elaborate ofrenda and graveyard complete with "Dante" in alebrije (spirit guide) form. There were many handmade colorful, perforated paper banners (papel picado) throughout the library. Library staff dressed up as Mama Coco, Mama Imelda and various skeletons for judging. We were pleased to have tied for third place among considerable competition.



Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving Break:

November 27-28, 2025

Winter Break (Subject to change):

December 24, 2025 – January 2, 2026

This monthly curiosity lab offers a deeper dive into various concepts we are curious about, and the collections and tools available to our campus community to answer these questions. November 20, 2025: Soul Food!

Curiosity Labs
FALL 2025
@ Your Library

NM
VALENCIA
LIBRARY

3rd Thursdays at 3pm
in the Library's VRD



Zoom meeting ID 39 1037 2104
Password is library

LIBRARY NEWS

Dr. Barbara Lovato

Cory Johnstone Meyer will retire after Fall 2025 semester

We are sad to announce that our Library Information Specialist, Cory Meyer will be retiring from UNM once again after the Fall 2025 semester. After retiring from the UNM Health Sciences Library in 2013 with 22 years there, Cory came out of retirement to work at the UNM-Valencia Campus Library on September 2, 2017. She's been a vital part of library operations for the past 8 years; beginning right before our big re-carpeting project at the end of 2017. She provided innovative solutions to the library's added responsibilities of laptop and equipment checkout stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and has been of immeasurable support to library faculty, student work studies and the Valencia Campus community. She will be missed.

We will host a reception for Cory on December 11, 2025 at noon in the Library.



The Library celebrated Silent Movie Day by playing movies with Public Performance Rights from our library databases “Kanopy” throughout the day.

Join Us For

SILENT MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

Celebrating National Silent Movie Day



10:00am 12:00pm 2:00pm

FILMS WILL STREAM ALL DAY BETWEEN THESE FEATURED TITLES



WATCH MORE FILMS IN OUR KANOPY DATABASE

29 September All Day

UNM Valencia Library
valencia.unm.edu/library/



Bring your Teddy Bear to Work Day
As part of the Continuing celebration of National and International Days, the Library celebrated “Bring your Teddy Bear to Work Day”. Since it was during Banned Books Week this year we added reading a banned book to your Teddy Bear to the mix.

LIBRARY NEWS

Dr. Barbara Lovato



Barbara Lovato recognized

Dr. Barbara Lovato was recognized at the campus Veteran's Day ceremony for her continuing support and service to the Daniel D. Fernandez Veteran's of Foreign Wars VFW Post 9676.

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 multi-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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO-VALENCIA CAMPUS
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS
DECEMBER 3, 2025

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY



Hanging of the Wreath

11:00 a.m. | UNM-Valencia Clocktower

Luminaria Stroll

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Hot Chocolate & Cookies in the SUB
Free Photos with Santa in the Library

Over one mile of electric luminarias across campus & over 3000 candle luminarias. Also featuring a balloon glow in the Southwest parking lot.



Enchanted Holiday Concert

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Student Community Center

Enjoy the performances of The University of New Mexico-Valencia Rio Grande Singers and a string quartet.

Food donation will be taken at the door and benefitting UNM-Valencia food pantry.

NM
VALENCIA

280 La Entrada Rd | Los Lunas, NM 87031

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO-VALENCIA CAMPUS HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

FOOD PANTRY DONATION WISHLIST

Kitchen Items

Disposable plates, bowls, cups, hot drink cups, plastic forks, spoons, and seasonings, honey, cooking oil, etc.

Non-Frozen Food

Cereal boxes, instant oatmeal, snack chips, fruit & grain/cereal/protein bars, ramen noodles, instant mac & cheese, instant rice, microwaveable meals/soups, canned soup, canned fruits & vegetables, etc.

Frozen Food

Breakfast sandwiches, Hot Pockets, Smucker's Uncrustables, waffles, toaster strudel, toaster scrambles, power bowls, etc.

Beverages

Shelf-stable milk (whole, oat, almond, soy), water bottles, Gatorade, shelf-stable juice, etc.

Tea/Coffee

Sugar/artificial sweetener packets, coffee creamer, tea bags, Keurig pods

Hygiene Products

Deodorant, lotion, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, menstrual products (pads & tampons)

Please call the Pasos Resource Center at 505.925.8546 to coordinate donations.



280 La Entrada Rd | Los Lunas, NM 87031

NM VALENCIA

CALL FOR VENDORS



LUMINARIA MARKET

PRESENTED BY THE ARTISTS' COLLECTIVE

DECEMBER 3, 2025 | 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Local artists coming
together to sell beautiful
handmade products.

VENDOR APPLICATION



**VENDOR
SETUP AT
1:00 PM**

TUTORING SERVICES REPORT

Shalaine Castillo and Patricia Gillikin

Tutor Education

For Fall 2025, our workshop series for tutor professional development has included the following topics:

- Guiding Students to Be Students, with Cindi Goodman
- Tutor Orientation Parts One and Two (reflective listening, FEPR, safety, expectations, do's and don'ts)
- Transfer, Tutoring Cycle, and Asking Questions
- Transferring Tutor Traits Parts One and Two, with Anay Rivera
- Cultural Iceberg and Cultural Humility Parts One and Two
- Communication Skills
- Stress Management with material from Writing Consultant Leah Chavez

From "Transferring Tutor Traits":

Tutors said the following about what they have learned from working as tutors and how it could apply to their future:

One tutor, who plans now to become a teacher, wrote:

"I learned how to explain things in several different ways

I learned how to ask good questions to evaluate how well the information was shared

I learned how to de-escalate a frustrating situation.

The most important skill I learned is reading faces. I learned how to read whether or not a person understands what I said.

As a teacher I will need to be able to understand if the students I'm teaching understand what I'm saying when I speak. My experience as a tutor has allowed me to hone this skill. I have learned that without direct questions people won't admit that they are confused."

Another tutor who is working toward a career in physical therapy wrote:

"Three abilities I acquired as a tutor that I could list in a resume would be clear communication: explaining complex ideas in an accessible way; empathy and patience: supporting people through challenges; instructional design: use my tutoring experience to create PT treatment plans. One of the most important skills I have honed as a tutor is to be patient and let the student lead the tutoring appointment and customize it to their needs, or what they are looking to get out of it. I could apply this to my job by listening to the goals and needs that my future patients will have and designing their treatment based on that, that way they feel like they have more ownership and control of their therapy sessions and learn skills that they can take with them for the rest of their life to take better care of their health, not just me telling them what to do and they not learning much from it."

Pictures from Halloween! Writing Center Witches



Writing Consultants Stephanie Romero, Jimena Mendiola, and Layla Taylor

LEARNING CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION FOR FALL 2025

The Learning Center and Math Center computer lab are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tutoring is available in person and online via Zoom. Please refer to our [Bookings page](#) for the most current information.

*** Please note that tutoring is subject to change at any time due to tutor availability, business need, etc. ***

Tutoring hours available:

| Friday | Thursday | Wednesday | Tuesday | Monday | Subject |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | Biology 1110 |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | Biology 1140 |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | | | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | Biology 2101 |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | | | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | Biology 2102 |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | | | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | Biology 2103L |
| | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | | Biology 2210 |
| | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | | Biology 2225 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Chemistry1120C |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Chemistry1215 |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | | | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. | | Chemistry1225 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Math 021, 022, 100 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Math 1215, X,Y, Z |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Math 1220 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Math 1230 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Math 1240 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Math 1350 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Math 1430 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Math 1512 |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Math 1522 |

WRITING CENTER TUTORING AVAILABILITY FOR FALL 2025

Tutoring Available In Person,
On Zoom, and by Email

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Monday |
| 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Tuesday |
| 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. | Wednesday |
| 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Thursday |
| 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Friday |

MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

Dr. Andisheh Dadashi



UNM-Valencia Hosts First-Ever Cross-Campus Faculty Town Hall

On Friday, November 7, 2025, around 30 faculty members from across the University of New Mexico branch campuses gathered virtually for the first-ever UNM Cross-Campus Faculty Town Hall. Organized by Dr. Andisheh Dadashi, Faculty Assembly President at UNM-Valencia, the event was an effort to foster collaboration, connection, and equity across all UNM branch campuses.

The event was made possible through the collaboration and support of the Branch Community College Council (BCCC) and the current faculty leadership from UNM-Gallup, UNM-Los Alamos, UNM-Taos, and UNM-Valencia. Faculty leaders including Dr. Arun Muthaiyan, Faculty Assembly President at UNM-Gallup; Dr. Robin Kelly, Chair of Faculty Operations at UNM-Los Alamos; and Dr. Megan Murphy, Faculty Council President at UNM-Taos, opened the event with warm remarks, highlighting the shared goals and challenges that faculty face across the UNM system.

The agenda included 30-minute breakout sessions on key topics selected to reflect the realities and priorities of faculty work across campuses:

- Innovation in Teaching: Interdisciplinary and Creative Approaches
- Facilitated by Associate Professor Ana June (UNM-Valencia)
- Supporting Student Success: Engagement and Services
- Facilitated by Assistant Professor Precious Andrew (UNM-Valencia)
- Faculty Equity Across Branch Campuses: Adjunct and Full-Time Voices
- Facilitated by Associate Professor Justin Bendell (UNM-Valencia)
- Growing Our Campuses: Enrollment and Community-Centered Programs
- Facilitated by Assistant Professor Dr. Elisa DiMenna (UNM-Valencia)
- Faculty Workloads and Policy in Science: Toward Fair and Sustainable Teaching Loads
- Facilitated by Lecturer III Dr. Robin Kelly (UNM-Los Alamos)

Each breakout room was led by a faculty facilitator who supported open, inclusive conversations on the chosen themes. Participants later returned to the main session to share brief summaries of their discussions.

The agenda also featured a spotlight presentation on digital accessibility compliance for faculty, presented by Senior Lecturer III Kat Gullahorn and Assistant Professor Cindi Goodman, who offered important guidance and resources for ensuring accessible learning environments.

The event concluded with an open discussion and an invitation to complete a feedback survey. The responses gathered will help shape future town halls and identify ongoing needs across campuses. Notably, the majority of attendees rated the event as excellent and expressed strong interest in holding the town hall twice per year—once in the fall and once in the spring.

Looking ahead, the current Faculty Assembly Presidents and Chairs from the branch campuses plan to continue hosting this town hall regularly, with the goal of creating more equity, raising awareness, and building institutional support for cross-campus collaboration. The long-term vision is to institutionalize these gatherings as a recurring and meaningful part of UNM's academic culture.

Thanks to the shared commitment of faculty leaders and participants, the first UNM Cross-Campus Faculty Town Hall was a success. Using the insights gathered from the event and participant feedback, organizers are already looking forward to the next opportunity to bring faculty together across the system.

For more information or to get involved in future events, please contact vfacpresident@unm.edu.

Open Letter to UNM Administration

Academic freedom is under attack. Long a cornerstone of higher education, academic freedom creates space for faculty to research, to teach, and to speak in the public arena without threat of institutional censorship or reprisal. This attack on academic freedom is part of a broader assault on higher education, one that puts real people at risk for doing the work they were hired to do. The pressure from federal investigations and funding cuts has contributed to a growing culture of fear, one where academics are wary to speak out and voice their concerns. But silence is not going to save us.

Per the AAUP Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, "[f]reedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth,"[1] and in the classroom, faculty must have the right to "stimulate[] debate and learning that is germane to the subject matter." [2]

As institutions navigate this pressure, we see divergent paths emerge. Some, like the administrations of UC Berkeley [3] and Columbia[4], are taking alarming actions against academic freedom, while others, such as the signatories of the Wesleyan letter[5] and the Mutual Academic Defense Compact[6], offering models of integrity and inspiration.

Here at UNM during contract negotiations, the administration proposed eliminating contractual protections that shield faculty from being disciplined for their speech as citizens. This act of anticipatory obedience[7] sets a dangerous precedent. In response, the faculty union organized to condemn the proposal, successfully forcing the administration to withdraw it just two months later.

Compounding these concerns is the labor precarity of part-time faculty who do not enjoy the same protections as full-time faculty. UNM's reliance on part-time labor intersects with the dangers to faculty academic freedom as a class writ large.

As always, the antidote to silence is solidarity. It is incumbent upon all faculty to stand against any attempts to weaken academic freedom. Together, we call on the UNM administration to join us in a participatory process, one that ensures robust protection of academic freedom for all UNM faculty.

We ask that UNM administration

Refuse to provide the names of or information about UNM faculty, students or staff to Federal requests, unless compelled to do so by the courts

Commit to a participatory process with faculty and students to revise free speech policies, especially the restrictive time, place and manner policies

Support robust academic freedom policies in the faculty and graduate worker collective bargaining agreements and bolster academic freedom by strengthening paths to permanency for part-time faculty.

[1] <https://www.aaup.org/reports-publications/aaup-policies-reports/policy-statements/1940-statement-principles-academic>

[2] <https://www.aaup.org/issues-higher-education/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom>

[3] <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/13/us/politics/trump-berkeley-antisemitism-investigation.html>

[4] <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/21/columbia-university-funding-trump-demands>

[5] <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2025/03/12/universities-trump-dei-mahmoud-khalil-00226048>

[6] <https://www.aaup.org/mutual-defense-across-higher-education-second-trump-era>

[7] <https://www.aaup.org/reports-publications/aaup-policies-reports/policy-statements/against-anticipatory-obedience>



Faculty Assembly Meeting Draft Agenda
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/91070894832> (Passcode: Nov25)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)
3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)
4. Chancellor's Report - Sam Dosumu (10 min)
5. Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite (10 min)
6. Treasurer's Report - Piotr (1 min)
7. Committee Plans (2 min per)
 - EIRG
 - Faculty Handbook Committee
 - Faculty Communication Committee
8. Union Contract Update - Scott (5 min)
9. UNM Valencia to sign Union Letter Vote - Justin or Anicca (10 min)
10. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)
11. Call for Senate Candidate nominations and vote (15 min)
12. New Business / Announcements
 - Cross Campus Town Hall April Agenda (1 min)
 - Suggestions and Concerns Survey (1 min)
13. Adjournment



**Faculty Assembly Meeting Draft Agenda
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)**

Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/99599628590> (Passcode: Oct25)

In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order

12:03 pm: Andisheh Dadashi

2. Acceptance of Agenda Dominique Rodriguez motions,

Precious Andrew seconds

3. Approval of Minutes Dominique motions,

Precious Andrew seconds

4. Chancellor's Report - Sam Dosumu 12:04 pm:

Reported that overall enrollment remains stable compared to last year, with notable growth in dual credit courses that, while boosting headcount, contribute less to tuition revenue due to state funding formulas. Budget projections had anticipated a 5% increase, but only about half that was realized. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, and staff were encouraged to share ideas for growth and new initiatives.

The Chancellor is preparing for the Spring 2026 legislative session, which will focus on financial and funding formula discussions; updates will follow upcoming meetings with the Higher Education Department and legislative committees. Student engagement remains strong, as shown by a recent "Pizza with the Chancellor" event, where students praised the college's positive reputation and expressed interest in local bachelor's degree opportunities.

Looking ahead, the institution aims to increase enrollment from local high school graduates—targeting 50% of the approximately 1,000 in the service area—and will continue soliciting ideas and feedback through an anonymous survey which was created and shared by Andisheh Dadashi. She has created a QR code shared at the end of the meeting and will send it out via email again.

Dr. Dosumu concluded by thanking staff and faculty for their dedication and emphasizing optimism amid ongoing enrollment challenges.

5. Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite 12:13 pm



Dr. Musselwhite gave several updates. Everyone who's been taking part in the faculty search workshops, whether in person or online, was thanked for their time and effort. These sessions are required for anyone involved in leading or serving on a search committee. The college is planning three new faculty searches for fall positions — one in psychology, one in criminal justice, and one more to be determined after Clifton Murray's retirement. Round of applause in recognition. Cheryl Bryan's upcoming retirement was also recognized with a round of applause. The searches will open in November and stay active over the winter break so candidates can apply and so that committees can start reviewing applications early in the spring and make offers by late spring.

On the advising side, things are going smoothly since the team moved into Academic Affairs and the Pasos Resource Center. Beatrice is doing a great job leading the transition. A series of "touch points" — emails, texts, and messages — have gone out to help students get ready for the second eight-week term and the spring semester. The six faculty mentors working with success teams were thanked for their support, which is expected to make a real difference in student retention.

Finally, there was a quick reminder about faculty laptops. If you haven't yet turned in your laptop for upgrades or if it's gone missing somewhere, you might be hearing from Laura or IT soon. The updated list will be sent out shortly to make sure everyone's equipment is current.

6. Treasurer's Report – Piotr Filipczak 12:16 pm

A brief financial update was shared: Faculty funds currently have \$460.72, and the snack money envelope contains about \$58.85. The snack funds could cover roughly six burritos, and there was a lighthearted discussion about possibly using major funds for small upgrades on treats.

7. Committee Plans (2 min per)

- Faculty Professional Development Committee—Precious Andrew 12:17 pm
It was reported that funds are being used up quickly, with approximately \$3,700 remaining for the year. Faculty was encouraged to submit any professional development requests as soon as possible.

- Faculty Online Teaching & Review Committee—Kat Gullahorn 12:18 pm



The committee will be hosting the All-Campus Academy this Friday. Announcements were sent out earlier in the week. We are hosting visitors from Central Campus in the Compliance Division who will be presenting on the scope of work that will begin next spring. The session will serve as an informational presentation for both faculty and staff, providing opportunities for hands-on practice and outlining the pathway toward initial minimum compliance for all online classes. Additional training sessions and presentations are planned for the near future. The committee also met last month and selected four courses from four different divisions for initial course reviews, which will begin next week. Further information will be shared following the All-Campus Academy event.

- Curriculum Committee-Jonathan Sims 12:19 pm

We have looked at some additions of courses and some changes that will be coming up soon in gaming.

Laura Musslewhite 12:20 pm

We had one other meeting since the last faculty assembly where Andisheh and Hameem introduced their new idea for a certificate related to AI computer science. It was a great presentation and that went through. We will have one more meeting for the term.

- Adjunct Faculty Committee—Liz Axelrod 12:21 pm

The committee has met a couple of times and is planning to meet twice more this semester. Liz raised a question about whether meetings should be held monthly or just three times per semester. They've already outlined topics for future meetings, including integrating technology to enhance student learning without increasing adjunct workload, AI in the classroom, and adjunct workload issues. A concern was raised about the adjunct list, which the chair has struggled to obtain and update. The chair requested access to the list to directly reach out to adjuncts and encourage more involvement in the meetings. Laura offered to send the list and Liz stated that she can just manually update and distribute the information.



8. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)—Steven Romero 12:23pm

Steven shared that President Stokes provided an update on several key developments. Enrollment has increased for the fourth consecutive year, and the university celebrated its largest graduating class in history. The critical care tower is now admitting patients, with plans to hire for many medical positions. Stokes also highlighted the partnership with Arizona State University on healthcare initiatives, which may be of interest to those in STEM or nursing fields. Regarding leadership, the president position is still being worked on, with plans to hire the president before the provost, potentially leading to some initial confusion. There will be an interim provost until the president is in place. Chris Elder, former Faculty Senate President, discussed a working group related to freedom of speech and departmental guidelines on certain issues, including ICE policies. This group's work may be of interest, and the committee offered to forward further information. Lastly, concerns about campus safety were raised, especially after a shooting earlier in the semester. There are differing opinions on how the university is moving forward with safety plans, particularly within the equity division, but these efforts will continue. Those concerned with campus safety or related issues were encouraged to reach out for further details.

Justin Bendall 12:25 pm

The BCCC has been engaged in ongoing discussions, particularly around the Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADSE), which was passed by the Faculty Senate last year. Despite not receiving a response from the administration regarding this resolution, the committee plans to push forward and generate more concrete discussions on the topic. A meeting has been scheduled with CNM, which also passed a MADSE resolution, to explore regional coordination. This meeting is set for a couple of weeks from now. Additionally, the rise of a loyalty compact proposed by Trump, which could create a counterweight to the MADSE, has become a critical issue. The compact, which seeks to prioritize universities that align with its stance, is seen as being anti-faculty and anti-student, making it a key issue to address. Andisheh will be mentioning the Town Hall in more detail. The BCCC is also working with FAA presidents to coordinate the agenda for a town hall event in early November, aiming for a strong, robust agenda for that Town Hall event. These are the major developments from the BCCC's side.



Andisheh Dadashi 12:28pm

Yes, I am going to send out that email regarding the Cross Campus Town Hall or I should put Branch Campuses somewhere in there, so everyone knows it is for networking for all the faculty at all the branch campuses. I am going to send out the email again today after the meeting, so please choose a time if you are interested in attending the Cross Campus Town Hall.

9. Update on Union Contract Negotiations—Scott Kamen 12:29pm

There hasn't been much new progress since the last update, but the union has provided its last, best, and final offer for the contract, and they're still waiting for the administration to present theirs. If the offers are not aligned, which is expected, the process will move into impasse, where a third-party mediator will attempt to facilitate an agreement. Any unresolved issues will then go before an arbitrator, making the stakes high for the arbitration process. This procedure is expected to be long and challenging. The union will continue to keep members updated, and encourage everyone to join the general membership meeting this Thursday at 5:00 PM in person at the PIES building (Room 1100) at Main Campus with a Zoom option available; the QR code in that flyer will let you RSVP, and will provide the Zoom information for the meeting. The meeting will be followed by a happy hour at Flock of Moon Brewery. Members are encouraged to attend to learn more and voice their concerns.

Annica Cox 12:31 pm A couple of important updates: for those planning to attend the general membership meeting, RSVPing is crucial as food will be provided. Additionally, there will be free drinks at the happy hour following the meeting, offering a nice incentive. Karen Walter has also offered to carpool with anyone from Valencia County who needs a ride to Albuquerque, so those interested should contact her. Furthermore, the union is in the process of forming a working group focused on academic freedom and free speech within the organizing committee, as these issues continue to pose significant threats both nationally and on campus. Those interested in joining this effort to advocate for protections of academic freedom are encouraged to reach out to Justin or Annica.



10. T&P Review Process questions Julia So 12:32 pm

Julia So thanked the previous T&P committee for revising and updating the T&P model, noting that the updates have clarified aspects of the review process for her. She shared that, in her 13 years at Valencia, she has been concerned that the T&P review process does not require voting members to observe a candidate's classroom teaching and sought clarification on this point.

It was confirmed by colleagues, including Ana June and Laura Musselwhite, that classroom observation by voting members is not formally required, though it is considered wise practice. Julia asked if candidates could refuse such observation; responses from Scott Kamen, Justin Bendell, and others indicated that while refusal is technically allowed, it might not be advisable in most cases. Julia also questioned how voting members could fairly evaluate teaching if they had not observed it themselves, and Andisheh and Ben Flicker emphasized the difference between internal voting members and external reviewers, noting that internal reviewers often rely on supervisors' reports, which may be insufficient. Clifton Murray noted that peer reviews exist, but Andisheh stressed the value of direct classroom observation for diverse perspectives. Laura and Piotr highlighted practical considerations, including committee size and cross-departmental observation, which could enhance feedback. Cheryl Bryan discussed Valencia's ongoing efforts through the Teaching Enhancement Committee to define teaching excellence, linking it to award criteria and upcoming Faculty Academy events, encouraging broader faculty engagement. The group agreed that while observation by voting members is not required, it is beneficial, and further conversations on upholding teaching excellence and improving faculty development were recommended.

11. New Faculty Checklist Webpage –Andisheh Dadashi 12:28 pm

Andisheh proposed creating a centralized webpage for new faculty members to consolidate essential information, noting that while convocation and workshops provide initial guidance, critical details are often scattered or easily forgotten. The page would include items such as open enrollment, Canvas instructions, temporary course requests, APR deadlines, and other first-year essentials, with the goal of providing a comprehensive checklist for new faculty. She plans to compile contributions from colleagues and collaborate with Dr. Musselwhite, Rita, and others to develop the site,



linking it to the existing faculty homepage. Participants discussed ideas for organizing the content, including prioritization and potential AI integration to answer faculty questions. It was also noted that professional development funds can be used to subscribe to AI tools, which could support faculty in navigating resources more efficiently. Additional discussion touched on AI applications and the development of AI data centers in New Mexico.

12. Faculty and Staff “Suggestions/Concerns/Ideas” Survey—Andisheh Dadashi

Andisheh introduced a QR code platform, originally suggested during her time on the College Council, to allow faculty and staff to anonymously submit concerns, suggestions, or ideas. She noted that some comments had already been submitted and emphasized that submissions are completely anonymous. The QR code link was also shared via faculty assembly and FEC emails for accessibility. She encouraged participants to use the platform actively, acknowledging potential minor technical issues with smartphone scanning, and indicated that follow-up emails would be sent to ensure everyone had access.

13. New Business / Announcements

Ben Flicker 1:03

Community Garden is meeting this Friday at 10:00 am at the Greenhouse garden area there all community are welcome. Seeking anyone who is interested in being involved in the Community Garden.

Andisheh

The Cross Campus Town Hall is happening on November 7. I will share the email and tomorrow I will decide on the time based on everyone's preference.

Michael Gonzalez

I did send out the newsletter this morning. The first try didn't seem to attach it properly. I did send it out a second time. People are telling me that they didn't receive it the second time. I will send it out again.

Julia So mentioned that the archives for Faculty Assembly folder is missing with the new updates. Discussion about recovering the archives.

Andisheh will follow through finding the folder.



14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm

Attendance

Andisheh Dadashi
Piotr Filipczak
Sam Dosumu
Laura Musselwhite
Clifton Murray
Justin Bendell
Steven Romero
Hamim Md Adal
Andy Taylor
Barbara Lovato
Cindi Goodman

Kat Gullahorn
Scott Kamen
Patricia Gillikin
Precious Andrew
Liz Axelrod
Karen Walter
Jonathan Sims

Julia So
Anicca Cox

Joshua Frank Cardenas

Ana June
Dominique Rodriquez
Cheryl Bryan

Ben Flicker
Michael Gonzales
Mindy Schwarz

Frances Duran

Michael Carriere

Elisa DiMenna

Leslie Jernegan