

# Senate Chair's Report

December 5, 2013

It's been a brief month, thanks to the Thanksgiving holiday. I hope you all had a great holiday week, and you are ready for finals next week.

## Activities

University Administrative Council has begun to revise University Policy with respect to pets (or, if you prefer the current term of art, *companion animals*) on campus. Generally speaking, service animals (including *emotional support animals*) are permitted anywhere (with rare exceptions for health and safety issues that cannot be otherwise addressed). Pets, not so much. Pets are not permitted in University buildings, nor may they be tied outside buildings.

The Academic Dean's Council is well into discussion of undergraduate admissions requirements to the Las Cruces campus. See below for more details. The University Budget Committee met twice: once to discuss personnel lines and once to evaluate the proposals for the President's excellence initiative. There were many worthy proposals for the limited funds that are available.

## Meetings

The searches for a new Chief Information Officer and Vice President for Advancement are proceeding. It appears at the moment that candidates for the CIO post will be interviewing on campus shortly after the start of the semester. The VP for Advancement search is not so far along. The search for a new Dean of the College of Business is just getting started. The search committee has been formed for this search.

The University Teaching Council and the Classroom Committee are jointly looking at Active Learning Classrooms (ALCs). There is a fairly large body of evidence that tells us practices like "flipping the classroom" and providing participatory activities for students enhance learning. NMSU currently does not have many classrooms with the flexible configurations and copious board space that enhance this model of teaching. There will be a report coming out from the UTC in the Spring on ALCs. We can expect a request to endorse their suggestions in the Spring term.

## Current Issues

President Carruthers and Provost Howard are looking carefully at the undergraduate admissions requirements to the Las Cruces campus. The broad outlines seem to me to be fairly firmly set: more Mathematics, more English, Arts *or* a foreign language *and* an overall GPA in high school of 2.75, increasing to 3.0. I expect the details of the proposal to be released before the end of the term. This is already controversial. Senate action is required to put this into place, and I expect that we will have a lively debate about the matter.

President Carruthers is also looking carefully at the University's tuition structure. We currently have flat rate tuition between 12 and 18 credit hours. With the changes in funding from HED (we are paid by the State for grades issued rather than head count on Census day) the University receives no I&G funds for students who withdraw from a class. This makes the student practice of signing up for five or six classes (15 to 18 hours) and keeping their best four as of drop day damaging. Mr. Tischofer (our ASNMSU Student Representative) that this is a

matter of concern for ASNMSU. If we look at our peer institutions, roughly half charge per hour regardless of the load and roughly half have a flat-rate zone as we do.

Finally, I have a personal note. I asked the Leadership Committee to postpone the nomination process for the Chair until January. They agreed to do so. I am again absent from the meeting, and I ask you accept my apologies. I am in Cincinnati interviewing for a job: the interview dates I was offered were all bad. Missing today's Senate meeting was the least bad option. I asked the Leadership Committee to delay nominations so that my employment situation is clearer. I am not looking for *any* job in Cincinnati, but this is an opportunity I cannot pass on.

I wish each of you a relaxing break and a joyous holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis L. Clason  
Faculty Senate Chair 2013-14