

**University of New Mexico (Los Alamos)**  
**Faculty Operations Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of September 9, 2025**

**Present:** Robin Kelly (Chair), Citla Nava Gaxiola (Vice Chair), Sharon Hurley, Min Ro (ex officio, as Senator), Joan Lucas (ex officio, as Senator), Associate Dean Irina Alvestad (ex officio)

- The due date for the **Faculty Initiative Award** was set for Friday, September 26. Robin will again notify core/continuing faculty about this opportunity. Robin will check that any older version of the award information/application is not still left on the campus website (Sharon located such documents in July). Robin has contacted Grace Willerton about getting student representation on the award selection committee. The review of applications should be completed in the early weeks of October. Dean Pickett would like input on which faculty will serve on the selection committee. FOC expects to provide the Dean with a list of volunteers. Robin and Min are willing to serve on this selection committee.
- Should the Faculty Initiative Award use a rubric in making its decision? FOC decided against this, since no rubric was provided with the application materials. Some discussion ensued about how much service on this committee would count towards a faculty's workload (i.e., how many "points"). There was much confusion among FOC members about how service contributions are measured at UNM-LA. Some people had been given information that was not shared with all faculty. It was agreed that clarity on this issue would be welcome.
- FOC reviewed a list of committees from several years ago. FOC identified the following committees that it will seek to form this Fall. The committees are: Student Appeals, Curriculum, Student Success, Professional Development, Faculty Initiative Award review. Robin will send out a form to all core/continuing faculty, asking them to state which committees they prefer to serve on (ranked from 1 to 5). Responses will be due no later than a week before the end of September. Robin will review these forms and form the membership of committees by the end of September
- There will be a Fall Faculty Assembly on October 6 (Prof. Dev. Day) where the Dean will meet with faculty, perhaps discussing the results of the Faculty Survey distributed on 9/9/2025.
- There will be a second Fall Faculty Assembly later in the semester where faculty will have the opportunity to present about their scholarly activities.

- Chancellor Holtzclaw will be invited to a FOC meeting this Fall. A Faculty Assembly in the Spring with Chancellor Holtzclaw will be planned.
- Dean Pickett supports the return of a “Common Hour” in the UNM-LA schedule.
- FOC encouraged the return of an evening Spring Orientation meeting and social event during the week before classes start, as was done in the past.
- A Branch Campus Town Hall may be arranged later this Fall, where faculty from different branches can meet and build collaborations, and find mentoring.
- FOC members were asked to review the current Faculty Constitution, with a view of making updates and clarifications.

Next meeting: Monday, October 13, 9:30