

University of New Mexico (Los Alamos)
Faculty Operations Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of December 2, 2025

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

- Citla distributed notes from the meeting that Robin and Citla had with Beth Rue (Marketing) on Nov. 19.
- Robin and Citla reported on their Dec. 1 meeting with Chancellor Holtzclaw. Dean Pickett was not able to attend.
- Robin will make a 10-minute presentation at the Faculty Assembly on Dec. 3. She plans to bring up concerns about campus funding. Another concern is about strengthening our partnerships with LANL. There was concern that the BSME is not well advertised at the Lab. Irina reported that last June LANL said that they struggle with the internal communications.
- Irina suggested that UNM-LA should prioritize creating a grant-writer position.
- Discussion ensued about the faculty's wish to be better represented in Executive Cabinet meetings. Dean Pickett already provides a faculty perspective, but more faculty input would be of value. The Cabinet has initially discouraged this idea. FOC will continue to advocate for this. FOC will consult with Council to create a Resolution in favor of this Cabinet representation. FOC did request to get copies of Executive Cabinet agendas during the meeting with the Chancellor on Dec. 1.
- Min reported on the Prof. Dev. Committee's collaboration with Sascha regarding the planning of a Professional Development day in the spring.
- Robin reported that the FOC website is now up and running. See: <https://losalamos.unm.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-governance/index.html> This website has a form where anyone can anonymously submit comments or concerns. Robin will add information regarding the current Faculty Committees (who is on what committee).

- Discussion ensued about how to improve communication on campus. Everyone expressed appreciation for the recent email from Pam that provided a short list and summary of upcoming campus events for the two weeks after Thanksgiving. Sharon shared the process used by the High School. They distribute a daily “slide” with bullet points. If something similar is developed at UNM-LA, maybe the “bullet points” could be displayed on the large monitors (e.g., in the café area and Building 6).
- Citla discussed the need for a new collaboration space, since the former space in the Library is no longer available. The former ASC space near the café has been given over to Student Government. Citla is exploring converting the 629 classroom into a collaboration space.
- Renovations in the Library will be suspended during finals week, so that students using the Testing Center will not be disturbed.
- Due to lack of time, FOC postponed further revisions to the Faculty Constitution until this spring.