Vice President Report for 3/16

Graduate Council –

* Discussed allowing GSC on as a voting member. matter was tabled. One faculty member suggested we don’t have the knowledge or experience to vote on these “high level” issues.
* Interim Dean Flincbaugh – still studying the impact of reducing full-time status for graduate students from 9 hours to 6. VP Scott said that information might be available in April. Dr. Madson indicated that some smaller departments are opposed to the idea, indicating it would reduce the number of classes grad students take, which would reduce the number of classes being offered. Three other profs suggested that would be solved by reducing the class size minimums. With regard to GA positions – there were questions about bringing all GA positions to 20 hours. One professor indicated that having 10 hour GAships allows more students to qualify for in-state tuition – and helps more students in the long run.
* Jennifer Olguin from the Library indicated they will be having a workshop on 3/25 at 1pm on how to avoid predatory journals when you look to publish.

Faculty Senate –

* Most impactful in this meeting is the ongoing discussion about lengthening amount of time students have to take a class without instructor consent. A final decision has not been made – important to note, any decision on this by faculty senate would be advisory only. It is still up to the administration to adopt the policy.

Board of Regents

* I attended the Board of Regents as an observer – and then spoke to a couple of regents directly after the meeting. During the meeting approximately 30 graduate students, a handful of professors, and a representative from UNM spoke up regarding the graduate student union push for tuition remission for GAs. No decisions were made on the issue – nor will they be until the administration submits a proposal to the board. Regents expressed privately that they have asked the administration for a report on the issue. For those that did not see VP Cifuentes’ report from earlier this month, please see: <https://research.nmsu.edu/NewsAndBlogs/Digest1/322.html>
* In it he said “Including tuition in compensation packages will greatly improve graduate student recruitment, success, and well-being at NMSU.

Climate Action Team

* Just left a meeting of the Climate Action Team that meets every week. They too are discussing issues related to Graduate Students – including communication and tuition reimbursement.

Dean Flinchbaugh

* Has promised to provide monetary support for the “winners’ at the graduate research day. Exact amounts were not provided though she was asked to fund scholarships of $500 for the winner, $250 for second place, $100 for third… to which she responded, “The Grad School can provide the requested scholarship amount (via Scholardollar$).”