



Communications Advisory Committee (CAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 12/9/25

Circulated: 1/15/26

Approved: 1/22/26

Present: Henry Seeger (Chair), Brian Love, Phil Christman, Lynda Pence, Jim Cranford, Kim Saks, VP Richie Hunter, Talisha Reviere-Winston (OVPC), Kirsten Herold (SACUA), Basit Zafar, Laura Beny

Absent: Nicole Boucher, Thandiwe-Kesi Robbins

Guests: Kenneth Kettenbeil, Vice Chancellor for External Relations, Senior Advisor to the President

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

2:01pm-2:02pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes/notes for the September, October, and November CAC meetings were approved.

2:02pm-2:09pm: Comments on quorum issues

Summary: This committee has experienced quorum issues this term. It was reached in September and December, but not October or November. With the change in leadership in OVPC, it is a good time to send a scheduling survey out to revisit the meeting times in the Winter term. The survey will come from the Faculty Governance Coordinator in the coming weeks.

Action: Update

2:09pm-2:12pm: Campus Survey Subcommittee: Updates

Summary: The leader of the subcommittee provides an update. The project is in a holding pattern until VC Kettenbeil can weigh in on the survey next term. There is need for one or more members of the subcommittee. The committee Chair provides an overview of the work and goals of the subcommittee to VC Kettenbeil. This will be discussed further at January's meeting.

Action: Update

2:12pm-2:20pm: Report for incoming VP

Summary: Chair Seeger is preparing a committee report for VC Kettenbeil as he transitions into his new role as interim VP of Communications. This report will bring him up to speed on the work of the committee over the past semester. The Faculty Governance Coordinator will provide VC Kettenbeil with the annual charges and reports from the past two years of



the committee. Chair Seeger and VP Hunter provide VC Kettenbeil with an overview of the dynamic and work that this committee provides. VC Kettenbeil introduces himself to the committee. He will be taking over as interim VP of Communications on 1/3/26.

Action: Discussion

2:20pm-2:29pm: Other Initiatives

Summary: Chair Seeger provides an overview of this charge item. Work will continue on this in the Winter term. The committee will receive the list of key communicators from OVPC imminently once it is reviewed on their end.

A call for ideas on the two primary charge items is made. The Faculty Governance Coordinator describes some preliminary work in the Faculty Senate Office related to media training for the faculty. More to follow on that in future meetings.

Chair Seeger brings up a prior idea of a media hub. A member indicates that promoting UM research in a positive light for the public is critical.

Chair Seeger calls for the creation of a subcommittee focused on faculty media promotion. This is created and populated by members Cranford, Pence, and Christman.

Action: Discussion; formation of subcommittee

2:29pm-2:59pm: Matters Arising

Summary: Members thank VP Hunter for her service and work with the committee. A member asks VP Hunter to assess where the University can improve in their communications, and how this committee can be more effective.

VP Hunter indicates that improving communication is a consistent goal in OVPC. Providing the President with thorough and timely communication is something that they discuss frequently. She notes the importance for open communication as something her team has strived for.

For this committee the structure has been improved over the years. It is a committee-led group, so it is on the members to make it successful. The more that people will be open to ideas, the better. VP Hunter appreciates that the committee has been cognizant of the difference between decisions and how those decisions are communicated. It is also critical to be transparent about what needs to be discussed. VP Hunter offers her sincere thanks to the committee for their work with her over the last few years.

A member discusses a recently published article in the Daily related to the University's partnership with Los Alamos. Inaccuracies that are putting faculty involved with Los Alamos at risk. The member is troubled by this, as well as the response by the university. The member asks OVPC what they are doing to address this issue.

VP Hunter discusses how they are responding to this. They are working on correcting the record and are in coordination with the Government Relations Office.



Another member shares a different article that portrays UM in a poor light and has inaccurate information. The member notes that the article notes that UM was contacted for comment, and they did not receive one. VP Hunter discusses this.

The faculty provide brief overviews of their role at UM to VC Kettenbeil.

Action: Discussion

2:59pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office