

MINUTES
July 18, 2019, 8:15 am
Martini Tree Ballroom, The Blake Hotel
116 Sutton Place, Taos Ski Valley, NM

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 8:15 am on Thursday, July 18, 2019 with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Yolanda King and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff and guests included:

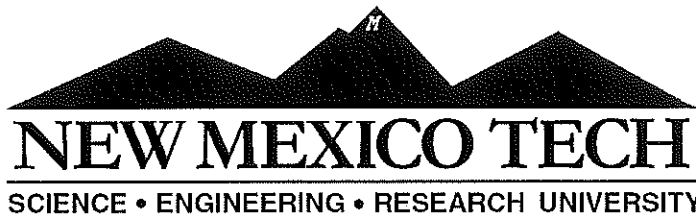
Stephen Wells	Nelia Dunbar	Mark Adams
Vanessa Grain	Bob Balch	Michael Voegerl
Juliann Ulibarri	Peter Anselmo	Michelle Sherman
Cleve McDaniel	Colleen Foster	Eshani Hettiarachchi
Doug Wells	Peter Phaiah	Sandy Liggett
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Dave Manzano	Valerie Kimble
Van Romero	JoAnn Salome	

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.
 - a) Ms. Grain affirmed that proper legal notice had been given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The Chair requested that an addition be made under numeral 6, Action Items, agreement with Hohai University, item j). Regent Gonzales moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** None
4. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a) **SGS Updates.** Ms. Sherman introduced herself as the new president of the undergraduate student association, providing some background and her leadership objectives, including boosting female enrollment in STEM and narrowing the 2:1 male/female gender gap.
 - b) **GSA Updates.** Ms. Hettirachchi, GSA information officer speaking on behalf of the president, cited providing graduate students with health care insurance, updating the GSA Constitution and raising awareness. Ms. Hettirachchi congratulated Dr. Aly El Osery as new interim Graduate Studies Dean, and recognized Dr. Lorie Liebrock for her service in that role.
 - c) **SUR.** VP Jaramillo-Fleming reported 207 paid registrations for fall, down 22. During discussion, she cited three potential reasons for paid student withdrawals: Socorro itself, better scholarship offers and a change of degree. The SUR VP noted that she is working with Academic Affairs on advising, and looking forward to the EAB consultant providing key advice on enrollment management.
 - d) **Academic Affairs.** Dr. Doug Wells referred to a four-page handout reflecting enrollment projections, noting that student retention and persistence are driven by success. He would provide further details on what he described as improved graduation rates as widening the “funnel point” later during the retreat.

- e) **Research.** Dr. Romero reported on a research integrity conference he attended noting that institutions have a moral obligation conduct research with utmost integrity. Also, because there are legal and funding issues, it's imperative that faculty and students be trained. A program on research integrity will launch this fall for graduate students and faculty. The VP for Research added that the National Science Foundation is satisfied with NMT's policy, which is necessary in securing federal grants.
- f) **OIC.** Dr. Anselmo reported that the Gas Co. of NM gave NMT a \$50,000 donation to promote entrepreneurship on NMT Campus. Also, NMT and NM Gas Co. are exploring work on clean gas technologies. He is working with Dr. Liebrock, Interim Director for NMT's new cybersecurity center and related educational initiatives, to establish an event Cyber Entrepreneurship Workshop on campus Sept. 27, 2019. With feedback from last spring's Inventors and Entrepreneurs Workshop, the event is being revamped for greater student participation, necessitating additional funding. Discussion included potential sources of funding, and the roles of the developing cybersecurity programs.
- g) **Advancement.** Ms. Foster noted a slight drop in donations compared with last year; however, the number of gifts is higher. Advancement hired a consultant to guide and assist with the annual comprehensive campaign and they will be on campus Aug. 6 and Aug. 15, 2019. Other highlights included hosting an event at the Isotopes' Star Wars night, which drew 216 alumni and students; and a successful ground-breaking for the University House and President's residence. The Chair noted tremendous progress, which Ms. Foster attributed to support from people in leadership positions as part of a group effort.
- h) **Bureau of Geology.** Dr. Dunbar reported on recent hiring activity, including a geochemist who is a specialist in rare earth elements, whose spouse has joined the E&ES Department, bringing with him both students and grants. The Bureau is also advertising for two petroleum geology positions. The Bureau also has received funding, through the "Water Data Act" (HB651), to work towards making state-collected water data interoperable; Dr. Dunbar noted continuing efforts to bring in additional funds for the project, the first step of a long, complicated and very important process. She noted recent recognition by the "Water Foundation", and a partnership with the "Internet of Water" at Duke University, who are providing mentorship and guidance.
- i) **PRRC.** Dr. Balch provided Regents with a handout summarizing the history and mission of PRRC, a financial report, including the number of students employed by the division; and a metric sheet tracking the past seven years, showing growth from \$4.5 million to \$7.0 million in 2019. Currently, the goal is to grow PRRC through more research activity to fill open positions.
- j) **President's Report.** President Wells noted that NMT has secured the STE2M® trademark.
- k) **Other.** Chair Peacock shared a photo of actor Tom Hanks in her husband's store and posted on social media, wearing an NMT t-shirt in posing with a young fan.

5. **Information Items.**

- a) **New Mexico Higher Education Department.** Ms. Sandy Liggett, legal counsel with the HED, provided a brief history and mission of the agency. Priority issues include bringing higher education to the forefront of legislative funding after an overall decrease over the past 10 years. She noted that the last legislative funding cycle is proof that financing,



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funding and compensation for higher education was not understood well. Ms. Liggett encouraged Regents to attend the Governor's Summit on Higher Education at CNM on Sept. 18, 2019. One key discussion issue was unfunded mandates, including compensation and increased minimum wage. The Regents explained to Ms. Liggett, that the last state mandated salary increase was not fully funded by the state which required NMT to increase tuition to maintain the current proposed budget.

- b) **Degree Conferrals for April 2019.** Information in Regents' packets.
- c) **Socorro Electric Coop. Update.** Mr. Adams updated the Board on the SEC's request before the PRC for a rate increase and NMT's formal protest, including pretrial testimony provided by NMT and its expert witnesses. He described the hearing officer as very informed and conscientious. It was noted that the City of Socorro is proceeding with plans to establish its own utility, with NMT potentially as one of its customers. Mr. Adams continued to explain what a detrimental effect a rate hike would have on establishing university spin-off businesses and other economic development initiatives.
- d) **Institutional Assessment.** President Wells reported that NMT has created a scope of work for an institutional assessment by EAB, a best practices firm that uses research, technology, and consulting to address challenges within higher education, citing enrollment management as top priority. Other target areas include research activities, student retention and persistence.
- e) **Higher Learning Commission Review.** Dr. Mozley provided an update on the HLC Open Pathway accreditation process which began in 2015 and included a site visit by a four-member Peer Review Team. NMT did well, with the point of improving assessment of student learning. NMT's updated, 104-page Assurance Argument was submitted July 7, 2019, with a preliminary report expected from the HLC expected in early August. He noted that the updated document includes subheadings on progress or changes, adding that the University has made tremendous progress on many fronts. Dr. Mosley expected no continued problems with the assessment of student learning given recent changes. Dr. Mozley was recognized for his leadership on the project.

6. Action Items

- a) **Approval of May 10, 2019 Minutes.** The Chair noted that an item attributed to her in the Minutes regarding a CUP meeting should have been attributed to the President. Regent King moved to approve the Minutes as amended. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b) **NMT Student Professional Training and Outreach Training.** Regent Gonzales introduced an initiative to improve students' interview skills in marketing themselves for employment. Mr. Voegel noted that Career Services offers workshops including résumé review and social skills; and has a clothing loan program. One issue is to make students realize the benefits of such assistance. Among suggestions were to have faculty and alumni work with students, and the importance of follow-up thank-you notes. The issue could be introduced at Convocation. The President noted that EAB may have other ideas.
- c) **Approve Policy on Policies.** Dr. Mozley requested and received unanimous approval for NMT's Policy on Policies reflecting modifications requested by the Board, on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent King.
- d) **HED Capital Project.** Dr. McDaniel reviewed the process for renovating Jones Hall, recommending that the University use reserve funds to cover the balance for construction, and request reimbursement in capital outlay funds during the 2020

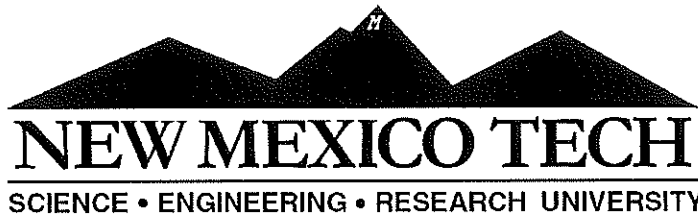


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Legislative session. Regents unanimously approved the recommendation on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent King.

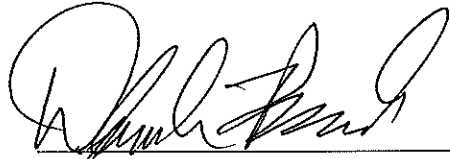
- e) **Quarterly Certification for June 30, 2019.** Upon the recommendation of Dr. McDaniel, Regents unanimously approved the quarterly certification on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- f) **Approve Smoking & Vaping Policy.** Dr. McDaniel recommended and Regents unanimously approved a change to the existing Smoking Policy to include the word “vaping,” on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Armijo.
- g) **Approve Unrestricted Fund Purchase**
 - **J3 Systems (new roof/stucco Altamirano Apts)**
 - **Aquila (Telecom upgrade Dorms & Fidel.** Regents unanimously approved the unrestricted fund purchases as presented on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent King.
- h) **Approve Appointment of Mr. Ben Harburg to NMT RPC Board of Directors.** Upon the recommendation of Dr. Anselmo, Regents unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Harburg to serve on the NMT PRC Board of Directors on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- i) **Set Fall/Winter Board Meeting Dates.** Regents agreed to meet on the following dates and times to close out the 2019 calendar year, as proposed: Saturday, Aug. 24, 8:30 am; Friday Oct. 18, 1 pm; and Dec. 20.
- j) **Agreement with Hohai University.** President Wells introduced a proposed agreement with Hohai, University in China, recommending that Regents pursue the opportunity, if feasible. Mr. Voegel explained the details, whereby NMT faculty would teach four programs at Hohai in Geology and Electrical Engineering, with no financial burden to the University, except to cover salaries for faculty when they are not in China. He provided financial details of the arrangement and other logistics. Discussion items included ownership of IP, potential benefit to New Mexico, development of a pipeline for graduate students, enhanced research capacity, the chance for NMT students to study abroad and an opportunity to interact on a global scale. The Board agreed to pursue the proposal on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Gonzales. Regent King abstained.

7. **Individual Board Member Comments.** None
8. **New Business.** None
9. **Recess.** Regents recessed the regular meeting at 11:13 am.
10. **Retreat.** The Board met for their annual Retreat for presentations and discussion on three primary topics:
 - a) Research at New Mexico Tech
 - b) NMT Retention Statistics, Comparisons, Policies, Goals and Information
 - c) NMT Foundation and Research Park Corp. Structure and Information.
11. **Reconvene in Open Session.** The Board reconvened in open session at 1:53 pm.



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12. **Executive Session** (NMSA 1978, Sec 10-15-1(H)(2), if Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). The Board unanimously recessed its regular meeting at 1:55 pm to meet in Executive Session on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent King. Ms. Grain conducted a roll call vote.
13. **Reconvene in open session and take final action, if any, on such legal and/or personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session.** The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 3:03 pm. Chair Peacock said no action was taken and only items related to legal and personnel were discussed. Regent Armijo moved to award President Wells a \$20,000 bonus in recognition of his substantial completion of established merit goals. Regent Gonzales second the motion, which passed unanimously
14. **Adjournment.** The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:04 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales.



Deborah Peacock, President

Attest:



Jerry Armijo, Secretary-Treasurer

