

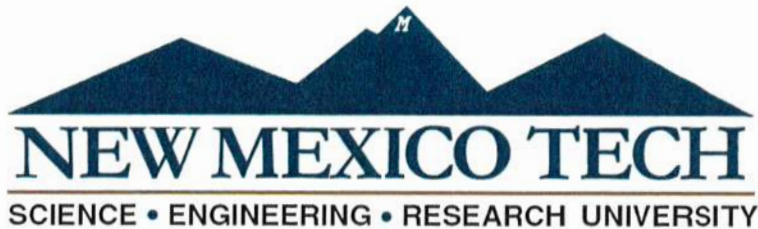
**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
 Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 - 8:30 a.m.
 Playas Research and Training Center
 Classroom Complex
 1 Plaza Ave., Playas, NM 88009**

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, with Regent Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Board members present were: Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Stephen Wells | Cleve McDaniel | Nelia Dunbar |
| Vanessa Grain | Michael Jackson | Robert Balch |
| Katie Bauer | Myrriah Tomar | Jenny Ma |
| David Greene | JoAnn Salome | Mark Adams |
| Peter Phaiah | Michael Smith | Gabriel Ramos |
| Sandi Lucero | Jennifer Chapman | Lauren McMullen |
| Megan Schwingle | Juliann Ulibarri | Christine Maez |
| Mike Timmons | David Manzano | Soledad Ruiz |
| Corey Leclerc | Carlos Rey Romero | Dennis Jones |
| Aly El Osery | Dallin Sobers | Gary King |
| Luis Contreras Vidal | | |

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Peacock called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
 - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Vanessa Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *El Defensor Chieftain*.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent Peacock said that there was business for the Executive Session. Regent King moved to approve the agenda. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** Regent Peacock thanked Carlos Romero and the PRTC staff for the fireworks Monday night. Regent Espinoza said that she found the tactical demonstration and door breaching exercise valuable. Regent Lepre said that on this first trip to Playas he was learning a lot about New Mexico Tech and was grateful for the opportunity to see firsthand the facilities and meet the staff. Regent King said she thought it was important to recognize the families of employees at the



appreciation dinner Monday night. AVP Romero said that four-hour tours of the entire facility can be arranged upon request.

4. Recurring Reports.

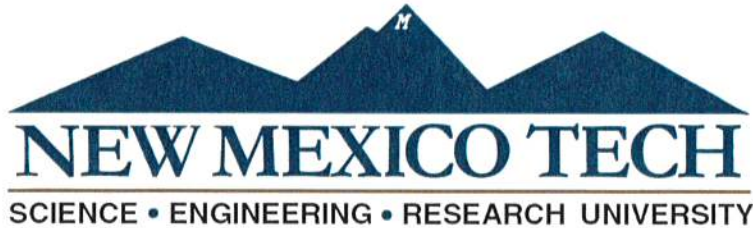
a) SGA. President Dallin Sobers reported enthusiastic participation at 49ers. He said a pie-themed fundraiser was successful. More social events, including a possible Sadie Hawkins dance, are being planned.

b) GSA. President Luis Contreras Vidal presented a chart of GSA travel grants, which greatly benefit and support students as travel costs are increasing. With a budget of \$40,000 a year, the GSA also has leftover funds from the pandemic to help students attend conferences. The chart also showed thesis binding costs.

c) Student Life. Vice President David Greene presented on the student/family events just before and at the beginning of fall semester. He provided a summary from the survey of Kelly Mine Leadership Camp participants. He explained that Weeks of Welcome included 71 academic, social, and student life events centered on the themes of engaging, sense of belonging, and tools and resources. VP Greene also said that the inaugural Family and Parent Weekend attracted 100 participants. A mailing to families will invite them to subscribe to the parent and family newsletter and view the website. Planning for next year's events is underway.

d) Title IX. No report.

e) Academic Affairs. Interim Vice President Michael Jackson presented on fall enrollment, recruitment and retention efforts, and provided a handout. Enrollment was slightly down this fall among undergraduates even though the Admission Office was expecting an increase. VP McDaniel noted that NMT budgeted for zero increase in enrollment. IVP Jackson said that data showed VPAA has the opportunity to grow the professional master's programs. He explained that retention also is down slightly, consistent with prior years and said the biggest drop seen was in persistence – from the first to the fifth semester – with a drop of about 15 students who are not staying at NMT to complete their degrees. Some upcoming marketing events include Exploration Day Nov. 5 and call campaigns. NMT is also working with two-year colleges in New Mexico and with six two-year colleges in the Texas Panhandle, El Paso, and west and south regions of Texas in an effort to boost enrollment of transfer students. The “dropout detective” feature on Canvas will allow NMT's Associate Dean to reach out to students who are struggling with their assignments and connect them to resources (an informal version is currently in use). He said other strategies include peer mentors and transitioning students to different math courses. He went on to say that a proposal before the Faculty Senate would change the university's current requirements regarding testing and required GPA for admissions. The proposal and supporting data are being presented to the Faculty Senate. He said other strategies to boost retention could include restructuring new



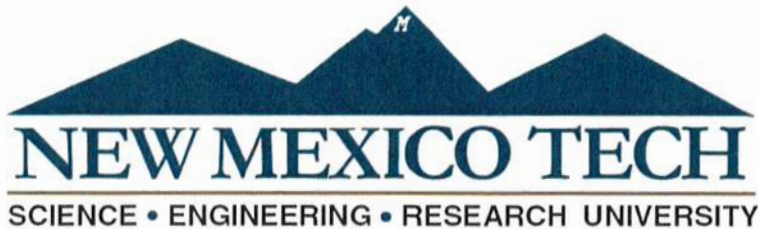
student orientation, reaching out to parents before students begin their first semester, providing students with a schedule for fall semester, and encouraging them to reach out to an advisor for adjustments.

f) Capital Projects. VP McDaniel provided a written report and highlighted several capital projects. He said that Franken Construction has been selected for the construction work at Kelly Hall due to its three-year warranty on its work and willingness to work closely with NMT to contain costs. He explained that a formal project proposal will be before the Board of Regents in February or March 2023. As presented at the summer capital hearings, the Higher Education Department (HED) has recommended funding to the legislature for the use of an outside consultant for the key lock project and also for a water and gas line replacement project on Campus Drive. Dr. McDaniel indicated that the NMT will use internal resources to fund the facility condition survey and also indicated that the HED liked the data center upgrade proposal, but that it was not primarily a health and safety project, which was an HED priority for project funding. Also, as recommended by the HED, this project will again be brought forward for approval, most likely in the 2023 Summer Hearings.

g) Research. Interim Vice President Dunbar provided an update on the Technology Enhancement Fund matching funds. She explained that HED is assembling a committee to assess proposals and she is working with the UNM and NMSU VPRs on this committee. IVP Dunbar said that NMT will show good use of the funds and are looking forward to more funding for FY24. She said that AVP Romero will fill in for her when she's out of the country, and OIC Director Tomar will participate in the Technology Enhancement Fund committee as NMT's economic development representative. She said that NSF has removed the match requirement for major research instrumentation (MRI) proposals for the next five years as part of the CHIPS Act, which was a significant move because there's usually a 30% match. IVP Dunbar said that this was a great opportunity for NMT researchers and she will send an email informing them of this change. IVP Dunbar also updated the Board about the NSF Engines Program. NMT is involved in 3 NSF Engines proposals primarily focused on water and energy issues. Regent Lepre urged IVP Dunbar to work on an aspirational research funding proposal from the state, which some people he's talked to think could be successful. IVP Dunbar said she regularly collaborates with VPRs from the other research institutions in New Mexico on funding proposals.

h) OIC. No report.

i) Advancement. Associate Director Megan Schwingle's reported fundraising was far ahead of last year. A large gift from an anonymous donor in August was noted. The President's Golf Tournament in September was the most successful in history with 98 teams and a real sense of excitement out on the golf course. The Deju University House Ribbon-Cutting and Hydrology Center Big Event



ceremonies were also very successful and inclusive of students and community members. Advancement Office staff are out on the road hosting alumni events in Idaho, Boston, Montana, and Washington. They also continue to plan for an event in Santa Fe in early March. HED provided a \$5 million gift for a STEM Education Center. Staff also are gearing up for the year-end appeal to raise much-needed funds for undergraduate research.

j) Bureau of Geology. Interim Director Timmons noted Senior Field Geologist Dan Koning’s recent award at the Geological Society of America conference recognizing his exceptional contributions to mapping over the years. Ron Broadhead, principal senior petroleum geologist emeritus, was also recently recognized with an honorary life membership in the West Texas Geological Society. ID Timmons handed out a flier for the upcoming workshop on water issues aimed at legislators. So far, 18 state legislators are registered, and the goal is 25. The Thornburg Foundation is covering the costs for the workshop. IVP Dunbar noted that the 50-Year Water Report Committee has a recommendation to fully fund the “Decision Makers” field trips for legislators and to provide an appropriation to fund the popular series. ID Timmons said that there’s a whole new audience for this information due to turnover at the Legislature. Due to the amount of time and effort put into planning the event and the accompanying publication, there’s a need for adequate funding for staff support.

k) PRRC. No report.

l) HR. No report.

m) Faculty Senate. No report.

n) Marketing & Comm. No report.

o) Govt. Affairs. No report.

p) PRTC. No report.

q) President’s Report. President Wells declared 49ers an incredible success, with 450 students and staff hiking up the M and providing water and food. The parade also was wonderful, and both events featured fantastic weather. He highlighted a recent ceremony for the Rugby Team with 105 attendees watching team members receive their championship rings. President Wells presented Regents Peacock and Lepre with their rings. He explained that the 25th and 50th reunion dinners attracted the largest participation ever. President Wells also updated the Board on ongoing staff search processes. He thanked Dr. Steve Simpson for chairing the search committee for the Marketing & Communications Director. Jimmy Himes, a documentary film producer and former TV reporter, will start Nov. 15. For the VPR position, Dr. Aly El-Osery is chairing the search committee and is bringing in three candidates for interviews: Brandon Weeks, Michael Boyle, and Wesley Stites. For the EMRTC Director search, Matt Gallegos is chairing the search committee and will not use a recruitment firm since NMT has received 23 applications so far. Regent King requested the



resumes/CVs of the VPR candidates. IVP Dunbar said that for the Hantush-Deju National Center for Hydrologic Innovation (HD-NCHI) Director, a search firm will be used since a relatively small number of people are qualified for this position. President Wells said a great job has been done building the advisory board for the HD-NCHI.

5. Information Items.

a) NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates. Regent King said that efforts are underway to schedule an in-person event, the first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic began.

b) NM HERC Updates. Regent King said that this group is meeting Nov. 16 to put together legislative priorities and look at gaps in the priorities. She also noted that due to timing this year's HED summit is off the table.

c) NMT Legislative Updates. Regent Lepre said that the LFC is holding a fall agenda of budget hearings. Higher Ed will be at the end of the series during the week of Dec. 12 to 15 and he will sit in on these meetings. Next week the subcommittees will issue reports, one of them being the Higher Education Subcommittee. He also noted that HED is distributing \$140,000 to New Mexico Tech for Work Study. He continued to explain that since the financial aid landscape has changed dramatically recently and become more complicated, it was worth noting that students in Work Study are usually more engaged. Regent Lepre also said that the state can go outside the funding formula to make allocations for schools for highly sought workforce needs. President Wells is on the funding formula task force advisory board, but the board has not been active up to this point in time.

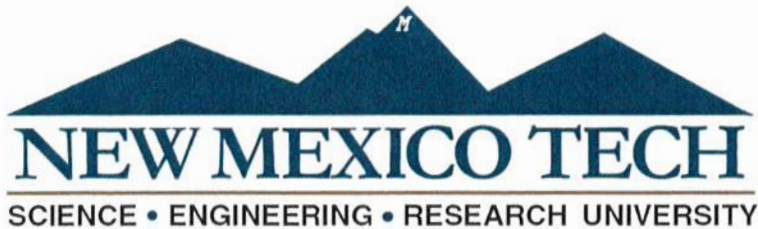
d) NMT Student Updates. Regent Espinoza announced that applications are being received for the new student regent who will replace her. She has met with one candidate so far. She also complimented the Rugby Team for its outreach to Socorro High School. Regent King noted that the NMSU student regent put together a report on the student regent selection process.

e) Degree Conferrals for August 2022. Regents acknowledged the reports in their binders.

f) Sabbatical Notifications. IVP Jackson said he's supporting four applications for a variety of scholarly work activities. Regents acknowledged the reports in their binders.

g) Restricted Fund Purchase Notification of Awards >\$100k. VP McDaniel said that all of the requests are for EMRTC projects. Regents acknowledged the reports in their binders.

h) Financial Analysis through June 30, 2022. VP McDaniel highlighted the materials included in the Regents' packet, noting higher natural gas costs, building repairs, increases in salaries and benefits, and financial aid costs. He also noted the return of many maintenance activities post-COVID-19. Regent Lepre asked about the financial consequences of lower enrollment. VP McDaniel said that because lower enrollment translates into fewer paid credit hours, we project that we will



be about \$350,000 below our FY 2023 budgeted tuition revenues. He explained that while the EMRTC balance has dropped, overall fund balances were higher for FY 2022. The PRTC debt has decreased due to increased contract activity.

i) Introduction of Ms. Jennifer Chapman, Dean of Students. VP Greene handed out a bio and introduced the new Dean of Students, Jennifer Chapman, who not only supports students but also the Division of Student Life. Dean Chapman said that NMT students are phenomenal, and she felt at home immediately when she arrived in July. One of her first challenges was launching the Family and Parent Weekend and associated activities.

j) Funding Model Presentation Cont'd. Dennis Jones, President emeritus of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), continued the presentation he started at the August Regents retreat in Chama by presenting a sustainable funding model for NMT. Mr. Jones said higher education funding models haven't been looked at in years as most institutions keep building on the previous year's model. He stressed the importance of preserving the value of NMT as a state asset, recognizing the costs associated with providing the university's particular set of academic programs, and recognizing the costs associated with serving the particular kinds of students who attend NMT – low income, marginally prepared – in building a more sustainable model. Jones emphasized the importance of planning for asset maintenance, professional development, and capacity building. President Wells said that Mr. Jones showed how our funding base has become skewed over the years, resulting in a significant gap in funding in the universities base funding. President Wells had made a recommendation that Mr. Jones provide his presentation for CUP.

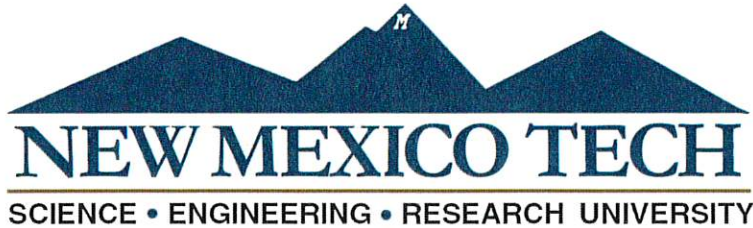
6. Action Items

a) Approval of Aug. 29/31, 2022 Minutes. Regent King moved to add to the minutes the establishment of a budget subcommittee. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously as modified.

b) Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$250K. Regent King moved to approve all of the projects. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c) Approval of Property Resolutions. Regent King moved to approve the property resolutions. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.


d) Approval of Sabbatical Policy. IVP Jackson said AA has worked for two years to overhaul this policy, which directs Academic Affairs' management of faculty sabbaticals. He said the Faculty Senate approved the policy, and legal counsel Bruce Kite vetted the policy. Regent Lepre asked if the policy reflects what other institutions do and if a provision was included for faculty who have to pick up extra courses due to colleagues going on sabbatical. IVP Jackson said that faculty taking a semester of sabbatical leave receive full pay, but those taking a yearlong sabbatical leave receive



half-pay, so an adjunct faculty member can be hired to cover any courses that are needed. Regent Espinoza moved approval of the policy. Regent King seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

7. **Individual Board Member Comments.** Regent King said that HERC is considering hiring a part-time administrator, which will require an increase in institutional dues.
8. **New Business.** The next meeting will be Dec. 15 at the Macey Center, with a holiday lunch beforehand at the Deju University House. Socorro School Board members have been invited, and Vanessa will also invite the Socorro superintendent. An eSports demonstration will also be part of the December meeting.
9. **Executive Session.** NMSA 1978, Sec 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Espinoza, the Board adjourned its regular meeting at 11:02 a.m. to meet in Executive Session under a roll-call vote of the Regents.
10. **Reconvene in open session and take final action, if any, on such limited legal and/or personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session.** The meeting reconvened at 11:30 a.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed.
11. **Adjournment.** Regent King moved and Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

President

Attest:  Secretary- Treasurer