



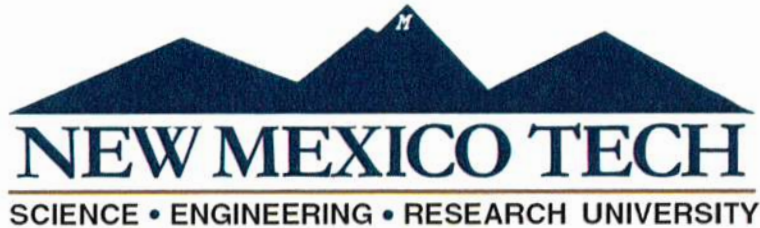
**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2022 - 1:23 p.m.
NMT Main Campus, Fidel Center Ballrooms**

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:23 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2022, with Regent Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Board members present were: Jerry Armijo, Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells (Zoom)	Cleve McDaniel	Nelia Dunbar
Vanessa Grain	Michael Jackson	Robert Balch
Jimmy Himes	Myrriah Tomar	Jenny Ma
Katie Bauer	JoAnn Salome	Mark Adams (Zoom)
David Greene	David Manzano	Matt Gallegos
Peter Phaiah	Carlos Rey Romero	Brian Borchers
Mike Timmons	Alex Garcia	Colleen Foster
Aly El Osery	German Bustillos	Emma Aafloy
		Dan Lunceford

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.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 King moved to approve the agenda. Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** No public comment.
4. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a) **SGA.** VP Kenyan Phlieger reported that the organization is moving forward with several projects, including senior gifts to the campus, community outreach, building a concession stand by the rugby field, storage facilities for sports clubs, building a student kitchen for those in dorms without kitchens, and possible involvement with the three local high schools. SGA leaders met with Michael Voegerl, Director of the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement, and Jennifer Chapman, Dean of Students, on calendaring for the spring semester.
 - b) **GSA.** No report.
 - c) **Student Life.** No report.

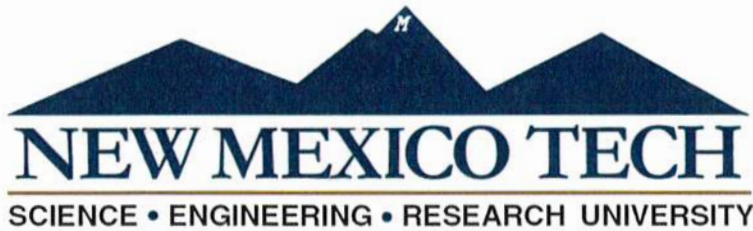


d) Title IX. No report.

e) Academic Affairs. IVP Michael Jackson brought an informational item to the Board’s attention. Currently NMT confers degrees on a monthly basis. He recommends moving conferrals to three times a year. The reason they were conferred monthly was that some employers, including the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), needed students to have conferred degrees in order to hire them. IVP Jackson said he was bringing this topic up now to see if he should go through the effort of collecting feedback before bringing it back to the Board for a vote. Regent Espinoza asked if there are a lot of students hired by organizations that need conferred degrees. IVP Jackson said only a handful. He said that his office can handle cases that need individual attention as exceptions. The Registrars Office can provide a letter to the student stating that the requirements for their degree have been met. IVP Jackson recommends that degrees be conferred in December, May, and at the end of August. He will bring the issue before the GSA, SGA, Faculty Senate, and President’s Cabinet before bringing it back to the Board of Regents. Regent Lepre asked what other institutions do regarding conferrals. IVP Jackson said others confer degrees three times a year. Chair Peacock asked if anyone objected to this and no one voiced concerns.

f) Capital Projects. VP McDaniel provided a written report and highlighted several capital projects, including the ongoing renovations at Brown Hall and that Franken Construction has been hired for the new PRRC wing of Kelly Hall, replacing the much older wing. Franken Construction is working with the architect to keep costs down on the project, which will be coming to the Board in early 2023. NMT is awaiting a letter from HED with direction on the campus locks project before moving forward with that project.

g) Research. IVP Dunbar said that according to Patricia Landavazo, Director of Finance and Business Operations for Research, research expenditures are up \$7 million this year. Although the total number of awards is down, the number of proposals submitted is up. NMT will be submitting three NSF Major Research Infrastructure (MRI) proposals in February. One will be for a new electron microprobe for the campus. Regent King asked if multiple departments shared the equipment. IVP Dunbar said that Nels Iversen from the Bureau is the PI, but faculty from other departments also are involved with the acquisition. The NSF Engines Proposal is moving forward and we are collaborating with other institutions and the private sector. NMT has three research threads in this NSF proposal. Yesterday at Copper Flats near Truth or Consequences, a group of researchers and students was determining how to sample rock waste piles. The USGS asked NMT to develop a protocol to representatively sample waste rock piles with particular attention to, looking for critical minerals. The protocol will be applied across the nation. Regent Armijo asked



about the first responders training and if more students are participating. IVP Dunbar said that enrollment is recovering from the downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic. Graduate Studies Dean Aly El-Osery is leading the VPR search committee. He reported that three candidates were recently brought to campus and the search committee gave its recommendations to the President. President Wells said that there were two finalists for the position, and he has extended an offer to one of the candidates.

h) OIC. No report.

i) Advancement. Director Foster said that as of Nov. 30, 2022, total combined revenue is \$11,771,364. This includes two outliers – a \$5 million gift from an individual donor and a \$5 million HED grant for the STEM center for education. She recently traveled to Houston and met with oil executives and top donors. NMT will be collaborating with ExxonMobil during Balloon Fiesta and 49ers in October 2023 on a solar eclipse event. NMT has seven new endowments in the month of November and the Class of 1972 created an endowment this year during 49ers. The year-end appeal is underway, with a focus on undergraduate research. For the Comprehensive Campaign, \$84 million toward the \$112 million goal has been raised.

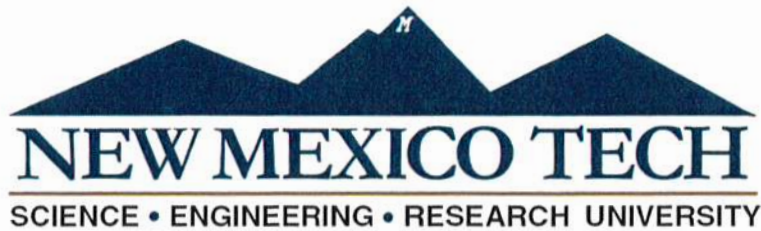
j) Bureau of Geology. Interim Director Timmons provided a 2023 Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources Calendar to members of the Cabinet and Board of Regents. Bureau staff took calendar photos and the staff as a whole picked winning selections. He said that the Dec. 1-2 Water Leaders Workshop, hosted by the Bureau of Geology, was well attended. The first day included morning presentations from content experts in water science and water policy followed by an afternoon field trip to local areas that illustrate specific water resource issues. The second day had additional presentations and a very interactive breakout session to identify current challenges and next steps for water science and policy. The Thornburg Foundation funded this year's workshop, but funding from the state may be possible in the future. Sixty-one attendees included 10 State House members, eight state senators, and four field representatives from members of Congress. He noted that credit for the successful event goes to Dr. Stacy Timmons.

k) PRRC. Director Balch said the trip to Houston last week was successful, thanks to the involvement of NMT alum John Crum. The NMT group visited four oil companies, discussed internships, and research opportunities with PRRC. President Wells added that it was one of the most productive trips he has ever been on.

l) HR. No report.

m) Faculty Senate. No report.

n) Marketing & Comm. VP McDaniel introduced and welcomed M&C Director Jimmy

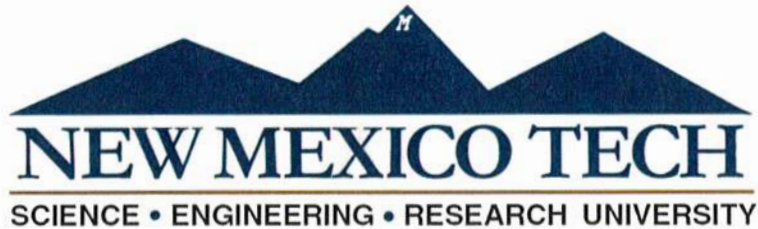


Himes, a former TV reporter, strategic communications firm owner, and adjunct faculty member at UNM. Director Himes (they/them) said their first priority is doing an intentional budgetary audit of the M&C Office to determine ROI on marketing efforts, then building out an umbrella marketing strategy. They described current projects, including a legislative fact sheet explaining our budget gap and requests, an annual report, a revised media policy covering contacts and pitches, and a radio ad campaign in support of Socorro Warriors Boys Basketball. Regent King asked if the marketing and communications plan is in concert with the NMT Strategic Plan. Director Himes said that the strategy they are working on will be informed by the NMT Strategic Plan and will include a storyline that positions NMT to reach people, especially potential students and their parents.

o) Govt. Affairs. Director Manzano said that he and President Wells have been meeting with legislators and cabinet secretaries about the report that Dennis Jones detailed at the last regents' meeting in Playas. The reception from key decision-makers is that they are very understanding about where NMT is at and want more information on what NMT will do with the increased funding if it is approved. This year's legislative session will focus on one-time money, not recurring funds. President Wells said that they are meeting with people who could be champions for NMT and he is very pleased with the reaction from both sides of the aisle. Director Manzano said the state revenue forecast shows \$3.6 billion in new money available – the highest revenue surplus in state history. Capital outlay and RPSP protocols are changing for how proposals are presented. Director Manzano expects a rough session even with more revenue available. Regent Lepre added that despite the revenue surplus, there are concerns about long-term growth beyond oil and gas revenue and the need to attract businesses to New Mexico. He said that there's a lot of support in the Legislature for adult education and dual-credit courses. Another issue is the state budget reserve, usually 4-5%. Former Gov. Johnson wanted to see it at 8%. The general push from Santa Fe is: ask. Let the Legislature know what they get for more funding and what they would be investing in at NMT, show the value of what NMT does and how RPSPs are integrated into NMT's programs. There were no changes to the funding formula this year, only tweaks. Regent King said that HERC also supports the behavioral health and cybersecurity priorities.

p) PRTC. No report.

q) President's Report. President Wells thanked Chair Peacock for her 12 years serving as a NMT Regent. Chair Peacock expressed her sincere appreciation for her service to NMT and wished President Wells and the rest of the Board members continued success.



5. Information Items.

a) NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates. Regent King said they are revamping the bylaws and that another meeting is set for tomorrow (Dec. 16).

b) NM HERC Updates. Regent King said they still have to have a meeting to approve priorities. They will not be having a summit this year, but will have the usual training.

c) NMT Legislative Updates. Regent Lepre provided his report after Director Manzano's report.

d) NMT Student Updates. No report.

e) Degree Conferrals for September 2022. IVP Jackson previously announced he is working on a proposal to change NMT's procedures for degree conferral approvals. September 2022 degree conferrals are in the packet.

f) Restricted Fund Purchase Notification of Awards >\$100k. VP McDaniel said that information for the requests is in the packet.

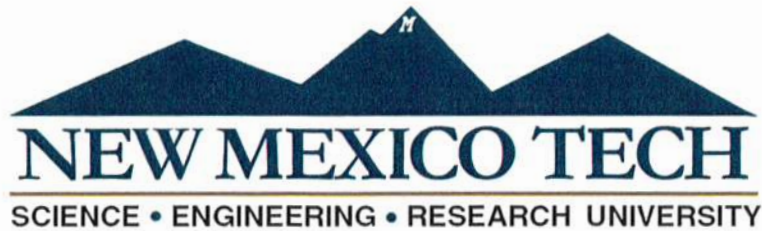
g) NMT eSports Demonstration. eSports Director Damian Banks provided an overview of the sport and said that 400 students on five teams play four different games at NMT. Director Banks said although NMT is ahead of its peer schools on eSports, especially because NMT has its own training facility, the university needs to provide more scholarships to bring in more players and get the NMT name out. He said that NMT's program is the strongest in New Mexico, but the university is still behind the West Coast. He also said many students come to NMT having never played a sport before. Playing on a team in a competitive environment is a good experience for them, they bond with fellow team members, and eSports offers a pathway to student engagement.

6. Action Items

a) Approval of October 25, 2022 Minutes. Regent King moved to approve the minutes. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b) Approval of NMHED Qtr. Cert. for 09/30/22. VP McDaniel said the standard quarterly report is in the packet. Regent Armijo moved to approve the report. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c) Approval of Unrestricted Budget Adj. Request #1. VP McDaniel said that an adjustment is needed to reflect fall semester enrollment. Regent Armijo moved to approve the request. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Regent Lepre said that when there are two new regents in the spring, there should be an orientation with budget information and the origin of research projects and how they tie into strategies. He will work with VP McDaniel and the other VPs to put together this



orientation in late April or May. Chair Peacock said that it might be a good idea to have the orientation take place in the morning of a regular board meeting.

d) Approval of NMHED Capital Project. VP McDaniel said that this is the resubmittal of the road project at Playas, with a change in scope – increased road space. Regent Armijo moved approval of the project. Regent King seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

e) Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$250K. VP McDaniel said this request concerns the Elsevier Publishing Co. subscription at Skeen Library and reflects successful negotiations. Regent Espinoza moved to approve and Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

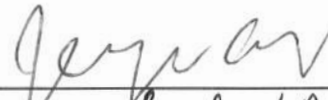
f) Approval of University Flexible Work Policy. HR Director Salome and AVP Romero presented the University Flexible Work Policy. Several comments were made about clarifying terms and requirements. Regent King moved to table the policy’s approval and Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Director Salome said she would bring the policy back to the Board of Regents in February.

g) Approval of NMT Strategic Plan. AVP Student Life Phaiah said his committee was tasked by President Wells to revamp the strategic plan. The Faculty Senate recently accepted the new plan unanimously. It went through multiple vetting with students, faculty, and community members. The plan has six strategic themes, each with a steering committee. The plan builds in accountability, metrics, and a timeline. It also ties into the Enrollment Management Plan. He said that the committee is ready to start implementing the plan. Regent Lepre asked about the mission statement and if it’s uninspiring language could be improved to include words that motivate. AVP Phaiah said that the plan is a living document and can be re-worded. Regent Lepre said he would provide some ideas and the committee can use them as they see fit. Regent Armijo moved approval of the strategic plan and Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. AVP Phaiah said he will provide ongoing reports on the plan to the Regents.

7. Individual Board Member Comments. Chair Peacock thanked Regent Espinoza for serving two terms as student regent. Regent Espinoza’s term ends in February. President Wells said that it has been a real pleasure to work with Regent Espinoza and she has been a stellar regent and didn’t hold back any hard questions. Regent King asked where NMT is at with the student regent selection process. VP Greene said there were five candidates who applied and three names were forwarded to the Governor’s Office. Regent Espinoza said she would help the person selected through the transition process. VP Greene said that his office would reach out to her for assistance.

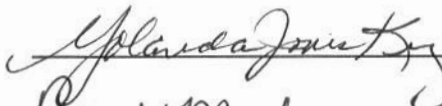
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8. **New Business.** The next meeting will be February 3, 2023, at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe. The following meeting will be March 3, also in Santa Fe.
9. **Executive Session.** NMSA 1978, Sec 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Armijo, the Board adjourned its regular meeting at 3:58 p.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 4:35 p.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 Secretary/Treasurer

Attest:

 Secretary-Treasurer
 Board Member