

**Board of Regents Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 12, 2020  
Macey Center – Galena Room  
New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, N.M.**

**Zoom Webinar**

***MINUTES***

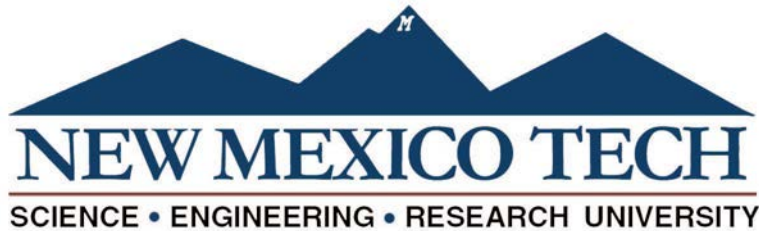
The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Monday, October 12, 2020, with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. All board members were present: Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells  
Vanessa Grain  
Juliann Ulibarri  
Cleve McDaniel  
Peter Phaiah  
Doug Wells  
Van Romero  
Nelia Dunbar  
Robert Balch  
David Manzano

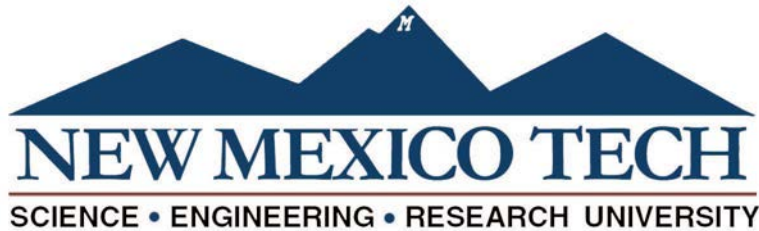
Michael Hargather  
Colleen Foster  
JoAnn Salome  
Peter Anselmo  
Henry Prager  
Quincy Bradfield  
Mark Adams  
Thom Guengerich  
Gloria Gutierrez  
Jenny Ma

BJ Lesperance  
Carlos Romero

- 1. Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chair announced that the meeting was a regular meeting but would also be streamed via Zoom Webinar. Regent Peacock said there would be no roll-call votes since all the Regents were in attendance.
  - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and *El Defensor Chieftain*.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** Regent King moved to approve the agenda as presented. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 3. Public Comment.**
  - a) None
- 4. Recurring Reports.**
  - a) **SGA President, Mr. Quincy Bradfield.** Mr. Bradfield reported that the SGA is hosting virtual events for the 2020 49ers Celebration. He encouraged the Regents to watch the skit the SGA filmed with President Wells.

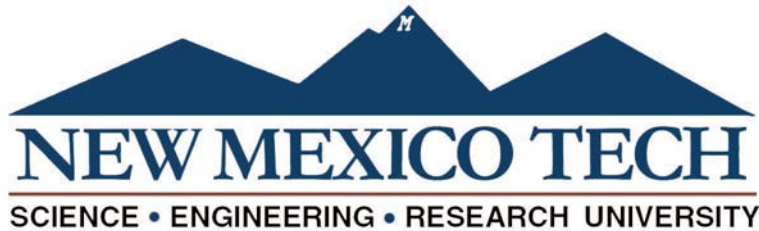


- b) **GSA President, Mr. Henry Prager.** Mr. Prager reported the GSA has approved two travel grants for \$1,000 (out of \$5,000 available). He said the Department of Homeland Security has proposed new rules for international travel students, changing visa rules to require a minimum stay. The GSA has had two meetings to discuss events. Trivia night, murder mystery night, and a grad student research symposium are scheduled – all will be online via Zoom. Mr. Prager said costs have gone down, so the GSA is considering refunding fees to grad students. He also said graduate students are now serving on the Faculty Senate committee as volunteers.
- c) **Office of Student Life, AVP Dr. Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah reported that the search is under way for the next student regent. The new student regent will replace Regent Espinoza, whose term ends on December 31, 2020. AVP Phaiah presented a COVID report process to vet all in-person events. NMT now has an official mechanism for screening and vetting events. NMT collaborated with the N.M. Department of Health to host drive-through screening for the NMT community and local residents with about 70 people tested. AVP Phaiah updated the Board on ongoing efforts to adopt Title IX updates. His office is organizing Debate Watch events for the election season. A voter registration was held October 1 and 2 and AVP Phaiah provided a recap of events on campus for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the suffrage movement. He summarized efforts on campus to address mental health issues specifically related to the pandemic. AVP Phaiah said 461 students have been tested, and NMT is working with the Dept. of Health to get weekly numbers about testing.
- d) **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Dr. Doug Wells.** VP Wells reported that the student credit hours are down 1 percent; student headcount is down about 8 percent, with the reduction almost entirely in “special students” category. New students are up 10 percent, and new grad students are up 60 percent. Retention, persistence, and the six-year graduation rate are at all-time highs, VP Wells reported. Regent Gonzales pointed out that NMT has achieved many of the metrics set out several years ago. He said he’s happy with results and gave congratulations to the NMT team.
- e) **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Dr. Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel said tuition revenue is within \$53,000 of budget for FY21. He said Jones Hall work is moving forward on schedule. The Deju House is about to begin site work for a 10-month construction project. Brown Hall renovations have seen floorplans completed, but the project is on hiatus for a year. He said the parking lot on College Avenue has been paved and lined, as well as lit. The Burton house, which was purchased by the NMT Foundation, is on the corner of Leroy and College. VP McDaniel said NMT will survey the house and determine the level of renovations that are needed. He said NMT is planning on two tours of the Bursum House, one for renovations and another for estimates.
- f) **Office of Research, VP Dr. Van Romero.** VP Romero said NMT is now doing contact tracing manually, which is feasible because of NMT’s size. He said NMT is trying to implement an automated system via a cell phone app. NMSU has developed an app, which NMT is adapting. He hopes to have the app in beta test by Oct. 23. VP Romero



said the effort to bring rapid testing to NMT is ongoing. He said UTEP has started rapid testing, which is advantageous because of the 10-hour turnaround, but is disadvantageous because of 10 percent false negative rate.

- g) **Office of Innovation Commercialization, Director Dr. Peter Anselmo.** President Wells announced that Director Anselmo has submitted retirement plans, effective at the end of the fall 2020 semester. Director Anselmo said he's pushing ahead with commercialization projects, including those previously presented to the board that are going on in cooperation with NMSU, and with Dr. Lorie Liebrock and the Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity.
- h) **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster was not available. Assoc. Director Lisa Majkowski reported that fundraising is still on the rise. The golf tournament raised more than \$170,000 and received positive feedback. She summarized 49ers events. She also mentioned the Burton House, which was previously mentioned by VP McDaniel. She said the comprehensive campaign official cabinet kicked off on October 6 and is proceeding full-steam ahead.
  - NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar reported that the latest book on Southern New Mexico Parks and Monuments won first place in the SW Book Design competition. She reported on two parallel water projects. The Bureau has established an agreement with Navajo Technical University and a new agreement with Navajo Nation to study wells on the reservation. Director Dunbar also said that, in addition to students, NMT should consider employees with addressing mental health issues on campus.
- i) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** Director Balch said the funding for the Carbon Safe 3 project with Enchant officially started October 1 with \$11 million for the first year of funding. He said the PRRC's fiber membrane system is close to having a pilot project in place with a Native American pueblo. The PRRC also continues to commercialize the same fiber membrane water purification system with the oil-and-gas industry in New Mexico. Director Balch said companies such as Bison, Oxy, and NRG have expressed interest in the system. The membranes are being made in Socorro, assembled in Farmington, and then distributed from there.
- j) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** No report
- k) **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Tom Engler.** VP Wells introduced the new Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Michael Hargather. He had nothing new to report. President Wells thanked Dr. Engler for his years of service.
- l) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** Director Lepre summarized statewide and national media mentions for NMT. He said a press release about the national rankings was picked up by TV stations, radio stations, and other outlets. The MOU signing with Navajo Technical University was picked up by the Journal, TV stations, and six media outlets in the Four Corners. The press release about the COVID nasal spray was aired by the Albuquerque TV news affiliates and many other outlets. He said VP Romero was featured on Nightline to talk about the Beirut explosion. He said the New York Times is following NMT's COVID-19 Dashboard online. Director



Lepre said the Office of Marketing and Communications is heavily invested in recruitment efforts, and each staff member is contributing to the effort.

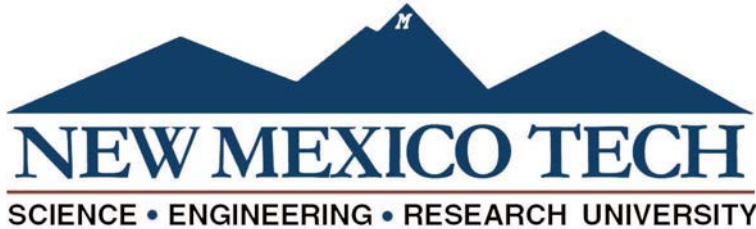
- m) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** Director Manzano said the state revenue outlook is uncertain, but it looks bright. He said FY22 revenue outlooks range from \$7.6 billion to \$7.8 billion, demonstrating the level of uncertainty. He said N.M. lost about 100,000 jobs in April 2020, and only one-third of them had been recovered by August. He said there are only 45 petroleum rigs active in New Mexico, compared to more than 100 at this time last year.
- n) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells said the new daily screening form online is live, and students have responded well. Prizes are being offered to those who participate the most. He said NMT is strongly encouraging students to be smart during 49ers, especially to those who choose to leave Socorro. President Wells announced that the Commencement Speaker Committee is in place and has selected a speaker from three candidates. Dr. Jill Tarter, known for her work on SETI, was selected as the commencement speaker. Tarter was also the inspiration for Jody Foster's character in the movie "Contact." President Wells said the event at Navajo Technical University was a great success. The NTU leadership provided a warm reception, and President Wells said he sees this MOU as a great opportunity for both institutions.

## 5. Information Items

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo had no report
- b) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board acknowledged the August 2020 graduate list.
- c) **Restricted Funds Purchase.** VP McDaniel presented a list of restricted funds purchases over \$100,000.
- d) **SunZia Presentation by Ms. Lorelee Hunt.** Ms. Hunt gave a detailed presentation about SunZia's project, which includes installation of electricity transmission lines across New Mexico Tech property. She detailed the route of lines and, if approved, the payments that the company would make to NMT for land lease and to an annual scholarship fund. The company proposed to fund scholarships for the next 40 years, starting at \$125,465 per year and increasing 3 percent annually. Ms. Hunt presented a series of slides that included maps of the transmission lines, funding overview, maps, diagrams, and a complete field report.

## 6. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of August 24, 2020, Minutes.** Regent King moved to approve the minutes as presented. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Approval of NMHED Quarterly Certification for September 30, 2020.** VP McDaniel explained the report. Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion passed unanimously



- c) **Approval of FY 2020 New Mexico Higher Education Endowment Report.** VP McDaniel explained the report. Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of FY 2021 Research and Public Service Projects (RPSPs) Ranking and Funding Requests.** VP McDaniel presented the plan. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of Property Resolutions #201012-01 and #201012-02.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed unanimously

**7. Individual Board Member Comments.** None

**8. New Business.**

- a) The next meeting will be Friday, November 20, 2020 at a location to be determined.

**9. Executive Session.** NMSA 1978, Sec.10-15-1 (H)(2), (If required to Consider Legal or Personnel Matters). On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales, the Board unanimously adjourned its regular session at 3:15 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 personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session.** The meeting reconvened at 5:10 p.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed.

Regent Armijo moved to authorize NMT Administration in conjunction with Chair Peacock to work with SunZia and New Mexico Tech legal counsel to renegotiate contract provisions and finalize documents. Regent King seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**11. Adjournment.** Regent Armijo moved to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. Regent King seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

DocuSigned by:  
*Deborah Peacock*  
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**President**

**Attest:** DocuSigned by:  
*Jerry Armijo*  
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**Secretary- Treasurer**