

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Board of Regents
1 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2015
N.M. Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources Conference Room
New Mexico Tech Campus / Socorro, New Mexico

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:01 p.m. with Board of Regents Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Armijo presiding in the absence of Chair Deborah Peacock. Other Board members present were Regent David Gonzales, Regent Donald Monette and Student Regent Myissa Weiss. University administrators, staff, and guests who were also present included:

Daniel H. López	Richard Jimenez	Mark Adams
Warren Ostergren	Robert Lee	George Veni
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Dave Raymond	Miguel Hidalgo
Van Romero	Leyla Sedillo	Iver Davidson
Lonnie Marquez	Mary Dezember	Steven Wimberly
Lala Garcia	JoAnn Salome	Isaiah Ware
Richard Cervantes	Gina Chavez	Thomas Guengerich
John Meason	Mona Torres	Valerie Kimble
Greer Price		

1. **Proof of Meeting Notice.** The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Regent Armijo who announced that illness prevented Chair Peacock from attending the meeting, and that Regent Gonzales was en route. The President affirmed that proper legal notice had been given as required by the Open Meetings Act (OMA).
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent Armijo temporarily suspended an Executive Session (Agenda Item 3) pending the arrival of Regent Gonzales. Regent Monette moved to approve the Agenda. Regent Weiss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Later, consistent with the published Agenda, the Board agreed to meet in executive session at the close of the meeting.)
3. **Executive Session – Review of President’s Performance & Compensation.** Delayed.
4. **Minutes.** The minutes from the April 12, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Weiss and a second from Regent Monette.
5. **Announcements.**
Experimental Sounding Rocket Team. Dr. Ostergren introduced Mechanical Engineering students Steven Wimberly and Isaiah Ware, team leaders for the rocket launch project. They gave a brief presentation about the team’s successful test launch of a nine-foot, five-inch, 42-pound rocket with 520 pounds of thrust. Videos were shown of the 8 a.m. liftoff from the N.M. Spaceport, with the rocket reaching a speed of Mach 0.8. “It was a near-perfect mission and quite a compliment to the students,” said Dr. Ostergren. “We’re very proud of all of you,” said Regent Armijo, adding that they represented New Mexico Tech very well.

Graduation Ceremony. The President outlined the schedule for the May 9 Commencement, starting with breakfast in Brown Hall and leading up to the 10 a.m. ceremony outside. A contingent plan is in place in case of inclement weather.

Enrollment Updates. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming reported that “everything is falling into place” for the start of the 2015 fall semester. Compared with last year, new and transfer students are up by 71 and residence halls are up more than 60 beds.

Advancement Report. Regents were handed a written report by Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming which she summarized, saying both gifts and Foundation numbers were up; the report also listed current endeavors. It was noted that Dr. Romero and Advancement Director Colleen Guengerich were taking a prospective donor to tour MRO later that evening.

Department Chair Assignments. Dr. Ostergren announced three department chair transitions: In Computer Science and Engineering, Dr. Her-Yuan Chen will succeed Dr. Subhasish Mazumdar; Dr. Steve Simpson will chair the CLASS Department, succeeding Dr. Sue Dunston and Dr. Doug Dunston, who had been serving on an interim basis; and Dr. Frank Reinow will succeed longtime Management Chair Dr. Peter Anselmo.

Accreditation. President López told Regents he would bring the final HLC reaccreditation report to them once finalized; however, a preliminary report was very positive. The University has responded in a letter asking the HLC to reconsider in Part V of the report, five of seven areas cited as satisfactory but with concern. Evidence was provided in writing supporting the request to remove concern comments. Dr. Dezember, who headed the reaccreditation effort for New Mexico Tech, said she was very pleased, and expressed her thanks for the support given her throughout the process.

Introduction of Approved Faculty Promotions. (This actually took place later in the meeting.) Dr. Ostergren introduced four faculty whose promotions were approved at the April meeting: Associate Professor Steve Simpson, Professor Bixiang Wang, Professor Gary Axen and Professor Richard Sonnenfeld.

Other. Dr. Romero reported much activity in D.C., and a positive outlook for FY16. Among endeavors under way, PRRC will seek funding for a large program on clean energy at \$25 million per year through RPSEA, a university consortium of which New Mexico Tech is a member.

6. **Approval of May 2015 Graduates.** (This item was moved forward in the Agenda from Item 7). Dr. Ostergren advised Regents that the Faculty Senate had reviewed and approved the list of graduates at its meeting earlier in the day. Robbie Cook, who died in 2014, will receive a posthumous regular degree and Brandon McKenzie, who died in early May, will be awarded an actual degree. Representatives of both families will receive diplomas on behalf of the young men. President López then recommended Board approval for the list of graduates. Regent Weiss moved that Regents delegate to the President the authority to confer degrees to all students listed. Regent Monette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
7. **Public Comment.** Dr. George Veni, Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) in Carlsbad, presented copies of NCKRI’s Annual Report and reiterated an invitation he made last year inviting Regents to meet in Carlsbad and tour the new facility “which we hope to finish soon.” Dr. Veni said NCKRI was working out details of a federal appropriation increase with its partners at the National Parks Service. Regent Armijo said the Board would try to schedule a meeting in Carlsbad this year.
8. **Human Resources Employee Handbook.** Ms. Salome presented for Board approval the new Employee Handbook which includes suggested changes from faculty, staff and Regents. Legal

counsel also had reviewed its contents. Ms. Salome called the compilation “a living document.” The Handbook will be posted online, with copies to be given to new employees. Regent Armijo thanked Ms. Salome for her hard work and forwarded gratitude from Chair Peacock who assisted with the final review. Regent Monette asked if current employees will confirm that they have read the Handbook, and should it be kept on file. Regent Monette moved that the Handbook be approved. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. **Presidential Search – Job Description and Schedule.** Regent Armijo forwarded comments from Chair Peacock that the job description for the successor to President López be detailed and include information about the quality of New Mexico Tech “to encourage talented people to apply.” Regents have three options in developing the job description: write it themselves, delegate the assignment to a search company, or a combination of the two. Regent Armijo said his preference, supported by Chair Peacock, is to go with a longer job description, rely on staff for input and solicit advice from a search firm. “We could approve it at the retreat,” he said. “We want to proceed cautiously and do this in the best possible light.” Regent Monette moved to postpone any action until an RFP for the search firm has been made. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. President López presented the Board with a revised succession schedule from Chair Peacock that provides ample time for a transition period. Any glaring omission, he said, can be corrected at the June meeting. “Our intent is to make the process transparent and collaborative,” noted Regent Armijo, adding that the questionnaire sent out in April drew 120 comments from faculty and staff, and 80 comments from students.
10. **Financial Analysis for March 2015.** Mr. Marquez reported that all departments were operating within their budgets. Deficits in the Geophysical Research Center and Science Fair will be covered with end-of-the-year surpluses. Regent Weiss cited faculty frustration at funds transferred to the performing arts. Mr. Marquez explained that the \$10,000 transfer to the Performing Arts Series was from overhead funds. “Faculty brings in the least overhead,” said the President, adding that EMRTC and other units bring in the majority of the overhead. The \$10,000, he said, was not an overly generous amount. Dr. Romero noted that the performing arts provide social activities, a strong selling point for potential employees. Following a short discussion, Regent Weiss moved to approve the financial analysis. Regent Monette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
11. **Quarterly Financial Report.** Mr. Marquez explained that the quarterly report is in the GASB format showing revenues, the original budget, final and actuals. The final financial report will be the actual audit. During discussion, it was discovered that a line in the budget had inadvertently been omitted due to a cut-and-paste error. Ms. Sedillo apologized, saying it would be corrected immediately and she would send Regents the corrected version. Regent Weiss moved to approve the quarterly report subject to correction. Regent Monette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
12. **FY’16 Operating Budget.** Mr. Marquez provided a brief outline of the New Mexico Tech budget for FY16 which includes projected revenues from the 5 percent tuition increase approved in April. A brief discussion followed. Regent Monette then moved to approve the FY16 operating budget. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ms. Sedillo and Ms. Aafloy were recognized for their assistance.
13. **Unrestricted Fund Purchases.** President López requested Board approval for a \$393,000, three-year contract with Atkinson & Company for auditing services. The company, which is the University’s current auditor, was one of seven bidders. Regent Weiss moved to approve the contract. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

14. **Security Managerial Group Resolution.** The President recommended that Regents approve the resolution that excludes them from having access to any of the documents and related classified work under contract with the government. After a brief explanation by President López of the rationale for adopting the resolution, Regent Monette moved to approve the resolution. Regent Weiss seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
15. **Emeritus Status Requests.** Mr. Price requested Regents grant emeritus status to Gretchen Hoffman, a senior coal geologist with the N.M. Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources for 35 years. Emeritus status would enable Ms. Hoffman to remain as a member of the state's Coal Surface Mining Commission. Regent Monette moved for approval. Regent Weiss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The President next recommended the Board approve emeritus status for Mr. Price as he closes out a long, distinguished career culminating in four years as director of the Bureau. Regent Monette moved for approval followed by a second from Regent Gonzales. The motion passed unanimously.
16. **Property Items Resolutions, Reference NMSA 1978, 13-6-1.** Regents unanimously approved four resolutions to dispose of surplus, worn out or obsolete property items on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Gonzales.
17. **Degree Conferrals – March & April.** The Board was notified that two Bachelor of Science degrees and one Doctor of Philosophy were conferred in March. Three degrees were conferred in April: one Bachelor of Science, one Master of Science and one Master of Science for Teachers.
18. **Notification of Award.** Regents were apprised of four, multi-year contracts awarded through EMRTC for contract support and instruction. Account numbers must be changed annually to the year-by-year contracts.
19. **Employee Benefit Trust.** The Board recessed at 2:44 p.m. to convene as the Benefit Trust. Mr. Marquez reported that claims are down and the Trust paid another \$250,000 on its loan from the University and has \$647,000 in its account. "We received a good report from the administrator," he said, adding that new incentives will be offered to enroll additional employees. The Trust adjourned at 2:45 p.m. and reconvened as the Board of Regents.
20. **New Business – Retreat Topics.** President López recommended that any background material needed from staff for the June retreat be requested as soon as possible, and that plans can be finalized via email between now and the retreat.
21. **Board Member Comments.** Regent Weiss posed an idea to her fellow Board members, to increase communication between Regents and faculty, perhaps through an open forum. "I see these people every day . . . it's my responsibility to speak for them," she said. Direct Board member communications with any employee is a slippery slope, noted Regent Armijo. "Micromanaging is not our purview," he said. "A faculty representative is at our table every meeting, and information is delivered in an open and transparent manner." Regent Armijo said he would not support open forums. "This is a good discussion to have, on why things work the way they work," said Regent Gonzales. He also thanked Dr. Dezember for her work on reaccreditation, while Regent Monette took the opportunity to thank everyone who worked on the Strategic Plan. Regent Monette suggested a notification system to apprise students of local activities to keep them in Socorro. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming suggested students sign up for notification at the information fair each fall.

22. **Executive Session – Review of President’s Performance & Compensation (originally listed as Item 3).** Regents adjourned their regular meeting at 3:03 p.m. on a roll call vote to meet in executive session as per the stated cause above. The Board reconvened in open session at 3:43 p.m. Regent Armijo announced that the only item discussed was the President’s performance and compensation. Regents unanimously agreed that President López had met his 2014 goals and had exhibited exemplary job performance, and that his compensation would be modified for the coming year. Regent Monette made a motion to increase the President’s salary by 2 percent. Regent Weiss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. An accompanying issue is goals for 2015. Regent Gonzales moved to approve the new list of goals with the addition of an amendment to focus on student professionalism. Regent Monette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
23. **Adjournment.** There being no further business to bring before the Board, Regent Armijo adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

President