

Board of Regents Special Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2025

8:00 am

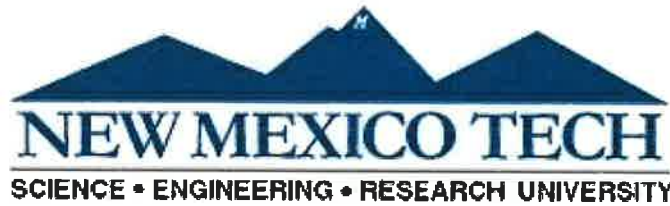
Public Zoom Webinar

<https://nmt-edu.zoom.us/j/97703739901>

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order.** Regent Chair Dr. David Lepre Sr. called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and recognized other Regents attending: Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Board Secretary/Treasurer; Regent Jerry Armijo and Regent Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala. Student Regent Cody Johnston was absent. University administration was represented by Acting President, Michael Jackson, Vice Presidents Delilah Walsh, Lique Coolen, and David Greene. Other attendees included Vanessa Grain, Bob Balch, and Attorney Jenica Jacobi along with various guests online as public attendees.
 - a) Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Vanessa Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. She explained the notice was distributed in compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and the Office of the Attorney General's guidance on virtual meetings. Chair Lepre read a formal statement affirming the meeting's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. He noted that roll call votes would be used for all actions and requested that all participants clearly identify themselves when speaking. He also clarified that the Zoom webinar link had been made publicly available.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved on a motion by Regent King and a second by Regent Mukkamala on a roll call vote conducted by Ms. Grain.
- 3. Public Comment.** None.
- 4. Action Items.**
 - a) Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchases >\$300k**
 - Daniel B. Stephens & Associates - (\$500,000)
 - Geotech Ltd. - (\$750,000)
 - INTERA Inc. - (\$1,000,000)
 - S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates - (\$1,300,000)
 - WSP USA Inc. - (\$1,750,000)
 - Strata Information Group (SIG) - (\$400,769)
 - Presbyterian Healthcare Services (PHS) - (\$327,483)

Chair Lepre recommended a single motion to approve the first five Unrestricted Fund purchases, as all pertained to hydrogeological services through the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. VPAF Delilah Walsh requested administrative



authority to proceed with the awards, good for up to four years. A special \$7.5 million legislative appropriation to the Bureau for aquifer characterization and monitoring has a strict June 30, 2026 spending deadline, necessitating prompt Board action. VP Walsh explained that as IDIQ projects, services could be performed with spending limits. It was noted that the five firms include both New Mexico and international companies. Regent Armijo moved for approval, followed by a second by Regent Mukkamala. The motion passed on a roll call vote by Ms. Grain.

VP Walsh continued: The SIG Group provides Banner support, a project supported by a \$3.5 million special appropriation, which also has a June 30, 2026 spending deadline. A contract with the Ellucian firm approved by Regents in July to implement an SAS software program allows NMT to hire an experienced Banner SAS project manager. This special meeting is an opportune time to bring the issue forward for Board approval. Regent Mukkamala so moved. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote by Ms. Grain.

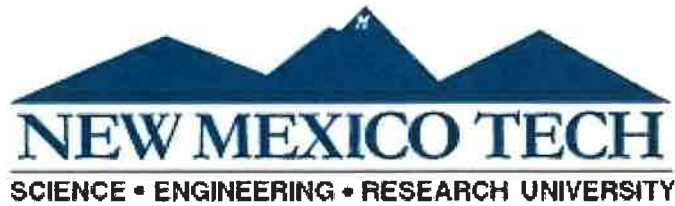
The contract with PHC, which provides services/staff for the University's Student Health Center, expires Sept. 14. The special meeting ideally allows for contract approval before the Board's Sept. 15 regular session. Regent King moved for approval. Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote by Ms. Grain.

5. Individual Board Member Comments.

Regent Armijo noted that NMT and the state's national labs were mentioned in a recent newspaper article regarding an expansion project by a California firm that would bring 300 well-paying engineering jobs to the state. VPR and Provost Dr. Lique Coolen commented that the University is very much a part of the process. Under NDA rules, she could provide few details, but noted Tech's unique research and testing capabilities and workforce development as assets in bringing the project to New Mexico. Chair Lepre congratulated President Jackson on a successful Convocation, and the need to be energetic and positive as the Institute moves forward.

6. Announcements and New Business.

- Chair Lepre announced that HED Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez will visit campus Sept. 4. Regent King suggested having students join the Secretary for lunch to acquaint her with beneficiaries of Tech's scholarship programs. The Regent added that the University's Research Park Corp. Board of Directors recently concluded a great strategic planning effort.
- At the suggestion of Chair Lepre, Regent Mukkamala agreed to arrange a meeting with the Research Subcommittee to develop evaluation criteria and



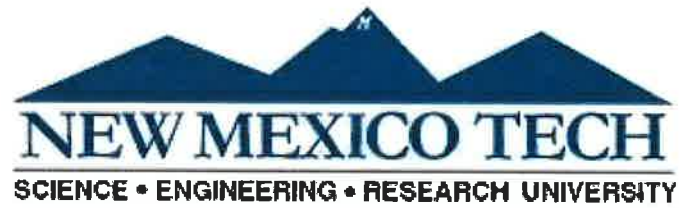
priorities for NMT's RPSP programs for Board consideration at its Sept. 15 regular meeting.

- The Chair noted the need to set institutional priorities well in advance of the 2026 Legislative session. VP Walsh reported that over the summer, criteria and priorities for one-time and recurring fund requests were set and built into a matrix. She will meet with Chair Lepre to arrange a special budget meeting. The Cabinet will review RSPS proposals on Aug. 28; these and Board priorities then can easily be incorporated into the matrix.
- Chair Lepre reported that the process to appoint an Interim President is moving forward; and, once the individual is on board, a planning meeting with President Jackson and others can be arranged through Ms. Grain. The goal is to review the calendar for 2026 to map out key dates and events, to avoid doing things at the last minute and being caught off-guard. The Chair explained that a coordinated effort through subcommittees and other discussions will help Tech prepare for possible eventualities. These meetings will comply with the Open Meetings Act, he added.
- Regent King announced plans to invite all members of the NMTRPC Board to campus to engage them in learning why New Mexico Tech excels in many fields of research and academic disciplines. As non-alumni, board members may be unfamiliar with the University's unique qualities; this is an opportunity to bring them up to speed.
- Regent Armijo reported that Chair Lepre had appointed Student Regent Cody Johnston and himself to serve on the Enrollment Subcommittee. Both Regents have accepted President Jackson's invitation to join the restructured Enrollment Management Committee; its first formal meeting is Aug. 29.

7. Executive Session, Chair Lepre. NMSA 1978, Sec 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). None.

8. 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, Chair Lepre. None.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 am on a motion by Regent King and a second by Regent Armijo following a roll call vote by Ms. Grain.



David A. Lepre

Chair, David Lepre Sr.

Attest:

Yolanda Jones King

Secretary-Treasurer, Yolanda Jones King