



## **Board of Regents Regular Meeting**

***Monday, July 21, 2025***

***9:00 am***

***Hyatt Tamaya Resort Council Room***

***1300 Tuyuna Trail, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004***

### **MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Chair Dr. David Lepre Sr. called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and recognized other Regents attending: Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Board Secretary/Treasurer; Regent Jerry Armijo, Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala, and Regent Cody Johnston.

University administration was represented by President Mahyar Amouzegar, Vice Presidents Michael Jackson, Delilah Walsh, Lique Coolen, and David Greene. Other attendees included Jennifer Raney, Colleen Foster, JoAnn Salome, Sandi Lucero, Brandon Boulter, David Manzano, Michael Smith, Bob Balch, Mathew Gallegos, Vanessa Grain, Juliann Ulibarri, and Attorney Jenica Jacobi along with various guest attendees.

- a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Vanessa Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and *El Defensor Chieftain*.

2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent Yolanda King made a motion to approve the Agenda with two changes under 7) Action Items: moving Personnel Action Items (7c) to follow the Executive Session, and adding (7d) Appointments to the NMRPC Board of Directors. Regent Cody Johnston seconded the motion, which passed.

3. **Public Comment.** None.

4. **Regent Committee Reports.**

- a) **NMT Foundation Updates.** Regent Jerry Armijo reported on the Foundation Board's recent quarterly meeting, noting that the Foundation's current funding is consistent with historical levels in terms of providing support for scholarships, administration salaries and the President. In addition, while NMT owns the Mountain Springs apartment complex, the Institute gave notice to the Foundation that it will not renew its lease, which expires in 2026, for the 47-unit complex as the cost to bring the building up to code is not a justifiable expense.

- b) **NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates.** Regent King recognized VPR Dr. Lique Coolen for her work in aligning NMT's internal research process with Research Park strategic planning.
- c) **NM HERC Updates.** Regent King reported results from HERC's recent elections: Michael Martin of Northern NM University, President, and NMSU Regent Deborah Romero, Secretary/Treasurer. Trish Ruiz, Board of Regents President at ENMU, remains Vice President. HERC also continues its goal to hire an executive director.
- d) **Regent Finance Subcmt/Legislative Updates.** Chair Lepre announced that NMT is in line to receive an estimated \$400k share of retention funds provided to the state. He reported on a conversation he and Regent King had with HED Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez, noting that the Department expressed support for NMT's proposed Student Wellness Center and working with the University on a research collective. They invited Secretary Rodriguez, a proponent of economic development and commercialization, to visit the NMT campus.
- e) **Regent Research Subcmt.** Regent Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala reported ongoing collaborations with VPR Coolen in taking a comprehensive look at NMT's overall research strategy, the first-time for the Institute to try to articulate a strategic point of view. One focus is to do a better job in "pitching" NMT at the correct levels by developing a simple but effective approach. Chair Lepre noted discussions on putting together a research overview to hand out to legislators and others, delineating Tech research initiatives as separate from RPSP proposals. Regent Mukkamala will update the Board at its next meeting on working with VPR Coolen to develop a new depth of meaning to Tech research.
- f) **Student Updates.** Regent Johnston had no updates.

## 5. Info Items.

- a) **Faculty Senate.** Chair Dr. Linda DeVeaux had no updates.
- b) **Staff Council.** Co-chair Val Thomas, also speaking for Co-chair Haley Hanson, highlighted Staff Council activities in reviving a group that dissolved some 20 years ago. She announced Council election results, three standing committees and ad-hoc members, thanking those who volunteered to serve. Ms. Thomas is working with HR Director JoAnn Salome to recognize, to a broad audience, outstanding staff contributions and employees who enrich the efforts of their peers. Regent Armijo thanked Ms. Thomas for her work in reopening communication channels with staff through the Council, especially the goal of returning to an historical model of a homegrown workforce, echoed by Chair Lepre. The Board Chair will make himself available to the Council as needed, citing the need to openly discuss difficult issues.
- c) **HLC Open Letter: Reaffirmation of Accreditation with Interim Monitoring.** VPAA and Provost Dr. Michael Jackson told Regents that the next HLC reaccreditation visit will take place in the 2034-2035 year. Meanwhile, two Interim Reports recommended by the Commission and due Oct. 1, 2027, pertain to: 1) Establishing practices and policies to ensure fair and ethical behavior by

members of the Board of Regents. 2a) Develop a process to systematically review the Course Catalog (and website) for accuracy and consistently; and 2b) Clarify time-on-task regarding labs, field trips and the like to ensure syllabi compatibility with catalog/website descriptions. Chair Lepre added that it is important for the Board to begin the process of crafting policies for members to include conflict-of-interest. A presentation by a qualified advisor after tomorrow's breakfast will be followed by a Board discussion.

**d) Research Presentation.** VPR Coolen presented an overview of research at NMT; how research influences all elements of the University; the need to diversify funding sources; the grant proposal process; and working with other universities and entities at the state, and federal levels. Among research highlights were the Safety and Compliance Office focus on providing education and training for faculty and students; the recent establishment of an NSF-funded hydrology-related center; and its mission to ignite, support and safeguard research and scholarship across the University, working closely with Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Finance. She explained one goal is to energize communities locally, state- and nationwide and society as a whole. Among discussion issues were the federal Golden Dome project; marketing strategies; and strengthening relationships with Los Alamos (LANL) and Sandia National Laboratories, including creating a simple and creative event to draw lab directors to campus. Regent Mukkamala suggested the Institute stretch and elevate itself toward such strategic discussions.

**e) President's Updates.** President Mahyar Amouzegar referenced the recent two-day retreat at Playas, in noting key conversations regarding NMT's culture and branding, and creating a President's Fellows program aimed at mid-level faculty. He added that the future of higher education itself is being discussed nationwide. A lengthy discussion focused primarily on the prognosis for new-student enrollment for Fall 2025, which is expected to be flat. The President noted that the University should "bottom out" after a few years of decline, adding that Tech is the number-one choice for first-year student applicants, and graduate numbers are growing. Two presentations followed:

- Matt Gallegos, executive director of the Southwest Innovation Alliance based in Albuquerque, heading a job-classification study with NMT committee members JoAnn Salome, Angie Gonzales, Mikell Coleman and Randy Saavedra.
- Sandi Lucero, NMT Director of Alumni Affairs, who provided alumni statistics and the formal separation of Alumni Affairs from the Office for Advancement.

## **6. Consent Items.**

**a) FY25 NM Higher Department (NMHED) Quarterly (Q4) Certification ending 06/30/25.** VPFA Walsh

**b) Restricted Fund Purchase Notification of Award >\$300k.** VPAF Walsh  
-Amentum Services Inc.

- Alluvionic Mayvin Solutions LLC
- Ganesh Corp.
- El Camino Motel Inc.
- Express Hospitality LLC
- Amentum Services Inc.
- Alluvionic Mayvin Solutions LLC
- SV3 Solutions Ltd.
- Rio Grande Travel Centers Inc.
- OMKARA Hospitality LLC

**c) Unrestricted Fund Purchases >\$300k.** VPFA Walsh

Regent King moved to approve Items a), b) and c). Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Action Items.**

- a) Approval of June 19 and June 26, 2025 Minutes.** Regent King moved to approve the Minutes as distributed. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) Approval of Board Meeting Dates for Fall 2025.** Regent King moved to approve tentative dates of Sept. 9 or Sept. 15 at 2 pm, and Nov. 21 at 9 am. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) Approval of NMTURPC Member Appointments.** Regent King moved approval of new Board members Molly Cernicek and Mia Peterson. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Individual Board Member Comments.** None.

**9. New Business.** None.

**10. Executive Session.** NMSA 1978 Sec. 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters)

- a)** VPAA Faculty Hire
- b)** President's Resignation
- c)** Personnel Action Items

Regent King moved to adjourn the regular and meet in Executive Session. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed following a roll-call vote conducted by Ms. Grain. Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

**11. Reconvene in open session and take final action, if any, on such limited legal and personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session.**

Regent King moved to return to open session at 3:05 pm, followed by a second by Regent Armijo. The motion passed unanimously.

Regent King moved to approve all of the Personnel Action Items presented for the Presidents Division, Academic Affairs, Research, Admin and Finance, Student Affairs, and the Bureau of Geology. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lepre moved to accept Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar's resignation as the University President with an effective date of Friday, July 25, 2025. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Regents appointed Chair Lepre to negotiate the details of the separation and that a joint announcement would be forthcoming.

Chair Lepre moved to appoint Dr. Michael Jackson as Acting President, effective Saturday, July 26, 2025. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. Adjournment.** Regent King moved to adjourn the meeting. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.



**Chair, David Lepre Sr.**

**Attest:**



**Secretary-Treasurer, Yolanda Jones King**

