



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

Friday, April 3, 2020 ~ 1:00 pm

Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/586417160>

Or join by phone:

1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 586 417 160

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 pm on Friday, April 3, 2020, with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were 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
Dave Manzano

Collen Foster
Mark Adams (by phone)
Tom Engler
David Landrum
JoAnn Salome
Peter Anselmo
Robert Balch
Dave Lepre Jr.
Michelle Sherman

Henry Prager
Jose Martinez
Matt Gallegos
Liam O'Brien

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. In accordance with executive and social distance orders by Governor Lujan-Grisham, the Chair announced that the meeting would be streamed via Zoom Webinar and then read the relevant provisions and requirements from the Attorney General for conducting virtual meetings under the Open Meetings Act, including asking that everyone who speaks or makes a comment, and/or motion, to please identify themselves each time. Chair Peacock also directed Ms. Grain for roll call voting for all action items.
 - a. **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that proper legal notice was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Chair Peacock requested amendment of the proposed agenda to move items 6b and 6c to Executive Session due to being personnel matters. Regent Armijo moved to approve the agenda as amended. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the Regents.
3. **Public Comment.** None

4. Recurring Reports.

a) **President's Report.** President Wells thanked everyone for their time and cooperation during this difficult time. President Wells updated the Regents regarding class delivery, explaining that all classes have been moved online via Zoom starting Monday, April 6, 2020. NMT students were notified of these changes via text, Rave emergency notification system, emails, Banner, and postings on the NMT website. President Wells gave updates on the recent Council of University Presidents (CUP) meeting stating that Ms. Stephanie Rodriguez, the Governor's Senior Policy Advisor, provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic and what to expect as the Governor looks to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE) with support from the national labs in New Mexico. She recognized Research Associate Vice President Carlos Romero and NMT-AFRL Director Matt Gallegos for working collaboratively with the Governor's Office and for taking the lead in these efforts. She also acknowledged Dr. Danielle Turner and Dr. Snezna Rogelj on their efforts in producing World Health Organization (WHO) approved hand sanitizer. Dr. Kathy Winograd, New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) Advisor, formed a group called the Higher Education COVID-19 Task Group. It focuses on bringing representatives from the three associations, CUP, two-year, and branch colleges, together to discuss the future of Higher Education in the world of COVID-19. President Wells congratulated the NMT Foundation and The Office of Advancement's Campaign called "Random Acts of Kindness" for the success of the NMT Student's Relief Fund, which has raised about \$130,000. President Wells thanked donors from NMT Regents, alumni, faculty, and staff, explaining that the funds will go to students who are in great need. Also on April 2nd, Director of Student Affairs Michael Voegerl arranged for the distribution of food boxes on campus with a great turn out from NMT students and staff.

5. Information Items.

a) **COVID-19 Task Force Updates.** President Wells referred all cabinet members to the CV19 Task Force Google Drive for NMT's response plan. He explained that HED has requested that all institutions produce a business continuity plan and keep the plan updated. Some of the many strides that the President's Office and COVID-19 Task Force are making to keep NMT safe are as follows: 1) NMT is locking down all campus buildings, which are now accessible only by key and/or permit; 2) 70% of our employees (essential/non-essential) are working from home with work plans developed by employees and supervisors with over 600 turned in at this time and, the number grows daily; 3) NMT is not allowing social gatherings of five or more in any room or area on campus; 4) NMT is sending communications to the NMT community, students, and families, including updates as they arise; 5) NMT is working with community leaders such as Socorro City Administrator Donald Monette, Mayor Dr. Ravi Bhasker, and Presbyterian Hospital Services Physician Dr. Steven Stewart, through Zoom COVID-19 meetings. NMT is also forwarding updates, recommendations, and guidance as they arise; 6) Working to meet the challenge of false information while reassuring and informing the NMT and broader Socorro community, as we strive to maintain calm within the community.

b) **Academic Affairs.** Vice President Doug Wells reported that classes will resume online, synchronously and asynchronously. He explained that the pandemic may allow

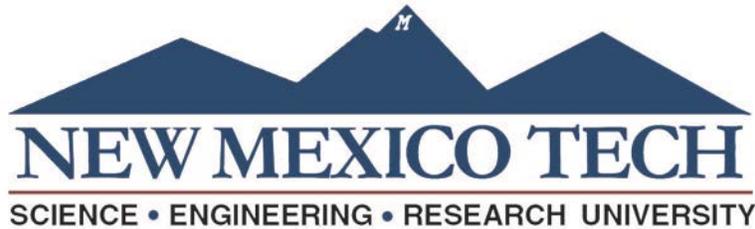


NMT to offer classes unlike NMT has ever done before and in unique ways that might even boost enrollment for the near future. Graduate student master's thesis and doctoral dissertation defenses will be done online. Online advising webinars are made available to help faculty on advising their students. LakeFX Media, a production video firm, has been hired to produce a virtual campaign for recruitment. The Student Research Symposium will be an online event, and special thanks were given to Librarian David Cox, Dr. Michael Hargather, and other faculty for stepping up to make the event possible.

c) Student Life. Acting Vice President (AVP) Peter Phaiiah explained that Fidel Center is closed with the exception of grab-and-go meals from Chartwells and mail pick-up. Fidel Center is being closely monitored to ensure that social distancing is being practiced and that the number of people allowed in the building at one time is within compliance of New Mexico's Executive Orders. The NMT Child Care Center remains open upon recommendation from New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department. There are roughly 140 students on campus living in residential halls, and over 200 (in total with commuters) that are taking classes remotely. The students remaining on campus will all be consolidated into one residential hall with proper distance and space between them. Students requesting to come to campus to get their belongings must meet certain criteria. If they do not meet the criteria, then NMT Resident Life Office will mail any essential items that the student may need. AVP Phaiiah reported that all student support services, such as Counseling, Health Center, and Career Counseling, are available remotely. Michael Voegerl has a daily Zoom meeting called "Events, Concerns, and Conspiracy Theories" to keep students informed and offer them social interaction. Commencement will be held virtually this year on Saturday, May 9th. If it's safe and feasible, a second commencement ceremony may be offered during 49ers for those who would like to participate.

d) Office of Research. Vice President (VP) Van Romero reported that the Research Office is diligently completing business continuity plans and utilizing electronic submission and routing for proposals. VP Romero explained that the First Responders Program will continue online. He noted physical office closures of some research centers such as the AFRL-Tech Transfer Collaborative Office, National Cave and Karst Research Institute in Carlsbad, and Magdalena Ridge Observatory. VP Romero clarified that the physical facilities are closed, but the employees are working from home.

e) Administration and Finance. Vice President Cleve McDaniel reported that there is still restriction on all out-of-state and international travel. Anyone who has travelled has been asked to self-quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival. VP McDaniel explained that the Office of Administration and Finance is working on assessing the financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis both on auxiliaries and research budgets with hopes that the CARES Act will help in those areas. In addition, he reported that 57 Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), 14 hotspots, and 27 virtual desktop installations are up and running successfully. To help reduce student stress during this time, NMT is also offering an additional four-month extension for students on extended tuition payment plans. The NMT FY21 budget is set to be presented to the Regents for approval at the May 8th meeting.



6. Action Items.

a) Approval of March 13, 2020, Minutes. The Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Armijo.

b) Approve Tenure & Promotion Recommendations. (Moved to executive session.)

c) Approve Full Professor Hire. (Moved to executive session.)

d) Approve Emeritus Status. Director Nelia Dunbar requested that Dr. Ron Broadhead be granted emeritus status. Dr. Dunbar explained that Dr. Broadhead was an undergrad at NMT and graduated in 1977. He went on to the University of Cincinnati to receive his master's degree in 1979, and then he worked in the private sector for a couple of years. Dr. Broadhead then came back to NMT and worked at the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources for the past 39 years. Dr. Dunbar assured the Regents that the Bureau will provide office space as well as IT support if they grant the emeritus status. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote of the Regents with the motion to grant Dr. Broadhead emeritus status given by Regent Armijo and seconded by Regent Gonzales.

e) Approve Signature Authority for Emergency Services on unrestricted Fund Purchases exceeding \$250,000. Dr. McDaniel requested the Regents' approval for the President to purchase unrestricted fund emergency services and tangible items exceeding \$250,000. The motion to approve signature authority was made by Regent King and seconded by Regent Gonzales. A unanimous approval was given by roll call vote of the Regents.

7. Individual Board Member Comments. No comments to be reported.

8. New Business. None.

9. Executive Session. NMSA 1978, Sec.10-15-1 [H][2], [If required to Consider Legal or Personnel Matter]. On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Armijo, the Regents unanimously adjourned the regular session at 2:39 pm to meet in executive session under a roll call vote conducted by Ms. Grain.

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 closed session.

The meeting reconvened at 3:22 pm with the chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed. Regent Espinoza moved to approve the tenure and promotion recommendations from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure for Dr. Donghyeon Ryu, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Gayan Rubasinghege, Dept. of Chemical Engineering; Dr. Minghi Zhang, Dept. of Mathematics; Dr. Seda Senay, Dept. of Electrical Engineering; and Dr. Wesley Cook, Dept. of Civil Engineering; and promotions from Associate Professor to Full Professor for Dr. Jolante Van Wijk, Dept. of Earth and Environmental Science and Dr. Linda De Veaux, Dept. of Biology. Regent Espinoza also moved to approve the Full Professor hire for Dr. Clinton Jeffery for Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Regent King seconded both of the motions, which passed unanimously with a roll call vote of the Regents.



11. Adjournment. The meeting was unanimously adjourned by roll call vote of the Regents at 3:26 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales.

President

Attest:

Secretary- Treasurer