

Board of Regents Regular Meeting

Friday, November 15, 2024

1:00 pm

NMT Campus

Fidel Ballroom B

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents Regular Meeting convened at 1:00 pm on Friday, November 15, 2024, with Regent Chair Jerry Armijo presiding. Other Board members attending were Dr. David Lepre, Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Adrian Salustri and (via Zoom) Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala. Other University administrators, staff and guests included President Mahyar Amouzegar, Vanessa Grain, Marianna Cheromiah, Richard Cervantes, Dr. Michael Doyle, Dr. Michael Jackson, Dr. David Greene, Dr. Rick Johnson, Dr. Robert Balch, Dr. Mike Timmons, Dr. Linda DeVeaux, JoAnn Salome, Peter Szatmary, Donna Essel, Val Thomas, Dr. Jay Ann Cox, and others.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
 - 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.** The Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion made by Regent King and a second by Regent Salustri.
3. **Approval of September 20, 2024 and October 7, 2024 Minutes.** Regent King moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2024 meeting as amended. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Regent King then moved to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2024 meeting, followed by a second from Regent Mukkamala. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Public Comment.** None.
5. **Regent Committee Reports.**
 - a) **NMT Foundation Updates.** Regent Armijo said all is going well. The Foundation will have its last meeting of the calendar year in early December.
 - b) **NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates.** Regent King reported that the next Research Park meeting will be on December 5, 2024 and will include the two new

members and a subcommittee report on Socorro Ventures.

- c) **NM HERC Updates.** Legislative priorities will be discussed at an upcoming joint meeting with HERC and the CUP on Nov. 19, 2024, reported Regent King; invitations to the Zoom session have been issued.
- d) **Regent Finance Subcmte/Legislative Updates.** Regent Lepre commended NMT staff for their efforts in a successful meeting with Moss-Adams, the Institute's external auditor. Regent Lepre, citing reductions in STEM awards, emphasized the need for NMT to strengthen its core STEM educational value, and reflect it in the Funding Formula.
- e) **Regent Research Subcmte.** Regent Mukkamala reported that once the new VPR is on board, the Research Subcommittee will meet regularly, adding that RPSP requests are higher this year.
- f) **Student Updates.** Regent Salustri had no updates.

6. Info Items.

- a) **GSA Updates.** President Donna Essel explained that the Oct. 4, 2024 Festival of Nations collaborative event, showcasing diversity on campus, drew 150 attendees. The GSA funded 27 travel grants this year; awarded three scholarships for medical and academic expenses; launched a GSA administrative program; and will host a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 19, 2024.
- b) **Faculty Senate Update.** FS Chair DeVeaux announced other newly elected officers of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee: Dr. Curtis O'Malley, Vice Chair; and Dr. Brian Borchers, Parliamentarian.
- c) **Enrollment Update.** VP Greene cited statistics in several categories, from NMT's summer STEM programs, to modified recruiting efforts – including an AI system and adding a virtual campus tour to NMT's website. In addition, the new AVP for Enrollment Management will assume his position on Jan. 6, 2025. President Amouzegar noted the need to recognize ongoing efforts toward increasing enrollment, and to support plans to put NMT on the path toward future success. Following discussion, Regent King requested a report for the next meeting regarding the discrepancies between the enrollment numbers presented by VP Greene and those reported in the HED Report. The requested report should include an explanation of the methodology used and the reasons for the differences.
- d) **Research Presentation.** Dr. Timmons, Bureau of Geology Director/State Geologist, in a PPT presentation detailed what the Bureau does, how it interfaces with NMT, its position within New Mexico, and the types of research it conducts as a non-regulatory agency and scientific lead responsible for economic development of the state's mineral, water and energy resources.
- e) **Quarterly Financial Report as of 09/30/24.** VP Cervantes guided Regents through detailed financial data for the FY25 first quarter, cautioning the Board that because of timing and other issues, the data are still shifting.
- f) **AA-02 Complaint Policy.** Provost Jackson cited two previous interim policies, AA-02 Complaint Policy, and AA-05, Disciplinary Policy, based on a template developed by President Amouzegar, that have gone through several review processes and are

now fully approved standing University policies.

- g) AA-05 Disciplinary Policy.** Provost Jackson explained the policy and review process.
- h) President's Updates.** President Amouzegar reported the successful conclusion of the Comprehensive Campaign and shared that the next campaign, aimed at raising over \$100 million, will be announced soon. The President commended Advancement Director Colleen Foster and her team for their exceptional fundraising efforts. He also noted that NMT is finalizing the searches for the new VPR and VPAF, which remain in confidential stages until public announcements are made, and mentioned the upcoming search for a CIO. The President expressed gratitude to Dr. Doyle and Dr. Romero for their service as they transition to faculty and research roles and thanked Val Thomas and Dr. Jay Cox for spearheading the creation of a Staff Council to provide staff a dedicated voice alongside the Faculty Senate. Chair Armijo joined the President in recognizing the contributions of Dr. Doyle and Dr. Romero.

7. Consent Items.

- a) Restricted Fund Notification of Awards >\$100k**
- b) FY25 NM Higher Education Department (NMHED) Quarterly (Q1) Certification ending 09/30/24**
- c) FY25 Unrestricted Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) #1**
- d) NM Higher Education Department (NMHED) Capital Project Transmittal Summary Sheets,**
 - PRRC Kelly Hall Phase II New Construction
- e) Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$250k**
 - Franken Construction for Brown Hall South Side Mitigation
 - Office of 18F for the Bureau-Wide Data Governance Project
 - Intraworks for the Campus-Wide Access Control System
 - Elsevier Library Subscription Service
- f) AA-04 Degree Conferral**
- g) AA-06 Minimum Qualifications of Instructional Staff**

Regent King moved to approve Consent Items 7a) through 7g), followed by a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Items.

- a) Approval of Amended NMT Strategic Plan.** Provost Jackson introduced the modified NMT Strategic Plan. Following discussion, Regent King moved to defer action. The Chair appointed three Board members to work with administration to finalize the document in all respects in a special meeting in December. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b) Approval of Amended NMT Employee Handbook.** President Amouzegar brought to the Board the amended Employee Handbook, updated to streamline, simplify and reorganize its contents. HR Director Salome added that the Handbook underwent campus and legal review. Regent King moved to approve the NMT Employee Handbook as presented with the understanding that any further items or sections

that are updated and approved separately by the Board of Regents can be updated without further action of the Board. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c) Approval of Employee Benefit Funds Policy and Proposed Distribution,

President Amouzegar and VP Cervantes explained that the policy underwent legal review and listed terms for monetary distribution. Regent King moved to approve the policy and proposed distribution as presented. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d) Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$250k for OHO for the NMT Website Design.

VP Cervantes recommended Board approval to issue a contract for \$615k to OHO for website design services. Following discussion, Regent King moved to accept the recommendation, followed by a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.

e) Approval of Emeritus Status for Dr. Linda DeVeaux.

Provost Jackson recommended granting emeritus status to retiring Professor DeVeaux, current Biology Dept. Chair. Regents unanimously approved emeritus status for Dr. DeVeaux on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Salustri.

f) Approval of 2025 Regent Meeting Dates.

- Friday, January 31, 2025, Santa Fe, El Dorado Hotel
- Friday, March 7, 2025, Santa Fe, La Posada Hotel

Chair Armijo recommended that Regents approve the 2025 Board meetings as listed in the Agenda. Regent King so moved. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Individual Board Member Comments. None

10. New Business. None

11. Executive Session. NMSA 1978, Sec. 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). Chair Armijo entertained a motion to meet in Executive Session. Regent King so moved. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Grain conducted a roll call vote. The regular meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.


12. 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 Armijo. The Chair reconvened the regular meeting at 3:34 pm. He announced that only those items listed in the Agenda were discussed, and that no action was taken.

13. Adjournment. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:35 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Salustri.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer

