

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Board of Regents Meeting
1:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, 2017
Macey Center Copper Room
New Mexico Tech Campus/Socorro, N.M.

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents meeting convened at 1:31 p.m., with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Donald Monette, Myissa Weiss and Emily Silva (Regent Designate). University administrators, staff and guests who were also present included:

Stephen Wells	Peter Mozley	Cynthia Loehr
Lala Garcia	Valerie Del Curto	Michael Hargather
Douglas Wells	Valentina Avramidi	Michelle Creech-Eakman
Cleve McDaniel	George Veni	Jamie Kimberley
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Colleen Foster	Dan Cadol
Van Romero	Kevin Wedeward	Nikolai Kalugin
Nelia Dunbar	Alex Garcia	Hamid Rahnema
Tom Kieft	Gabe Montoya	Andrei Zagrai
Randy Seright	Emma Aafloy	Valerie Kimble
Charles Hendrickson	Jolante van Wijk	

- 1. Proof of Meeting.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Ms. Garcia reported that proper legal notice was given as required.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- 3. Minutes.** Regents unanimously approved Minutes from the April 2017 meeting on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Gonzales.

As an addendum, the Board met on May 3, 2017 in:

Emergency/Teleconference/Executive Session, per NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 F. The purpose was to discuss pending litigation, per NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 C, H (7) & I (2). The matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the notice of the meeting.

- 4. Announcements.** *Graduation Ceremony.* President Wells outlined the schedule for Saturday's Commencement, including a surprise ending like no other, to mark his first New Mexico Tech graduation ceremony, which includes a guest speaker – the first in a long time – and a student speaker. He added that the Class of 2017 is the largest in history.

Enrollment Updates. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming reported 65 fewer paid applicants for fall 2018 compared with this time last year; which, noted President Wells, mirrors a state

trend. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming has been working with Dr. McDaniel to prepare better budget projections based on enrollment estimates.

Faculty Senate. Dr. Kieft reported that the Faculty Senate met in the morning to select awardees, always a happy occasion. He reintroduced from the April meeting a suggestion to name the MSEC building for Hanna and Larry Lattman. Regents tabled the issue until the June meeting at the retreat, pending action on a naming policy which was written and submitted for feedback, but never acted upon. Regent Armijo noted that the process has varied, but needs to be formalized in the interest of fairness and consistency.

Introduction of Approved Faculty Promotions. Dr. Douglas Wells introduced the eight faculty approved for tenure and promotion to associate professor: Drs. David Cadol, Michael Hargather, Jamie Kimberley, Hamid Rahnema and Jolante van Wijk; and promotion to full professor: Drs. Michelle Creech-Eakman, Nikolai Kalugin and Andrei Zagrai.

Advancement Report. Ms. Foster reported a drop in donations compared with this time last year, adding that a memorial endowment campaign to wrap up shortly should net \$115,000. Advancement staff is working on other fund-raising campaigns, and a recent television report highlighted a donation drive to support a student research project through Mechanical Engineering. During discussion, Regent Armijo noted a drop in Research Foundation revenue, which Ms. Foster said was due to several factors. Both President Wells and Chair Peacock agreed this was a good time to re-establish connections with former donors.

President's Status Report. The President introduced Dr. George Veni, director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), who updated the Board on progress with generating name recognition and garnering national support. He apologized that NCKRI cannot host the Board's retreat meeting due to a Founder's Dinner on June 10 which took six months to arrange. The Board can meet in a hotel with a tour of Carlsbad Caverns and a brief Institute tour and briefing before the dinner. President Wells told Regents the University is prepared for the special legislative session set to begin May 24, and that he would keep them posted. He also delivered a written summary of April's entrepreneurial workshop which drew 186 attendees and awarded graduate student Andrew Miller the top prize in the Wolves Den competition. Plans also are under way for an industry partnership showcase, with a date to be given to the Board ASAP. In addition, the AAAS report has been given to the team to review; it will be sent to the Board soon to be discussed at the June meeting, as will the transition of the University's Research and Research Park foundations. The President reported "significant progress" in a collaborative effort to re-open the Loma Theater with first-run movies. "Students seem very excited" about the prospect, he said.

EMRTC Update. The focus is on rebuilding the customer base at EMRTC, reported Dr. Romero, adding that work includes marketing, a website update and attending conferences to "be on the radar screen." First Responders training brings in \$22m of an estimated \$29m in revenues. The research division should "eclipse fairly easily" a goal of \$30m. He gave Regents a bar chart showing year-to-date performance measures for the three entities under EMRTC. Of the trio, ICASA will be moving directly under Dr. Romero as an independent organization, effective today. Overhead has risen almost 75 percent since last year. Infrastructure upgrades are progressing through collaborative efforts across campus; and equipment is being replaced with surplus buys at "pennies on

the dollar,” an effort headed by retired EMRTC official, Mr. Dennis Hunter. The division is marshaling its forces and working with the state’s congressional delegation to bring awareness of the importance of the work EMRTC conducts. FY18 will be a challenge *Capital Projects Update*. The new Chemistry Building has been issued a Certification of Occupancy and is ready for an August move-in with a grand opening in September, according to Dr. McDaniel. In addition, bids have been received for the new Data Center, with a contract to be decided at the June meeting. A lab consultant is assisting the architect with the Jones Hall remodel, with the design to be completed over the summer. The remodel will take an estimated 18 months due to having to work with personnel in the building. The conceptual design for the new presidential residence has been approved and the project is moving to the design development phase.

Other. None

5. **Public Comment.** None
6. **Degree Conferral for April.** (See Agenda item 7.)
7. **Approval of Graduate Studies Degrees (Masters and Ph.D.).** The schedule for final exams created a situation whereby grades for undergraduate students would not be received until after Commencement, an “unfortunate situation” President Wells assured would not be repeated. As such, he conferred graduate degrees for M.S. and Ph.D. candidates. The President said, “I will confer on you,” to certify undergraduate students, including two for April completions. Regent Monette moved to approve the degree conferrals. Regent Weiss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
8. **Financial Analysis for March 2017.** Dr. McDaniel updated his report from April. The University is three-quarters through FY17. Revenues are down slightly due to a cut in state appropriations; overhead and tuition are up. Expenses are up due to hiring new faculty, startup costs and utilities. The VPAF predicted NMT would meet its ending balance. Under RPSP, only Science Fair/Science Olympiad has a negative balance, with the PAS looking at ways to balance its budget. The Board unanimously approved the report on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Weiss.
9. **Quarterly Certification.** The University is required to submit quarterly financial reports to the state, a process that requires Board approval and a signature. Dr. McDaniel reported no financial issues and recommended approval. Regent Armijo so moved, followed by a second from Regent Weiss. The motion was unanimously approved.
10. **Budget Adjustment Request.** Dr. McDaniel brought to the Board the University’s third BAR of the year, and the first from Restricted Funds. He explained that the request reflected changes in activity and transfers, including a federal transfer for financial aid. The Board unanimously approved the BARS on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Monette.
11. **Proforma Budget.** The University’s proforma budget for FY18 is based on a projected 1 percent reduction from the state, due for a June 1 approval date, pending any change. Dr.

McDaniel explained that a 1 percent cut would total ~\$258k, or an average \$3600 per student, a factor with declining enrollment. Even a tuition increase would not cover an additional deficit. During discussion, the President said cuts would not impact the core of the Institute nor student services critical to its function, adding that the state must understand that it can turn around education and economic development; but that eliminating the budget for higher education “makes people nervous.” Regarding a tuition increase, the President said Tech owes its students a long-range plan and transparency as an Institute. It includes no salary adjustments, and maintains a 3 percent ending balance, which Dr. McDaniel called a bottom-line savings and Regent Armijo referred to as a “very, very slim budget.” Regents unanimously approved the proforma budget on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Monette.

- 12. GO Bond.** The number-one priority for the University is a recreation center; however, the President suggested it not be brought forward at this time. Dr. McDaniel then proposed to address health and safety issues; i.e., renovating Brown Hall, and parking lot upgrades, as projects to bring before the HED for inclusion in the statewide bond issue. During discussion, Regent Armijo cautioned against prioritizing administrative needs over those of students. “We will be on the GO Bond (in 2018),” he said, adding that the proposed projects might not get much traction. The Chair recommended rewriting the bond proposal to highlight its health and safety issues, including mold in the Brown Hall basement and lighting for the parking lot on College. Regent Weiss moved to approve the proposal as amended. Regent Armijo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 13. Emeritus Status Request – Dr. Paul Bauer, Bureau of Geology.** Dr. Dunbar recommended emeritus status for Dr. Bauer, who retired in February, having joined the Bureau in 1987. Regent Monette moved for approval, followed by a second from Regent Armijo. The motion passed unanimously.
- 14. Academic Tenure and Promotion Recommendation.** Dr. Douglas Wells recommended tenure and promotion to associate professor for Dr. Pabrita Choudhury, noting that the original recommendation was to waive a decision. Following an appeals process, it was found that key elements were not included in Dr. Choudhury’s original packet; and, after a review, it was agreed to bring his name forward. Regents unanimously approved the recommendation on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Armijo.
- 15. Board Member Comments.** Chair Peacock asked for agenda items for next month’s retreat.
- 16. Executive Session.**
Pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) & 10-15-1(I)(2), NMSA 1978 (To Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters including President’s Goals and Review of Contract). Regent Armijo moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 3:21 p.m. to meet in executive session. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a roll-call vote conducted by Ms. Garcia.

17. Action Following Executive Session. The Board reconvened at 4:11 p.m. The Chair reported that no decisions were made, and only topics related to litigation and personnel matters.

18. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

President