



**New Mexico Tech Board of Regents Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
10:00 am
Hotel Santa Fe, Kiva Ballroom**

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, with Regent Chair Jerry Armijo presiding. Other Board members attending were Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda Jones King and Adrian Salustri. University administrators, staff and guests included: Dr. Daniel López, Dr. Van Romero, Richard Cervantes, Dr. Michael Doyle, Dr. David Greene, Dr. Rick Thompson, Dr. Jennifer Raney, Dr. Michael Timmons, Vanessa Grain, German Bustillos, Julianne Ulibarri, JoAnn Salome, Dylan Purcell, Dylan Schroeder, Mark Adams, Daryl Ackley, Emma Aafloy, Dr. Myrriah Tomar, Dr. Lorie Liebrock, Lisa Todd, Marc Saavedra, Randy Saavedra, Carlos Romero, David Manzano, Dr. Callum Bell, Juan Rueda, Alex Rae, Valerie Kimble and Anna Kolesnikova (via Zoom).

1. Call to Order. Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

- 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. Regent Lepre moved to approve the agenda. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chair Armijo announced that Regent Srinivas Mukkamala was under the weather and unable to participate.

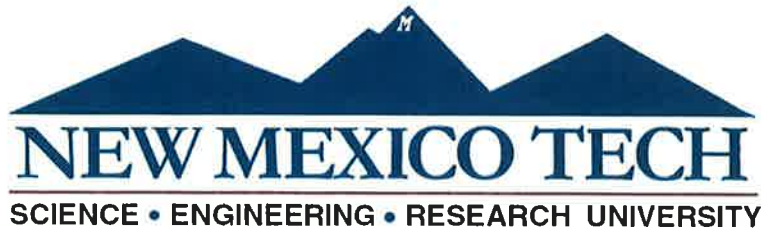
3. Public Comment. None.

4. Acceptance of 2023 NMT Audit. Presentation by Moss Adams, Ms. Lisa Todd. VP Cervantes introduced Ms. Todd, who delivered the audit report as part of a Power Point presentation. The consolidated financial audit included component units (the Benefit Trust, NMT Foundation, Research Park Corp.) and was submitted to the NM State Auditor ahead of the Nov. 1, 2023 deadline. In summary, Ms. Todd noted a “clean” audit with modified findings, a “significant change” from the past two years. Regent King moved to accept the 2023 NMT Audit. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Economic Impact Report. Presentation by Lightcast, Anna Kolesnikova. VP Cervantes reported that the University had contracted with Lightcast to conduct an Economic Impact Study and Analysis primarily based on NMT’s FY22 audited financial report; the full report is available in his office. Ms. Kolesnikova cited a “multiplier effect” in assessing the impact of NMT on the local and state economics, including student spending, visitor effect and that of alumni, resulting in a cumulative \$276M in added income to the state economy in FY23. It was noted that the report, the first of its kind for NMT, will be shared with stakeholders, Legislators and others.

6. Recurring Reports

- a) **SGA Updates.** SGA President Schroeder reported that GSA is moving toward larger student events; i.e., an upcoming ski event with some 25-30 participants. Spring Fling may include a concert, and after recent elections, the Senate should be at full capacity.
- b) **GSA Updates.** GSA President Purcell is continuing an effort to take the organization past funding travel requests. Scheduled are a “tax day” workshop, and a new budget model more transparent to the student body. Regent Salustri commended both student organization leaders for attending today’s Board meeting at their own expense, as part of their dedication to NMT students and student government groups.
- c) **Student Life.** VP Greene updated Regents on enrollment and recruiting efforts, with completed and accepted application numbers up, paid fees down slightly, and international applications among the largest ever at Tech. He briefed Regents on state metrics for undergraduates, including recruitment and communications with potential students. In addition, a position for an Executive Director of Admissions is open nationally; and three “great candidates” are among the finalists for Director of Marketing and Communications.
- d) **Academic Affairs.** AVP Thompson announced that after a long process, Socorro High School has been designated by the N.M. Public Education Dept. as an “Early College High School.” This designation means local students will have the option of applying for dual-coursework toward completion of an Associate’s Degree, or two years’ progress toward a bachelor’s degree from NMT, with thanks to Dr. Sharon Sessions, who Chair Armijo acknowledged for her contributions to NMT.
- e) **Admin and Finance.** Mr. Cervantes updated Regents on Legislative initiatives, including a compensation package; funds for a geothermal facility; and Kelly Hall replacement (as a GO Bond issue on the November ballot). Regent King inquired as to anti-hazing initiatives that have been proposed in the NM Legislature. VP Greene responded that anti-hazing is already included at NMT as part of Title IX training. Marc Saavedra, Executive Director of the Council of Presidents (CUP), was introduced by VP Cervantes. He updated the Regents on Legislative bills affecting NMT and other 4 year universities, including an initiative allowing Lottery funds to be applied to summer school/dual credits; and to broaden the definition of “family” under FMLA. HB159 calling for a higher education endowment would support shortfalls for financial aid; i.e., the 35 percent differential in covering Lottery Scholarship shortfalls could come from this fund. Dr. King thanked Mr. Saavedra for his support of the HERC/CUP collaboration and for his weekly briefings to the HERC during the Legislative Session. She also thanked the NMT lobbying team including Carlos Romero and David Manzano who were present.
- f) **Research.** VP Doyle reported having an informative meeting with a high-ranking representative of the NSF as to increasing NMT grant funds. He also attended a Jan. 18, 2024 meeting of the N.M. Consortium (with NMSU, UNM) and a multi-year grant program providing opportunities for NMT researchers to submit proposals as part of a DOE/NNSA plutonium work force initiative. Dr. Doyle provided updates on current research grant proposals, including NMT’s ENGINES Type 2 proposal being converted to a Type 1, and that we are waiting for word on the \$24 million, six-year NSF Bio Foundry grant proposal. In addition, the new director of NCKRI will be selected from among three finalists.
- g) **Special Research.** VP Romero introduced Daryl Ackley as the new Director of EMRTC. Mr. Ackley was an NMT student in 1996 before joining the ICASA research division. He also spent eight years on the Governor’s Cabinet as Secretary for IT and hits the ground running. After four weeks on the

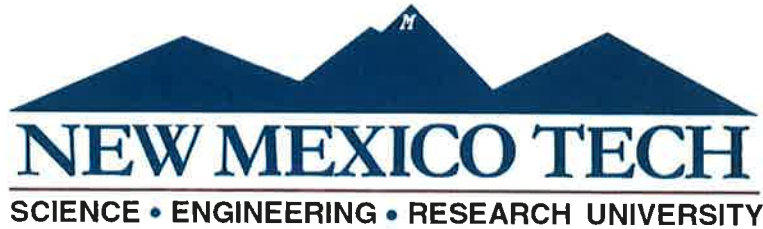


job, Mr. Ackley said he was "blocking and tackling" in re-invigorating EMRTC's research base and working with VP Romero on the Strategic Plan. Employees are working diligently and maintaining contract commitments. Chair Armijo said the position of EMRTC Director is a tough job, and he has full confidence in Mr. Ackley's background and experience to be successful.

- h) **Bureau of Geology.** Director Timmons announced that the Feb. 5 "NMT Day/Earth Science Day" co-hosted by VP Greene and the Bureau was successful, noting that NM State Senator Peter Wirth received the Earth Science Achievement Award. Timmons and former Bureau director Dr. Nelia Dunbar attended the unveiling of the Governor's 50-year Water Plan, during which NMT was highlighted frequently. A water management/water science workshop last December drew ~100 participants, including 15 legislators and members of the Governor's Office and the state's Congressional delegation.
- i) **PRRC.** Assistant Director Raney reported that Director Balch maintains an active voice and role in carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration grant initiatives; and that PRRC researchers have submitted six new proposals, with 14 pending in excess of \$10 million for FY24.
- j) **President's Report.** President López recognized VP Cervantes for doing an excellent job in restoring NMT to a strong fiscal position. Dr. López cited a brochure given to Regents, Legislators, the Governor and others highlighting NMT's connection to the Manhattan Project and Trinity Site, with hope that the link among them will generate broad interest. Socorro's Mayor requested a thousand copies reprinted at his expense.

7. Information Items.

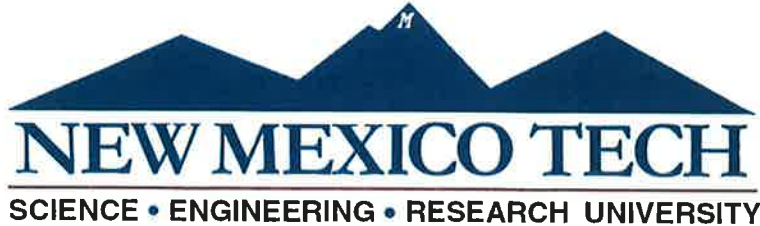
- a) **NMT Foundation Updates.** None.
- b) **NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates.** Regent King recognized Dr. Callum Bell, Chair of the NMTURPC Board of Directors, for his leadership in a stakeholders' analysis, adding that two more phases remain of the Strategic Plan.
- c) **NM HERC Updates.** Regent King reported earlier about the weekly meetings with CUP Executive Director (Mr. Saavedra) and establishing joint priorities.
- d) **NMT Finance Subcommittee/Legislative Updates.** Regent Lepre reported that he and Regent Salustri met with the budget staff for two-and-a-half hours with the goal of enhancing the Board's understanding of the quarterly financial reports. Regent Salustri, in turn, thanked NMT's budget team for the meeting.
- e) **NMT Research Subcommittee.** None.
- f) **NMT Student Updates.** Regent Salustri stressed the importance of maintaining the value of NMT as a good investment, and thanked the administration, per the Economic Impact Statement and Analysis report delivered earlier in the meeting. He also noted the choice of incoming President Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar as the best for NMT students.
- g) **Degree Conferrals for Fall 2023 Completions.** AVP Thompson referred Regents to a list of students who have completed degree requirements for Fall 23 and were approved by the Faculty Senate. There may be a few additional conferrals available at the March Board meeting.
- h) **Sabbatical Notifications.** AVP Thompson provided Regents with the names of eight faculty approved for sabbatical leave for Fall 24 and Spring 25.
- i) **Restricted Fund Purchase Notification >\$100k.** VP Cervantes provided Regents with a list of 15 Restricted Fund purchases greater than \$100k, all to vendors serving various functions for EMRTC programs.



- j) **Financial Report Ending 12/31/2023.** VP Cervantes presented Regents with a detailed quarterly financial report, halfway through the current fiscal year, highlighting general revenues and expenditures; budgeted revenues (unrestricted and restricted); I&G; budgeted expenditures/statement of expenditures by category; and a statement of net position (assets, liabilities, net position). State appropriations have remained steady; out-of-state tuition is up, while in-state tuition is down. Highest expenses for unrestricted funds are for salaries and benefits.

8. Action Items

- a) **Approval of December 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
- b) **Approval of December 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes.** Regent King moved to approve the Minutes for both the December 15, 2023 and December 20, 2023 meetings. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- c) **Approval of NMT 2024 Open Meetings Act Resolution.** Regent Chair Armijo announced that the OMA Resolution was vetted by Mr. Adams, and is an annual requirement. Regent Lepre moved for approval. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of Regent Meeting Date to March 6, 2024.** Regent King moved to approve the Board's March meeting date to March 6, 2024. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of Security Managerial Resolution for NMT.**
- f) **Approval of Security Managerial Resolution for NMT For effective date 4/15/2024.** Chair Armijo noted that the first resolution would add Mr. Daryl Ackley as EMRTC Director. The second resolution would add Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar on his official starting date as the new President of New Mexico Tech. Regent King moved for approval of both resolutions, followed by a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.
- g) **Approval of NMTURPC Financial Status Recommendations.** Regent King moved to table the item. Regent Salustri seconded the motion. Regents King, Salustri and Lepre voted to table. Regent Chair Armijo voted against the motion. The motion to table passed on a 3-1 vote.
- h) **Approval of NMHED Qtr. Cert. for 12/31/23.** Regent King moved to approve the quarterly certification. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- i) **Approval of Charles Schwab Resolution.** Chair Armijo announced the good news that NMT is the beneficiary of a \$1.6 million account, current market value, with the Charles Schwab investment firm. Tech also maintains an open account with Vanguard. VP Cervantes noted that the donor has given funds to Tech in the past; he is not an NMT alumnus but had worked alongside Tech graduates and was appreciative of their work. Regent King moved to approve the resolution. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- j) **Approval of Emeritus Status, Dr. Bruce Harrison.** AVP Thompson requested Emeritus Status for Dr. Harrison, recipient of the 2021 NMT Distinguished Service Award, after 30 years with the Department of Earth and Environmental Science (E&ES). Dr. Thompson noted that E&ES has been described as a "happy" department, in large part due to Dr. Harrison's efforts. Regent King moved for approval. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- k) **Approval of Emeritus Status, Dr. Lewis Land.** VP Doyle, in requesting Emeritus Status for Dr. Land, announced that the request for approval was a first at NMT for a researcher. Dr. Doyle noted that Dr. Land has expanded and diversified the potential of NCKRI (National Cave and Karst Research Institute); has published over 2600 pages of scholarly research; and is known as a



regional/national leader and mentor/adviser. Noting that NCKRI is a fabulous operation, Regent King moved to grant Emeritus Status for Dr. Land. 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). On a motion by Regent King, and a second by Regent Salustri, the Board unanimously closed the regular meeting at 12 noon.

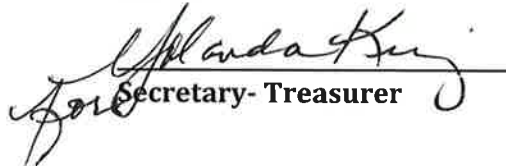
12. Reconvene in open session and take final action, if any, on such limited legal and/or personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session. Regent King moved to reconvene the meeting at 12:22 pm. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chair Armijo announced that only matters relating to legal and/or personnel were discussed.

13. Adjournment. Regent King moved to adjourn the meeting. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chair Armijo adjourned the meeting at 12:23 pm.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer