



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

Friday, January 31, 2025

10:00 am

El Dorado Hotel, Zia Ballroom

309 West San Francisco St, Santa Fe NM 878501

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents Regular Meeting convened at 10:00 am on Friday, January 31, 2025, 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, Juliann Ulibarri, Richard Cervantes, Lique Coolen, Michael Jackson, David Greene, Robert Balch, Mike Timmons, Linda DeVeaux, JoAnn Salome, and Peter Szatmary, Brandon Boutler and other NMT staff and guests.

1. **Call to Order.** Regent 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.** The Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion made by Regent King and a second by Regent Salustri.
3. **Public Comment.** Chair Armijo. None.
4. **Acceptance of FY24 NMT Audit.** VP Cervantes introduced Ms. Lisa Todd from Moss Adams to present. He acknowledged the large amount of work and effort put forth by the NMT finance team, but wanted to express a special gratitude to Melissa Tull, NMT Controller. Ms. Todd went over the audit report in detail, including financial statement analysis, statement of net position, liabilities, and net assets as included in their audit report. Ms. Todd stated that there were no material findings or significant deficiencies; she also noted significant improvement over previous fiscal years. Chair Armijo confirmed with Ms. Todd that Moss Adams is still eligible for one (1) more bid process and then Moss Adams would be required to rotate off for at least a year. Regent Lepre acknowledged the hard work of the NMT Finance team for all their efforts on such a marked improvement in NMTs audit from FY21 to FY24. President Amouzegar acknowledged VP Cervantes for his leadership during his tenure and especially during the audit and congratulated him on his upcoming

retirement. Regent King moved to accept the FY24 NMT Audit as presented by Moss Adams. Regent Salustri seconded, with all regents voting to accept the audit.

5. Regent Committee Reports, Chair Armijo.

- a) NMT Foundation Updates.** Regent Armijo said all is going well, as the Foundation is between capital campaigns and they are working on updating by-laws and onboarding new members. He said the advancement team is still working hard and continuing fundraising efforts.
- b) NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates.** Regent King reported that the RPC has two new active board members and are moving in the right direction to sort out their investment fund. She said VPR Coolen will be added as a board member at the March Board meeting and RPC will be working with her on intellectual property. She explained once the new VPAF Walsh comes on board, she can also be added to the RPC Board at the appropriate time.
- c) NM HERC Updates.** Regent King explained that the HERC is in an unfortunate position with the recent resignations of WNMU regents leaving only one officer in place, Trish Ruiz from ENMU. As past president of HERC, Regent King is assisting to get HERC back on track and helping in the process of hiring an executive director. Regent King mentioned proposed legislation to formalize annual training for all NM regents on which she would be willing to assist HED with helping with the training since the HERC already offers this training annually.
- d) Regent Finance Subcmte/Legislative Updates.** Regent Lepre stated that early indications show and he was concerned with I&G funding not getting into the research projects at this point in the session. He said that the recommendations coming from the executive and legislative branches provide some additional funding for I&G through the formula, and it ranges from just under \$900,000 to \$1.3 million. He said that one of the problems is compensation increases, as legislators put specific language regarding the amounts of compensation in the appropriation act, and NMT will be required to pay that specified amount. He indicated that if the legislature appropriates a 3% pay raise, NMT will have to make up the 20% difference between the funded amount and the actual amount. In preparation for the budget building process this year, he has some ideas to improve NMTs budget process since it's a very compressed budget cycle, with the budget due to HED by May 1st. Regent Lepre said he would like to meet with President Amouzegar, some of his cabinet, and Vice Presidents to put together a one-pager for the I&G piece and some of the bigger components, including a listing of items that NMT could have handy for legislators. Regent Lepre said he understands these things are moving targets, but he'd do his best to assist in getting the one-pager completed with requested input from all regents. Regent King reminded Regent Lepre and all regents that HERC is united with the CUP on their legislative priorities for the legislative session.

- e) **Regent Research Subcmte.** Regent Mukkamala explained he spent a day at NMT campus with the research center directors discussing NMTs current research initiatives and he would continue to come to campus and host meeting with the research directors. He explained that his observations are that university leaders are headed in the right direction, but he felt NMT is static at the federal level and what NMT has been doing for the last 10 years is pretty much the same and needs to change. He said he feels NMT has an opportunity, with the help of David Manzano, and needs to improve connections, support, and diversification in expanding its reach in Washington with the change in administration.
- f) **Student Updates.** Regent Salustri had no updates.

6. Info Items, Chair Armijo

- a) **Student Affairs and Enrollment Update.** VP Greene introduced his student affairs team and addressed Regent King's question about the difference in reporting NMTs enrollment numbers vs HED enrollment numbers. He also introduced new AVP of Student Engagement Management, Mr. Brandon Boulter. Brandon gave a brief background of his career and reported that he has been on board almost 4 weeks and expressed his enthusiasm joining the NMT student affairs team. Chair Armijo explained to Mr. Boulter that increased enrollment continues to be a board initiative and that they are watching it very carefully, and regents are requiring an update on enrollment for each regent meeting for the foreseeable future. Mr. Boulter explained that it was very early in the enrollment cycle, for undergrad in particular and there is not a lot to report at this time to the board. He said more information will be available over the next 2 or 3 months about projections for next fall 2025. Regents asked about occupancy of dorms, VP Greene said he will have true numbers after next Friday, Feb 7th as it's the last day to drop classes. VP Greene stated that he feels occupancy is the same as last spring. Regent Lepre stated he would like to visit with VP Greene about budget in the coming weeks.
- b) **M&C Updates.** Director Szatmary gave regents many updates occurring across his dept., including new position openings, hires and website initiatives. He stated he received approval for some non-recurring money for desperately needed photography and videography. He said he's deep into the RFP process, and he should have vendors identified for each of those within two, three weeks. Director Szatmary said if all goes according to plan, by early June NMT will have 48- two- to three-minute videos, 24- 60-second to 90-second videos, 12- 30-second videos, and 12- 10- to 15-second videos, which should be able to cover an overview of the entirety of NMT that will become of critical importance for the imminent website redesign. He stated that the new website will go going live in a few months' time. Director Szatmary reiterated that he wanted to make sure he has answered all of the regents concerns with the new web design and that he understood the

importance of getting as much stakeholder input for the new website redesign as possible, while recognizing not everyone can be accommodated. Regent King asked for Director Szatmary to look into updating our social media policy.

- c) **Faculty Senate Updates.** FS Chair DeVeaux gave an update to regents on faculty senate meetings over the last few months. She said Dr. Greene addressed the FS in November and the faculty had many questions concerning fall 2025 enrollment, including the lack of urgency in addressing the enrollment decline. Another concern of the senate was the very low attendance at exploration day. She noted and praised one of the revitalization actions by President Amouzegar was to re-engage a strategic enrollment management committee. She stated that overall, the faculty continued to be concerned about the fall 2025 enrollment and the measures being taken to address the potential shortfall. She said that faculty would hear from new Associate Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Management to share his plans at our meeting on Tuesdays FS meeting.
- d) **Quarterly Financial Report as of 12/31/24.** VP Cervantes guided Regents through detailed financial data for the FY25 second quarter. All regents acknowledged the report.
- e) **Emeritus Professor, Dr. Mark Samuels.** Provost Jackson gave a brief background and brought forth an emeritus request for Dr. Samuels. Regents asked VP Jackson to notify Dr. Samuels of their appreciation of his service of to NMT over the years and congratulated him. Regents acknowledged the emeritus status for Dr. Samuels.
- f) **Sabbatical Notifications.** Provost Jackson explained the sabbaticals for this upcoming academic year. Regents acknowledged the sabbaticals.
- g) **Degree Conferral Notifications.** VP Jackson explained the degree conferrals from the 2024 fall semester. All regents acknowledged the conferrals.
- h) **President's Updates.** President Amouzegar gave a brief introduction of new Vice President of Research, Dr. Lique Coolen to the regents and expressed his pleasure in welcoming her to the university and his cabinet. Dr. Coolen introduced herself and thanked the board and Dr. Amouzegar for a warm welcome. She expressed her great appreciation in joining the New Mexico Tech research division and she received a round of applause from regents, cabinet and guests. President Amouzegar introduced Dr. Robert Balch to give a research presentation. Dr. Balch gave a brief research presentation on the PRRC history and current initiatives. President Amouzegar briefly explained and brought forward four (4) policies to the Regents for their acknowledgement. All regents acknowledged the policies.
 - **AF-01 Renovation & Modification Policy**
 - **OP-04 Nepotism Policy**
 - **OP-05 Web Policy**
 - **SA-01 Preferred Naming Policy**

7. Consent Items, Regent Lepre.

- a) **Restricted Fund Notification of Awards**, VP Cervantes
- b) **FY25 NM Higher Education Department Quarterly (Q2) Certification ending 12/31/24**, VP Cervantes
- c) **Property Resolutions (2)**, VP Cervantes
- d) **AF-02 Purchasing Policy**, VP Cervantes
- e) **OP-06 Institutional Naming Policy**, Director Foster
- f) **2025 OMA Resolution**, Chair Armijo

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

8. Action Items, Regent Lepre.

- a) **Approval of November 15 and December 12, 2025 Minutes.** Regent King moved approval, with a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Approval of Honorary Degree Policy.** VP Jackson explained the policy. Regent King moved approval, with a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) **Approval of New Certificate Programs.** VP Jackson explained the two (2) proposed new certificate programs in the Engineering College. One program is for a financial management certificate with a proposed title “Establish an Accounting and Financial Management Certificate Program at NMT” in the CSE/BTM Dept. The second is a graduate certificate with a proposed title “Graduate Certificate in Geothermal Energy Program” in the Petroleum and Natural Gas and EES Dept. Regent King moved approval, with a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of NMHED Capital Projects Transmittal Sheet Electronic Door Lock Upgrade for Dorms.** VP Cervantes explained the NMHED request for capital projects. Regent King moved approval, with a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of Spring BoR Meeting Dates.** Regent Lepre confirmed with regents that Thursday April 17, 2025 and Friday, May 16, 2025 dates would work for the next board meetings on campus. Regent King moved approval, with a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Individual Board Member Comments, Regent Lepre. None

10. New Business, Regent Lepre. None

11. Executive Session, Regent Lepre.

NMSA 1978, Sec. 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). Regent Lepre entertained a motion to meet in Executive Session. Regent King so moved. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by

roll call vote by Regent King, Mukkamala and Salustri. The regular meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

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 12:35 pm. He announced that only those items listed in the Agenda were discussed, and that no action was taken.

13. Adjournment, Chair Armijo. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:36 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Salustri.

David G. Lepre for Jerry Arzigo
for **President**

Attest:

Molanda Jones King for David Lepre
for **Secretary-Treasurer**