

Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Monday, Aug. 29, 2022 -3:25 p.m.
The Lodge and Ranch at Chama
16253 S Chama Highway 84, Chama, NM 87520

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 3:25 p.m., Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, with Regent Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Board members present were Jerry Armijo, Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

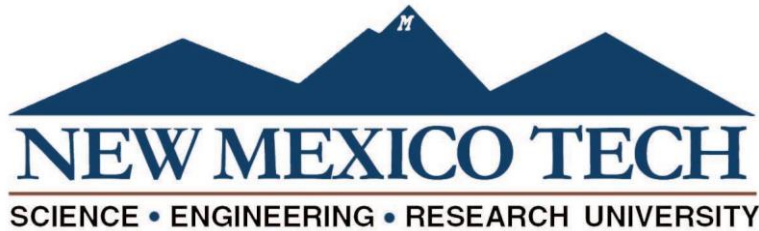
Stephen Wells
 Vanessa Grain
 Michael Hargather
 David Greene
 Peter Phaiah
 Dallin Sobers
 Robert Balch

Cleve McDaniel
 Michael Jackson
 Myrriah Tomar
 David Manzano
 Carlos Romero
 Jo Ann Salome

Nelia Dunbar
 Colleen Foster
 Sandi Lucero
 Juliann Ulibarri
 Mike Timmons
 Luis Contreras-Vidal

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Peacock called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.
 - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Vanessa Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *El Defensor Chieftain*.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent Peacock said that there would be no report on items 4d, 4e, 6b and the Executive Session may move up in order on the agenda. Regent King moved to approve the agenda with amendments. Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a) **SGA,** President Sobers discussed events the SGA co-sponsored with the Office of Student Life and Dean of Student Life during Weeks of Welcome and an event SGA co-sponsored with the Chemistry Department. He also discussed statistics regarding

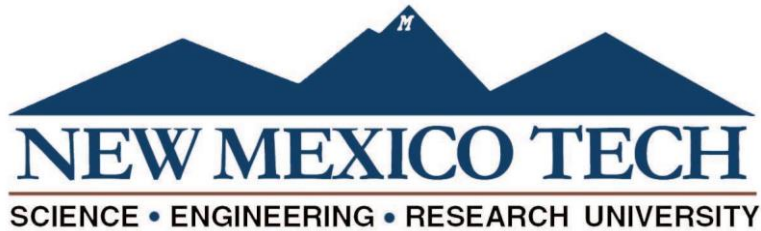
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involvement in SGA and campus events and efforts to involve more female students in the organization. He discussed Project Unity, led by Elijah Naranjo, which will help identify ways to increase school spirit and how to answer the question “What does it mean to be a Techie?” He also discussed “Project Create,” which involves the creation of videos of students displaying their talents, the president’s podcast, the newly digitized Paydirt student newspaper hosted on its own website, and an effort to produce a digitized yearbook, “Goldmine.” President Sobers said this is his final term as he will be graduating, and he hopes to leave SGA in better shape. Sandi Lucero from the Advancement Office said that her office has a copy of the last student yearbook, “Porphyry.” Dr. Dunbar encouraged President Sobers to speak to alums to get their perspective on “What it means to be a Techie.”

- b) GSA**, President Contreras-Vidal had no report.
- c) Student Life**, VP Greene said that move-in weekend was very successful. He explained that twenty-seven students, who started the semester living in a hotel, were now housed on campus. The occupancy rate of on-campus housing is 98%, and there are about 12 open beds. He also discussed metrics for the NMT Guidebook, including views, downloads, and time in the app. He also discussed a new submission process and its renaming to NMT Events.
- d) Title IX**, AVP Phaiah had no report.
- e) Academic Affairs**, IVP Jackson said he had newsletters he would hand out afterwards.
- f) Capital Projects**. VP McDaniel discussed his handout with information about the Brown Hall remodel, the Kelly Hall project, the campus wide electronic lock upgrade, campus wide roofing projects, and other campus infrastructure upgrades. He highlighted the electronic lock upgrade and said that NMT cannot move forward until we hear back from the State Board of Finance. He reported that a roofer stated that because of supply chain issues it could be an 18-month wait for the roofing project to begin.
- g) Research**, IVP Dunbar had no report.
- h) OIC**, Director Tomar had no report.
- i) Advancement**, Director Foster said a recent check for more than \$5.5 million pushes NMT far ahead of where it was a year ago in fundraising for this fiscal year to date.
- j) Bureau of Geology**, Interim Director Timmons had no report.
- k) PRRC**, Director Balch had no report.
- l) HR**, Director Salome had no report.
- m) Faculty Senate**, Dr. Hargather highlighted a written report about a faculty survey during spring semester that was a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis. Respondents raised concerns about how decisions, including those

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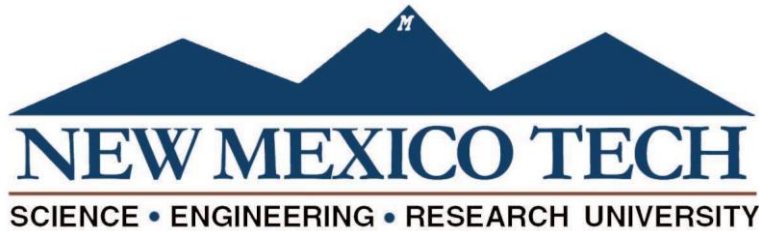
about university finances, are made, especially in the Academic Affairs Department. VP McDaniel said that his office wants to improve its transparency about financial decisions. Regent Lepre said administration needs to figure out how to use the information gathered in the survey. Dr. Hargather said his takeaway from the survey is that NMT has a very engaged faculty who want to help make improvements and that there are many opportunities.

- n) **Marketing & Comm.**, Interim Director Bauer had no report.
- o) **Govt. Affairs**, Director Manzano had no report.
- p) **President's Report**, Vanessa Grain reported that there are only six COVID-19 cases on campus. President Wells reported on the Council of University Presidents' summer retreat and planning session. He said a lot of time was spent on student mental health and campus safety issues.

5. Information Items.

- a) **NMT Foundation Updates**, Regent Armijo said that at the foundation meeting a few weeks ago affordable housing as a challenge in NMT's university community was a discussion topic. Regent Armijo said that there has not been any new private housing units built in years in Socorro, and the last student housing built on the NMT campus was the Torres dormitory, which was built 10 years ago. He went on to explain that the NMT Foundation owns the Mountain Springs Apartments and were leased to the university. Regent Armijo stated that because of the audit done on the apartment buildings, it is not cost-effective for New Mexico Tech to buy the apartments from the NMT Foundation, and the lease would continue until 2026. He went on to say at that time, it was expected that the university would surrender possession of the units, and it is one of NMT's major student facilities. Regent Armijo said NMT would have to do something to backfill the housing spaces that will result from the apartment building being surrendered. He said a course of action should emerge in the next several months to a year. Regent Armijo said the Mountain Springs Apartments need costly and extensive renovations and he is not sure if it will be cost effective for someone to purchase the apartments for student housing or for another purpose, such as low-income housing. He also reported that the NMT Foundation is working in the community to get more, much-needed housing started.
- b) **NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates**, Regent King had no report.
- c) **NM HERC**, Regent King said that a date has not yet been set for a summit. She explained that there is a need to look at the overall legislative priorities so that the universities do not duplicate effort. She said housing issues also include faculty and staff, not just students and that other key issues that the universities share are mental health and food insecurity.

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- d) **NMT Legislative Updates**, Regent Lepre said that the state budget reserve is currently at thirty-seven percent (37%) and could go up to forty-five percent (45%). He explained that there was potential for discussion of tax cuts and being thoughtful about how to spend the surplus. He mentioned that the cost of health care premiums would also be studied. Regent Lepre said that the LFC will be meeting in Taos Sept. 21 and that the HED Secretary has indicated she is not interested in any significant changes to the current funding formula.
- e) **NMT Student Updates**, Regent Espinoza had no report.
- f) **Degree Conferrals for July 2022**. Regents acknowledged the report in their binders.
- g) **Restricted Fund Purchase Notification of Awards > \$100k**, Regents acknowledged the report in their binders.

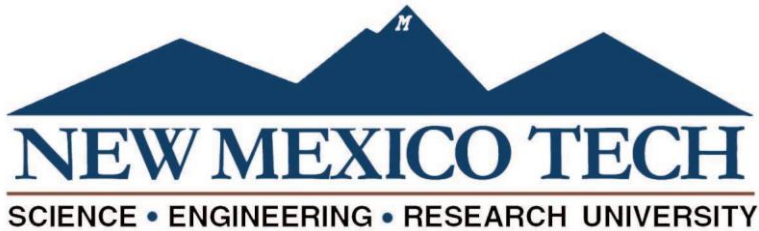
6. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of May 13, 2022, and July 6, 2022, Minutes**. Regent King moved approval and Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b) **Approval of NMT KMP Resolution for PRTC**, Regent King moved approval and Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- c) **Approval of Southwest NM Council of Govt. Resolution**, Regent Armijo moved approval and Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of NMHED FY24 Research and Public Service Projects (RPSPs) Ranking and Funding Requests**, Regent King moved approval of the list of projects slated for RPSP funding and Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of NMT Endowment Report**, Regent Armijo moved approval and Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- f) **Approval of NMHED Qtr. Certification for June 30, 2022**, Regent King moved approval and Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- g) **Approval of NMHED Capital Project Trans. Sum. Sheet**, VP McDaniel explained that the request is for the ICASA Secure Facility Upgrade Project. Regent Armijo moved approval and Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- h) **Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase > \$250K**, Regent Armijo moved approval and Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Individual Board Member Comments. None

- 8. **New Business**. The next meeting will be held Oct. 24 and 25 in Playas. More information about transportation is forthcoming.

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- 9. **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 from Regent Espinoza, the Board unanimously entered into executive session under a roll-call vote of the Regents. The Regents took a recess on August 30, 2022, reconvening on August 31, 2022.
- 10. **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.** The regular board meeting reconvened at 10:05 a.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed.
- 11. **President Wells/Regents Milestone Bonus.** Regent King moved and Regent Espinoza seconded the agreed upon milestone bonus to be paid to President Wells pursuant to his employment contract, which passed unanimously by voice vote.
- 12. **Budget Subcommittee.** Chair Peacock appointed Regent Lepre as the sole member of a Budget Subcommittee of the NMT Board of Regents.
- 13. **Adjournment.** Regent King moved and Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

President

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

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Secretary- Treasurer

Board Member proxy for Regent Armijo

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