

**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2020
Fidel Center Ballrooms
New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, N.M.**

Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/92855298826>

MINUTES

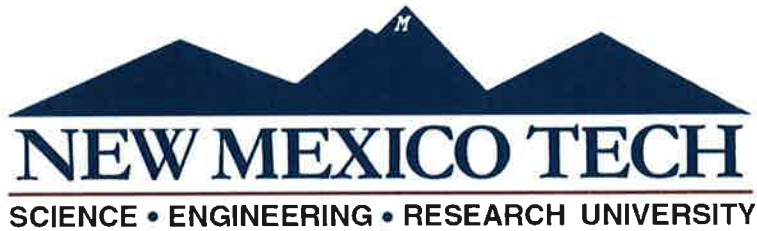
The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, July 9, 2020, with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. All board members were present: Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells
Vanessa Grain
Juliann Ulibarri
Mark Adams
Cleve McDaniel
Jenny Ma
Peter Phaiah
Doug Wells
Van Romero
Colleen Foster

JoAnn Salome
Dave Lepre
Dave Manzano
Thom Guengerich
Peter Anselmo
Peter Mozley
Quincy Bradfield
Henry Prager
Lyndsey Lewis
Tom Engler

Valeri Del Curto
Danielle Turner
Snezna Rogelj
Robert Balch

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. The Chair announced that the meeting was a regular meeting but would be also be streamed via Zoom Webinar. Regent Peacock said there would not be roll-call votes since all the Regents were in attendance.
 - 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 King moved to approve the agenda as presented. Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a) **SGA President, Mr. Quincy Bradfield.** Mr. Bradfield gave an update about the 2020 version of 49ers Celebration online. He notified the Regents that NMT club meetings



will be limited to ten people, senate meetings will be held online, and the events scheduled for the first week of classes have been largely cancelled.

- b) **GSA President, Mr. Henry Prager.** Mr. Prager reported that travel grant requests have drastically declined, and he is moving offices to a larger space in the Fidel Center.
- c) **Office of Student Life, AVP Dr. Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah discussed definition changes at the federal level for sexual harassment via Title IX and how NMT is addressing these changes.
- d) **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Dr. Doug Wells.** VP Wells presented admission numbers and said undergraduate enrollment is projected to be up by thirteen students over last year. Graduate enrollment is projected to be up by 21 from last year.
- e) **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Dr. Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel presented and referred to his written report. He explained that Stoven Construction is prepared to mobilize and begin construction of the Deju University House. West Hall has been brought back online as a dormitory for the 2020-2021 school year, which means that the Brown Hall renovation has been postponed for a year. He noted that NMT spent \$130,000 on renovating the gym, which reopened July 1, 2020, and is vastly improved.
- f) **Office of Research, VP Dr. Van Romero.** VP Romero reported that research is booming and that faculty had submitted more proposals than the previous year. He said this year's research expenditures are on average, but that is without the \$8 million to \$10 million of revenue from the First Responder Program, which has been shut down for 5 months. He noted that FEMA has pushed back the re-opening of the First Responder Program and will not happen before October 1, 2020.
- g) **Office of Innovation Commercialization, Director Dr. Peter Anselmo.** Director Anselmo reported that the university's activity in entrepreneurship is taking shape and making headway. NMT has started a technology accelerator that is reaching the people it's intended to reach NMT received a grant of \$175,000 to renew the program. Also, two new companies have been formed through the Small-Business Technology Transfer (SBTT). The agreement with Nusenda to open a new space on California Street is at "the finish line." The office space will be used by the start-ups. He reported that he's working on grant proposals with the Arrowhead Center at NMSU and the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. They are collaborating to develop a cybersecurity workshop in agriculture.
- h) **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster reported that donations are slightly below last year at this point in time, and NMT has received a \$1 million gift recently. The Student Emergency Fund and the CARES Act funds will be distributed this fall. The Advancement Office's virtual happy hours have been very successful, and alumni have been excited to participate in these hosted events. The President's Golf Tournament will continue with significant changes to accommodate the pandemic. NMT's 49ers event will be largely online, and the theme will be "The Twilight Zone."

- i) **NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar presented an update on Bureau activity with two new hires. She said promotion of the new guidebook book, *Geology of Southern New Mexico's Parks, Monuments, and Public Lands* has been slow due to the pandemic, but field work has resumed, which has improved morale. The 25th annual "Rocking Around New Mexico" is ongoing, with about thirty teachers taking part in the virtual event. Dr. Dunbar noted that 25 to 33 percent of the NM Bureau staff have been tested for COVID-19. She also noted that the bureau is focusing on moving as much work as possible to the electronic/digital business model.
- j) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** Director Balch presented an overview of the Center's activity with a detailed written report and slides. The PRRC's 2020 budget is about \$6.1 million. The Center gets about \$4 million from the federal government and industry, with \$1.9 million from the state. The PRRC provides about \$462,000 to students each year and an average of \$662,000 of overhead to the university. The PRRC supports 29 students and six faculty members per year on average. The PRRC averages 54 publications per year, but produced 101 publications in the past year. He summarized two large projects in the Four Corners region – the regional carbon storage partnership and the San Juan carbon storage project that is in Phase 3. Dr. Balch gave a detailed report about the hollow membrane project that is entering field testing in southeast New Mexico. The project was first tested in Clovis and has attracted the attention of a large oil producer who is aiming to purify 10,000 gallons per day. He said this project has commercial viability that could become quite lucrative. Six such units are being donated and deployed to Native American pueblos and reservations that lack sufficient potable water sources.
- k) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** Director Salome submitted a written report.
- l) **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Tom Engler.** Dr. Engler thanked President Wells, the Regents, and the administration for their leadership during the pandemic.
- m) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** Director Lepre gave a brief review of his submitted written report.
- n) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** Director Manzano reported under the Information Item section with President Wells and VP McDaniel.
- o) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells introduced Dr. Danielle Turner and Dr. Snezna Rogelj, who discussed their efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Turner talked about efforts to make WHO-approved hand sanitizer. They've produced over 1,000 gallons of sanitizer, with more than two-thirds of that amount being donated. Dr. Turner said they've been producing facemasks and have donated over 700. In addition, they are helping to donate sanitizer and masks for the student kits NMT is providing students for the Fall '20 semester. Dr. Rogelj reported on their entrepreneurial and intellectual property progress. They have three projects that are IP-protected. She said the one at the forefront is a topical treatment that is antimicrobial, anti-viral, and antifungal. The novel material also kills drug-resistant microbes. The commercialization is ongoing with Bill Siedel and support from Dr. Peter




Anselmo. She said they are also finalizing negotiations with a financial partner to pursue EPA and FDA approval. She said another project is Symbiotics, which has been ongoing for 10 years and is antibiotics for MRSA. Dr. Rogelj said the third project is a drug that is effective against cancer and other health hazards.

5. Information Items.

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo provided a short update, informing Regents of the Foundation's new bylaws, which have been adopted. Regent Armijo also reported that three new board members have joined the Foundation. A special meeting will be held in August regarding the capital campaign.
- b) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board acknowledged the June 2020 graduate list.
- c) **NMT Fee Updates.** VP Wells presented a list of fees, including the Tech Support Fee. AVP Phaiyah said NMT has changed fees due to the pandemic, and presented a list of changes. The Board acknowledged the report.
- d) **Special Session Updates.** President Wells informed the Regents that the Special Session was challenging for higher education. He explained that the financial situation is compounded by misinformation on many levels. Director Manzano summarized the written report he submitted to President Wells and the Board of Regents. Director Manzano explained that the financial implication for the Federal CARES Act swap with state funding was a significant item. He said I&G was cut 4% and below the line was cut 6% with no compensation increases budgeted. VP McDaniel said the budget is 3.2% lower than last year, or \$2.6 million. The Board acknowledged the report.

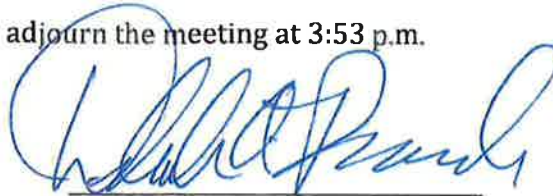
6. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of June 24, 2020 Minutes.** Regent King moved to approve the minutes as presented. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Approval of University Research Park Corp. Bylaws.** Director Anselmo presented the new bylaws. The Regents discussed an amendment to the Bylaws to also include a Regent on the board along with the OIC Director. Regent Gonzales moved to approve the bylaws as presented with this amendment and to appoint Regent King to the University Research Park Corp. Board. Regent King accepted the appointment. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) **Approval of NMHED Quarterly Financial Certification for June 30, 2020.** Regent King moved to approve the quarterly certification as presented. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of Updated Bank Resolutions.** Regent King moved to approve the resolutions as presented. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase exceeding \$250,000 for Stoven Construction.** Regent King moved to approve the purchase as presented. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



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- f) **Approval of Fall/Winter Board meeting dates for the remainder of 2020.** The meeting dates agreed on will be Monday, August 24, 2020; Monday, October 12, 2020; and Friday, November 20, 2020. The Regents discussed and unanimously agreed on the dates.
7. **Individual Board Member Comments.** Regent Gonzales said he is encouraged that entrepreneurialism has taken great steps forward and that it'll be very impactful. Regent King expressed appreciation to everyone on the board.
8. **New Business.** None.
9. **Executive Session.** NMSA 1978, Sec.10-15-1 (H)(2), (If required to Consider Legal and Personnel Matters). On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Armijo, the Board unanimously adjourned its regular session at 1:42 p.m. to meet in executive session under a roll-call vote of the Regents.
10. **Reconvene in open session and take final action, if any, on such limited personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session.** The meeting reconvened at 3:50 p.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed. Regent King moved and Regent Armijo seconded to reconvene. Approval was unanimous.
- a) Regent King moved to extend President Wells' contract for a second five-year term, commencing in July 2021 and authorizing Chair Peacock to negotiate the details in the renewal. Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
11. **Adjournment.** It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:53 p.m.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer

