



**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Friday, May 7, 2021
Third-floor Ballrooms, Fidel Center,
New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, N.M.**

Also via Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 7, 2021, with Regent Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Board members present were: Jerry Armijo, Dave Lepre Sr., Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells
Vanessa Grain
Juliann Ulibarri
Mark Adams
Cleve McDaniel

Michael Hargather
Bobbi Lesperance
Gloria Anaya
Thom Guengerich
Carlos Romero

Peter Phaiah
Doug Wells
Van Romero
Colleen Foster

Steve Simpson
Robert Balch
Michael Hargather

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
 - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and *El Defensor Chieftain*.
2. **Regents Oath of Office.**

The Board members recited the Oath of Office. Board members will sign the document.
3. **Approval of Agenda.**

Regent Armijo moved to approve the agenda. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Election of Officers.

- a) Regent Armijo nominated Chair Peacock to continue as chair. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- b) Regent King nominated Regent Armijo to serve as secretary/treasurer. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Public Comment.

- a) None.

6. Recurring Reports.

- a) President's Report
 - a. President Wells introduced Advancement Director Foster. She reported that the Capital Campaign has passed the \$3 million goal for the calendar year, reaching \$3.5 million. By way of comparison, the Capital Campaign raised \$2.3 million in the previous year. She reported that the \$5 million pledge discussed at the previous meeting was finalized, including a donation of 300 shares of Amazon, which is valued at about \$1 million. Overall, the Capital Campaign has raised \$60 million of the \$110 million goal, most of which are pledges.
 - b. Commencement update. President Wells summarized the timeline for the May 8 ceremonies.

7. Information Items

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo said there was no news to provide.
- b) **NMT University Research Park Corp Updates.** Regent King said there was no update at this time.
- c) **HERC Annual Meeting.** Regent King said board members and members from the HERC attended the annual meeting in Albuquerque. She summarized the conference for the board, including discussions of governance, finances, and broadband access.
- d) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board was presented with the March and April graduation lists.
- e) **Academic Tenure and Promotion.** VPAA Wells presented the faculty members approved for promotion. First, he presented the five faculty members who have been approved for tenure and promotion to associate professor. He then presented five faculty members who have been approved for promotion to full professor. Board members offered their congratulations to all the faculty members.

8. Action Items.

- a) **Approval April 26, 2021, Minutes.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.


- b) **Approval of May 2021 Graduation List.** VPAA Wells submitted the graduation list for May 2021. Regent Espinoza moved approval. Regent King seconded. Regent Armijo, with support from Attorney Adams, recommended changing the motion to authorize President Wells to confer the degrees to the Class of 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) **Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$250,000.** VP McDaniel presented a contract for \$543,690 to Moss Adams over four years to continue as the NMT auditors. He said the state has changed regulations to allow state agencies to keep the same auditor for up to eight years.
- d) **Approval of NMHED Capital Project Transmittal Sheet.** VP McDaniel presented plans for dramatic upgrades to the power supply at the Playas Research and Training Center. The \$16.9 million project is fully funded by the federal government. Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of NMHED 5-Year Capital Project Funding Plan.** VP McDaniel presented documentation related to capital projects on campus: MSEC upgrades. \$10 million for the future Body and Mind Center (out of a total budget of about \$33.4 million), \$3.3 million for Kelly Hall. The request also includes funding for Playas upgrades. The plan will be presented to NMHED for inclusion in the next G.O. Bond. Regent King moved approval. Regent Lepre seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- f) **Approval of Bursum House Committee.** Regent Armijo said the transfer of real property from a private concern to a state agency (New Mexico Tech) presents challenges because NMT has no history of receiving such a donation. He presented a blueprint for forming an advisory ad hoc committee to manage the transition, the renovations, and the management of the property. Regent King moved to appoint Regent Armijo to chair the committee, with assistance from Regent Peacock. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- g) **Approval of Regents Summer Retreat.** Chair Peacock presented three options for a retreat location. The board agreed to hold the retreat in Taos from August 25 to 27. Board members offered topics of discussion for the retreat, which will be finalized later.

9. Individual Board Member Comments.

- a) None.


10. New Business.

- a) None.




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- 11. Executive Session.** NMSA 1978, Sec.10-15-1 (H)(2), (If required to Consider Legal or Personnel Matters). On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Espinoza, the Board unanimously adjourned its regular session at 2:11 p.m. to meet in executive session under a roll-call vote of the Regents.
- 12. 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 3:52 p.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed.
- 13. Adjournment.** Regent Armijo moved to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. Regent King seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer