



**Board of Regents Retreat Regular Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2021
El Monte Sagrado, Taos, N.M.**

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 9:25 a.m. Monday, August 9, 2021, with Regent Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Board members present were: Dr. Yolanda King, Veronica Espinoza, Jerry Armijo, and Dr. Dave Lepre Sr. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells
Vanessa Grain
Juliann Ulibarri
Cleve McDaniel
Peter Phaiah
Doug Wells
Van Romero

Michael Hargather
Colleen Foster
Nelia Dunbar
Mark Adams
Robert Balch
Dave Lepre
David Manzano

Thom Guengerich
Mariana Huckabee
Quincy Bradfield
Carlos Romero
Dallin Sobers
JoAnn Salome
Juliann Ulibarri

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Peacock called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m.
 - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that the meeting was advertised in the *Albuquerque Journal* and *El Defensor Chieftain*.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent King moved to approve the agenda. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.**
 - a) None
4. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a) **SGA President, Mr. Dallin Sobers.** Mr. Sobers reported that the SGA met for the first time of the semester. The original VP resigned, so a new VP was elected. The first week of classes was full of activity. He said the SGA is trying to be "bigger and better than ever." He hopes to improve SGA activities during 49ers this year.

- b) **GSA President, Mr. Mariana Huckabee.** Ms. Huckabee, the new president, introduced herself to the board. She said the GSA is working on bylaw changes and is working on a new office and meeting space.
- c) **Office of Student Life, AVP Dr. Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah said his division is in search of a new vice president. He said he had no report.
- d) **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Dr. Doug Wells.** VP Wells said enrollment is up 4 percent in credit hours over last year.
- e) **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Dr. Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel said framing of the Deju House is complete and the project will be completed this fall. In preparation for the renovations of Brown Hall, he said Brown Hall occupants will move into upgraded West Hall in January 2022. VP McDaniel said NMT will request \$3.3 million for the Kelly Hall renovation project in the next round of G.O. Bond elections. He said NMT has \$10 million for this project from the previous election but is still short of the estimated cost of \$16.7 million needed to finish the project.
- f) **Office of Research, VP Dr. Van Romero.** VP Romero said the First Responder Training program is back in full swing, despite some municipalities still limiting travel for first responders. The Office of Research has submitted three major funding requests: First Responder Training program, MRO Interferometer, and WIPP site subcontractor maintenance. The proposed federal funding for the MRO-I proposal appears to be successful with the AFRL allowing pre-award spending. He said NMT is hosting several workshops. One is focused on A.I. in relation to hydrology at the National Center for Genomic Research (NCGR) in Santa Fe. Another workshop is focused on research and studies related to methane derived from the dairy industry. A third workshop relates to the hydrogen energy industry. VP Romero also reported on a recent NIH grant proposal for \$1.6 million that was declined because NMT lacked a \$60,000 centrifuge. He said this loss is indicative of how N.M. universities are strapped for equipment even though these institutions have the necessary intellectual capacity.
- g) **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster reported that her team is aiming to improve on last year's record year of \$3.8 million in donations. She said her team will be able to attract more donations now that travel has resumed. The Advancement Office is working with academic department chairs to increase donations for each department. Plans are underway for in-person events, such as the President's Golf Tournament, the 49ers Celebration, and the President's Club Dinner. Director Foster also said the capital campaign has achieved \$63 million out of the goal of \$109 million.
- h) **NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar reported on a successful \$1.8M DOE grant proposal to Bureau PI Dr. Alex Gysi, focusing on critical mineral research. This will support NMT becoming a leader in critical mineral research. She said the Bureau has three new publications of note. *The Geology of the Chama River* is a new book by Paul Bauer, with assistance from Mike Timmons and Matt Zimmerer.

The latest *Earth Matters* publication focused on induced seismicity. The report titled *Climate Change in New Mexico over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources*, commissioned by the Interstate Stream Commission, has been completed as well. The report will be available for public comment on September 15.

- i) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** No report
- j) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** No report.
- k) **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Michael Hargather.** No report.
- l) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** No report
- m) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** No report
- n) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells asked Stephanie Plant to update the Board on the COVID-19 Dashboard. Ms. Plant reported that 65 percent of students are vaccinated and 80 percent of employees. Dr. Michael Hargather said he and other parents are concerned about the timeline and process of the roll-out of the vaccine requirements for Macey Family Child Care Center staff. There is concern that the mandate will result in significant loss of staff and inability to provide daycare services. Regent Armijo said this is a board initiative that NMT is providing a safe place for children, and that children should not be around unvaccinated people in the daycare setting.
- o) **Other.** President Wells reported that he had a great meeting with David Abbey of the LFC. He also reported that he met with NMT graduate Lukas Lundin, who has built several very successful businesses in mining and the oil-and-gas industry. He and Director Foster met with Mr. Lundin – and several of his family members – in Geneva. They discussed NMT fundraising and potentially joining the NMT Foundation.

5. Information Items

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo reported that the Foundation is establishing new management of the endowment, which exceeds \$20 million.
- b) **NMT University Research Park Corporation Updates.** Regent King said the Research Park Corporation has welcomed new members, including Damien Ocampo of Socorro. The Corporation received approximately \$1.5 million for the sale of RiskSense, which is \$86,000 more than expected.
- c) **Degree Conferrals for June and July 2020.** The Board acknowledged the list of degree conferrals.
- d) **Restricted Fund Purchase Notification of Awards.** VP McDaniel summarized the awards, most of which are for EMRTC.

6. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of May 7, 2021, Minutes.**
- b) **Approval of July 20, 2021, Minutes.**

- c) **Approval of August 9, 2021, Minutes.**
- i. **1) Regent King** moved approval of all three sets of minutes. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- d) **Approval of the NMT Resilient Plan 7.0.** President Wells presented the revised plan. Regent King moved approval. Regent Armijo seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- e) **Approval of Acceptance of a Planned Gift from Mr. Charlie Culp.** Director Foster explained that NMT alumnus and donor Mr. Charlie Culp is setting up an endowed chair that also includes scholarship funding. Normal endowments of this nature usually require a \$2 million corpus, but Mr. Culp is setting up a fund with \$1 million, similar to what he's done with Texas A&M, and the corpus of the fund is expected to last in perpetuity. Director Foster said this is a one-time exception. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- f) **Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase.** VP McDaniel presented the renewal contract with Presbyterian for operating the NMT Student Clinic. Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- g) **Approval of NMHED Capital Project Transmittal Sheet.** VP McDaniel presented three items:
- i. **1) Electronic Door Lock Upgrades.** This project will proceed in four phases and improve security on campus. VP McDaniel said NMT has received \$1.59 million from the State of New Mexico and \$1.29 million from a G.O. Bond. Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - ii. **2) 2011 System Revenue Bond Refinancing.** VP McDaniel explained the savings NMT will see from refinancing the bond issue. John Archuleta of Stifel Public Financing presented details of how NMT will save more than \$1 million. Bond counsel Linda Melendres of Melendres and Melendres P.C. explained the process of refinancing and getting approval from the N.M. Board of Finance. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - iii. **3) Bursum House.** VP McDaniel presented plans for finalizing the transfer of the Bursum House property to NMT. He presented transmittal documents, letter of intent, and the environmental assessment. The package of documents will be signed by the Board of Regents and submitted to the N.M. Higher Education Department. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- h) **Approval of NMHED Quarterly Certification for June 30, 2021.** VP McDaniel presented the report. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- i) **Approval of NMHED Endowment Report.** VP McDaniel presented the report. Regent Espinoza moved approval. Regent King seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- j) **Approval of NMT NMHED FY22 Research and Public Service (RPSP) Ranking and Funding.** VP McDaniel presented the report. President Wells spoke about the different types of RPSPs and the difficulty of ranking projects that are all worthy of state funding. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- k) **Approval of NMT Travel Policy.** VP McDaniel presented a new version of the NMT Travel Policy. He said the campus community had submitted a number of thoughtful comments to help craft the new document. Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- l) **Approval of NMT Property Resolutions.** Regent Armijo moved approval of the report as presented. Regent King seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- m) **Approval of NMT Employee Benefit Trust Recommendations.** Regent Armijo moved approval of the recommendation of the Employee Benefit Trust, as presented, to transfer employee health coverage to NMPSIA. Regent King seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Individual Board Member Comments.

- a) Chair Peacock thanked the NMT staff for organizing the Retreat. President Wells thanked the hotel staff for their hard work.

8. New Business.

- a) The next meetings are provisionally set for 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, and 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19.

- 9. Executive Session.** NMSA 1978, Sec.10-15-1 (H)(2), (If required to Consider Legal or Personnel Matters). On a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Espinoza, the Board unanimously adjourned its regular session at 11:17 a.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 1:10 p.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed.



11. Adjournment. Regent Armijo moved to adjourn at 1:11 p.m. Regent King seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer