

**Board of Regents Regular Meeting  
Friday, September 20, 2024, 1:00 pm  
NMT Campus, Fidel Ballroom C**

**MINUTES**

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 pm on Friday, September 20, 2024, with Regent Chair Jerry Armijo presiding. Board members present were Dr. David Lepre, Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala and Adrian Salustri. Other University administrators, staff and guests included President Mahyar Amouzegar, Vanessa Grain, Dr. Michael Jackson, Dr. Michael Doyle, Dr. David Greene, Richard Cervantes, Dr. Rick Thompson, Dr. Michael Timmons, Dr. Robert Balch, Dr. Brian Borchers, JoAnn Salome, Alex Garcia, Jenny Ma, Peter Satzmary, Daryl Ackley, Colleen Foster, Melissa Tull, Tammy Roof, Valentina Avramidi, Elijah Collins, Donna Essel, Gloria Gutierrez-Anaya; Mark Adams and Jenica Jacobi (via Zoom), and Valerie Kimble.

- 1. Call to Order.** Regent Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
  - 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.** Chair Armijo entertained a motion to revise the agenda to include enrollment updates by VPSA Greene, and removing revised policies from Consent Items (6 a and b) to Action Items (7 e and f). Regent King moved, followed by a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- 3. Public Comment.** None
  
- 4. Regent Committee Reports.**
  - a) NMT Foundation Updates.** Chair Armijo reported that everything is going well with the Foundation, with a meeting scheduled for next week.
  - b) NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates.** Regent King noted that a NMTURPC item will be brought forward later in the meeting; meanwhile, the NMTURPC Board is in the final phase of strategic planning.
  - c) NM HERC Updates.** Regent King reported that the HERC will meet next month at NMSU.
  - d) Regent Finance Subcmte/Legislative Updates.** Regent Lepre announced that the subcommittee will meet at 3 pm on Sept. 25 at the Deju House, as one of two regular meetings a year. A presentation by David Manzano will focus on outcomes from the 2024 Legislature, and potential priorities for 2025. Individuals on campus will have an opportunity to speak to the issues, with no cut-off time. Chair Armijo said he will

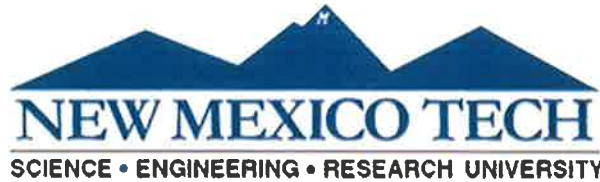


attend, and encouraged other Board members to do so. A meeting last spring was a first attempt to discuss the budget process; next spring's meeting will focus on how NMT uses its appropriations and how academic programs lead to funds for the Institute.

- e) **Regent Research Subcmte.** None.
- f) **Student Updates.** Regent Salustri congratulated new GSA President Donna Essel for initiating a fund drive addressing emergency services for graduate students, and trying to provide them with health insurance. A voter registration drive is coming up in October.

#### 5. Info Items, Chair Armijo

- a) **Enrollment Update.** VPSA Greene reported on current enrollment challenges. He explained the challenging issues regarding financial aid is leading some students to sit out a semester, who NMT hopes to recruit for the spring semester. He said degree-seeking graduate student enrollment is up, and the percentage for non-degree-seeking grads has almost doubled. Also, NMT's retention rate is up from 2 years ago. In addressing financial aid issues, Dr. Greene reported that the Financial Aid Office has been working nonstop in processing \$100k a day in applications.
- b) **SGA Updates.** President Elijah Collins introduced himself as a fifth-year Tech student majoring in Civil Engineering. SGA has been very active preparing for 49ers, with its next meeting at 8 pm on Sept. 24 in the SAC. Regent Salustri noted that Mr. Collins served as Vice President under former SGA President Dylan Schroeder, and has worked on SGA issues almost fulltime over the summer.
- c) **GSA Updates.** President Donna Essel spoke to a survey to elicit information on issues faced by Tech's graduate students. Her team collaborated with the Office for Graduate Studies in securing funds for medical emergency services for grad students, which to date has netted \$35k. Regent Lepre encouraged Ms. Essel to speak at the Sept. 25 legislative financial subcommittee meeting as to the organization's perceived needs going forward.
- d) **Quarterly Financial Report as of 06/30/24.** As suggested, VPAF Cervantes delivered a more simplified end-of-the-fiscal-year presentation, with a detailed report in Regents' packets.
- e) **Restricted Fund Notification of Awards >\$100k.** VP Cervantes reported an award of \$166k to the NMT Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering under an NSF grant to Tufts University.
- f) **Attorney Services for NMT.** VP Cervantes reported that an RFP for legal services resulted in a contract with four firms on an as-needed basis, with the Rodey firm as lead counsel. The agreement with the law firm will be finalized as the University transitions to its new counsel, Rodey attorney Jenica Jacobi. Mr. Adams noted that Ms. Jacobi's experience with academic institutions, dual degrees in biology and chemistry, an MBA from the Anderson School of Business, and a law degree from the UNM Law School, make her a good fit with NMT. Chair Armijo, NMT's longest-



serving Board member, acknowledged a 25-years-plus association with Mr. Adams as a trusted advisor, confidant and friend. In turn, Mr. Adams stated that NMT has been his favorite client, and that he will work with Ms. Jacobi as needed. Other Regents also lauded Mr. Adams for his outstanding class and integrity.

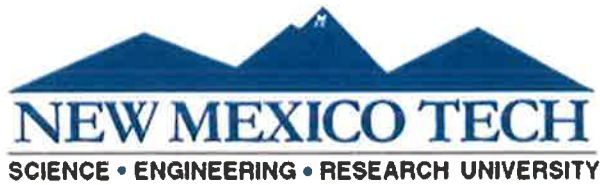
#### **6. Consent Items, Chair Armijo.**

- a) **Property Resolutions (4).** Regent King moved for approval. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **7. Action Items.**

- a) **Approval of the August 12, 2024 Minutes.** The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Salustri.
- b) **Approval of NMTURPC MOU.** President Amouzegar noted that the issue of the MOU between NMT and the Research Park Corp. was started by former and Interim President Daniel López, and that as Tech's new President, he was asked to take the lead last June. There followed a discussion as to the responsibilities and goals of both the Corporation and the University, among other issues, noting that the purpose of both the Research Foundation and Corporation are to support the campus. Chair Armijo asked for a motion to approve the MOU, subject to revisions, and to be voted on at a special meeting two weeks from today (Sept. 20, 2024). Regent King moved to approve the motion in concept, with specific details to be worked out between the Corporation Board and NMT. Regent Salustri seconded the motion. When called for the question, the motion passed unanimously.
- c) **Approval of NMHED Capital Projects Transmittal Sheet for Campus Wide Electronic Door Lock Upgrade.** VP Cervantes requested administrative authorization to submit the request, as stated, to the HED, for approval. Regent King moved for approval. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of NMTURPC Board Members.** VPR Doyle, as Vice Chair of the NMTURPC board, requested approval of two new members nominated at the last Board meeting – Ward Hendon, an investor, teacher and entrepreneur; and Harold Lavender, an attorney, entrepreneur, and military veteran. Both are enthusiastic, committed to attending meetings and interfacing with the campus community. Regent King moved for approval. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- e) **Revised Policy on Development, Amendment, and Rescindment of Policies (Policy on Policies).** Regent King moved for approval. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- f) **Revised Policy on University Flexible Work.** Mr. Adams reported that he reviewed



the policy, recommending one change in clarifying language regarding disciplinary measures following an infraction. Regent King moved for approval. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- 8. Individual Board Member Comments.** Regent King announced that her team placed Third (in their flight) in the recent Daniel H. López President’s Golf Tournament, and that it was a great event.
- 9. New Business.** Chair Armijo announced that the administration has asked to cancel the Regents meeting scheduled for Oct. 11, 2024. Regent King moved for approval, followed by a second from Regent Mukkamala. The motion passed unanimously. The next Board meeting is set for Nov. 15, 2024.
- 10. Executive Session. NMSA 1978, Sec. 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters).** Regent Salustri moved to meet in Executive Session. Regent King seconded the motion and Ms. Grain conducted a roll call vote, which was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.
- 11. 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 reconvened the meeting at 2:38 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Salustri. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Armijo affirmed that the only items discussed were those reflected in the Agenda. VPAA Jackson noted his pleasure in recommending tenure and promotion for Dr. Michael Doyle as a Professor in the Department of Biology. Regent King moved for approval, Regent Salustri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 12. Adjournment.** The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:39 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Mukkamala.

  
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President

Attest:  
  
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Secretary- Treasurer