



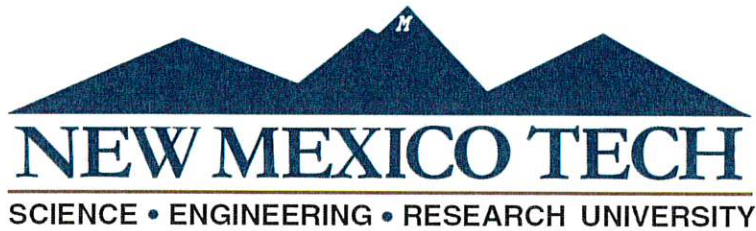
Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Friday, April 28, 2023 - 1 p.m.
Deju University House
NMT Campus
801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2023, with Regent Jerry Armijo presiding. Board members present were: Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda King, Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala, and Adrian Salustri. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells	Jenny Ma	Justin Adcock
Vanessa Grain	Mark Adams	Shannon Runyon
Cleve McDaniel	Emma Aafloy	Tom Kieft
Katie Bauer	Carlos Rey Romero	Stephanie Sichler
Michael Jackson	JoAnn Salome	Van Romero
David Greene	David Manzano	Juliann Ulibarri

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 1 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 Armijo moved that Item 5c on the agenda will be tabled and moved to the May 12 meeting. Regent King moved to approve the agenda as amended. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** No public comment.
4. **Info Items.**
 - a) **Degree Conferrals for March 2023.** Regents acknowledged the Degree Conferrals.
5. **Action Items.**
 - a. **Approval of Regent Mtg. Minutes from 03/03/23.**
 - b. **Approval of Regent Mtg. Minutes from 03/31/23.** Regent King moved approval of the minutes for both the March 3, 2023, and the March 31, 2023, meetings. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
 - c. **Approval of NMT & PRC KMP (Key Management Personnel) Resolutions.** Tabled.



- d. **Approval of Updated FY24 Tuition.** Regent King moved approval of no increase in tuition. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- e. **Approval of FY24 Operating Budget.** VP McDaniel said that this year has been challenging for NMT, despite the state-approved I&G appropriation of 1%. NMT’s costs have increased due to unfunded mandates, including wage and salary increases, Educational Retirement Board (ERB) employer contribution increase, and the change in the employer portion of health insurance premiums for certain salary and wage levels. Also, enrollment is budgeted at a projected decline of 100 students, resulting in a loss of tuition revenue. NMT budgets conservatively and faces major challenges, such as inflation and higher utility costs. NMT has mandated base reductions across the divisions of \$300,000, seeking reductions in travel, computer, and equipment expenses. Revenue includes state appropriations of \$36.5 million and funding for salary increases, including additional faculty compensation, funding from the G.O. Bond, and building renewal and replacement funding. As enrollment decreases, VP McDaniel said, fee revenue, such as lab fees, sees a similar decline as well. PRC is drilling wells and that has generated revenue. Chair Armijo asked that if the Board just approved a flat tuition increase, will it also vote on the cost of students’ food, housing, and fees? VP McDaniel said that a separate proposal will come to the Board May 12, with increases due to inflation. Chair Armijo said that Regents are keeping food and housing insecurity issues in mind. VP McDaniel said that other Student Life fees require approval. Regent Lepre said that he and Regent Salustri recently met with President Wells to discuss ideas, such as increasing the Land & Permanent Fund revenue and giving units the opportunity to find cost savings. VP McDaniel said that their conversation was very timely. He continued going over the budget transfers, detailing year-end savings and reserve (rainy day) fund transfers, increasing scholarship needs and institutional overhead increases, such as the increase in the Moss Adams contract. With the change in the employer portion of employee health insurance, the legislation did not provide funding to cover NMT’s costs. Increased utility costs are due to natural gas price inflation. A new internal auditor position is noted in the summary. With new federal regulations come more duties for staff. Other details in the summary include compression adjustments, increased contractual obligation costs, the water line replacement project, and the electronic key system upgrade, which will use external labor. President Wells commented that faculty asked for the Unmanned Aerial System Project (drones) and NMT owes gratitude to Lt. Gov. Morales for getting that

provision included in the legislation. HB2 also is providing \$850,000 in funding to the Bureau for water and geothermal projects. President Wells said it was a very successful year for NMT at the Legislature and thanked David Manzano and NMT’s legislative delegation for their assistance. Regent King moved approval of the operating budget. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

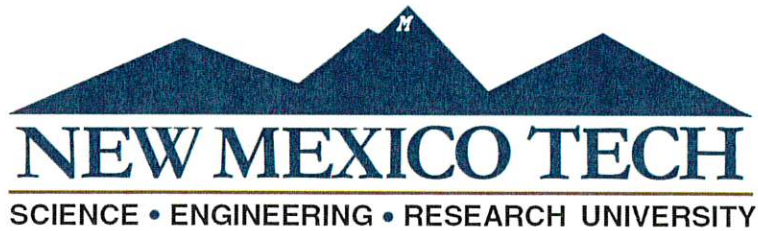
- f. Approval of Restricted Budget Adj BAR #1.** VP McDaniel said four adjustments were made for FY23, increasing budget revenue for research. Increased research activity at Playas and in the academic departments is noted. Regent King moved approval of the request. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Regent King asked to see more information about where the \$20 million is attributed to. VP McDaniel said he will provide a summary.
- g. Approval of Unrestricted Budget Adj. BAR #2.** Regent King moved approval of the request. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- h. Approval of NMHED Qtr. Certification for 3/31/23.** Regent King moved approval of the certification. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

6. Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$250k. VP McDaniel said that the two requests cover subscription services for the journals and periodicals at the library and audit services over four years. The Moss Adams increase request for the remaining two years is to cover inflation.

-EBSCO Library Subscription. Regent King moved approval of the request. Regent Salustri seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

-Moss Adams Audit Service. Chair Armijo said that from a legal standpoint, Moss Adams has a contract and is now asking for an increase of \$48,000. VP McDaniel said that the firm is making the same request of all institutions. Regent King said that inflation adjustments are usually built into contracts. VP McDaniel yielded to Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance Jenny Ma, who said that the contract can be revised. VP McDaniel said that NMT has to use the state auditor’s contract, which does not include an escalation clause. Regent Mukkamala said that it’s interesting that the contract should have that provision for inflation and renegotiation. He also said it’s a good time to do it with labor costs going up. Regent Mukkamala moved approval of the request. Regent King seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

7. **Appointment of Regents to External Boards.** Chair Armijo appointed Regents King and Salustri to serve on the HERC. Chair Armijo appointed Regent King to the Research Park. Chair Armijo said he would like to continue serving on the Foundation Board. For the Finance Subcommittee, Regent King suggested a charter with a purpose and description. Chair Armijo appointed Regents Lepre and Salustri to the Finance subcommittee. Regent Mukkamala said that the reason he requested that the 5c agenda item be held until the next meeting is to suggest an appointment of a Regent to determine restricted personnel projects. He said that the Board needs to start paying attention to these projects, with the revenue coming in. He asked to table the appointments and have a discussion at the next meeting. It's in the best interest for the Board to get involved and understand the contracts since the Board funds the research. He would like to see a committee meet regularly to tie in with NMT's research organizations. Chair Armijo asked Regent Mukkamala if he would be willing to serve and Regent Mukkamala said yes. President Wells said that this discussion comes at an interesting time with the new EMRTC director coming on board May 1, and he would be introduced at the May 12 meeting. Regent Mukkamala asked for a 10- to 15-minute presentation at the next meeting from a few of the research centers to discuss their charters, mission statements, KPIs. Chair Armijo responded that these are great ideas. Regent Lepre said that the Board has heard from Santa Fe that they are not seeing big proposals from NMT and he approves of the idea of research presentations before the Board. Regent Mukkamala asked if there are only six RPSP projects. President Wells said there are three more. Regent Mukkamala said he'd like to hear more about current progress on key projects at every Board meeting and have summary information in the folder the Regents receive. He suggested that each research area should prepare a one-page update, he suggested. Chair Armijo asked if the new subcommittee should be named the Research Subcommittee. Regent Mukkamala said that with the information for the Regents, the Board can have a focused discussion.
8. **Individual Board Member Comments.** Regent King said that HERC had a great meeting at NMT, with a great turnout and good discussion on the funding study. She thanked VP Greene for facilitating the discussion. She heard positive feedback from HERC attendees on the campus and Deju House. Chair Armijo thanked Regent King for putting the meeting together.
9. **New Business.** Chair Armijo brought up a suggestion from Regent King to purchase regalia for Commencement – specialized formal caps and gowns for the Regents. Regent King said that the NMSU Regents researched the issue and both NMSU and UNM provided the regalia. The cost is about \$5,000 for all five Regents. Regent Mukkamala asked if the Foundation

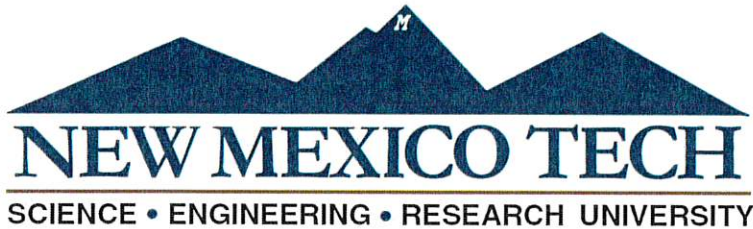


could cover the cost. Chair Armijo said that the Board can make that request. Ms. Vanessa Grain said that due to the proximity of this year’s Commencement, the purchase would be for next year’s Commencement. Chair Armijo asked the Regents who will be in attendance at this year’s Commencement. All members responded that they would attend. The Regents and President Wells discussed the protocol for congratulating the graduates. Regent Mukkamala asked about Commencement practice. Vanessa said that she will be in touch with the Regents with details, but the practice usually is scheduled for the Thursday afternoon before Commencement. President Wells said that the expected size of the audience is the reason the ceremony is being held at the rodeo grounds. Events on campus include an open house at Brown Hall, photos, and desserts. The keynote speaker this year is Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small and VP Greene used a new process to select a student speaker, involving asking students to provide a video and a draft speech to the selection committee. VP Greene said Timothy Bonzon was selected this year to deliver the student speech and will be a great representative for NMT students. Chair Armijo asked about reserving guest spots for Commencement and said Regents should provide information to Vanessa. For future meetings, a Regent retreat will be held July 17 in Socorro. Cabinet members will be invited to attend as needed. President Wells said that cabinet members are usually asked to provide metrics updates with a one- to five-year view. Regent King said that the Regents should look at the strategic plan vision statement. Fall meetings are set for Aug. 18, 2023, Oct. 9, and Nov. 17 in Socorro.

8. 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 Mukkamala, the Board adjourned its regular meeting at 2:10 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 legal and/or personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session. The meeting reconvened at 4:07 p.m. with Regent Armijo announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed.

Chair Armijo moved to accept the resignation of President Wells due to health reasons effective immediately. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion. Regent Armijo called for all those in favor of the motion. Regents Armijo, Lepre, Mukkamala, and Salustri voted aye. Regent King abstained.



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Chair Armijo moved to appoint Dr. Daniel Lopez as Interim President, effective May 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023 and that the Regents appoint Chair Armijo to negotiate the terms of Dr. Lopez contract. The contract will be brought before the board for ratification at the next Board of Regents meeting on Friday, May 12, 2023. Regent Armijo called for all those in favor of the motion. Regents Armijo, Lepre, Mukkamala, and Salustri voted aye. Regent King abstained.


Regent King made a motion to approve the list of faculty for tenure and promotion, with the following faculty to the rank of Associate Professor: Dr. Caitano da Silva; Department of Physics, Dr. Alex Gysi; Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Dr. Kooktae Lee; Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Ramyaa; Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Additionally, these faculty to the rank of Professor: Dr. Anders Jorgensen; Department of Electrical Engineering and Dr. Michaelann Tartis; Department of Chemical Engineering. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous by roll-call vote.

11. Adjournment. Regent King moved and Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer