

**Board of Regents Meeting  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents Special Meeting, via Zoom, convened at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, with Regent Chair Jerry Armijo presiding. Board members present were Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala and Adrian Salustri. Other university administrators, staff and guests included: Dr. Daniel López, Dr. Van Romero, Richard Cervantes, Dr. Michael Doyle, Dr. David Greene, Dr. Michael Jackson, Vanessa Grain, Dr. Nelia Dunbar, Dr. Brian Borchers, Jenny Ma, Emma Aafloy, JoAnn Salome, Dylan Schroeder, Dylan Purcell, Mark Adams and Valerie Kimble.

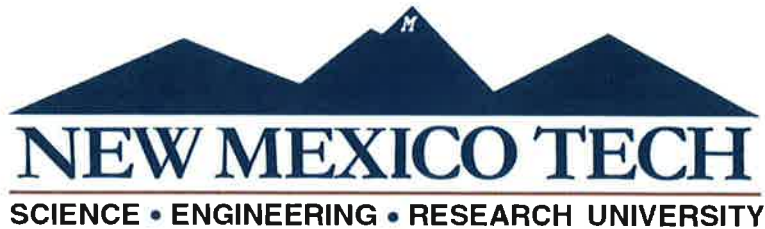
1. **Call to Order.** Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
  - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* on Sept. 1 and Sept. 4.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Chair Armijo, noting that the minutes from the Aug. 17, 2023 meeting had not been circulated until the early morning on Sept. 5, asked Regents if they were comfortable with the Agenda as presented. With general agreement among the Board, Regent King moved to approve the Agenda. Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Recurring Reports.** President López reported that the Institute was in good shape for the short term. Enrollment remains a concern, with everyone involved committed to doing their part. He explained that the LFC and HED were committed to looking at I&G funding to ensure that the state's universities and two-year schools were funded properly. The study should be completed before the 2024 Legislative Session begins. Dr. Lopez explained that NMT falls into a special category because of its intense focus on research and its small size, "and I hope the Funding Formula reflects that." He said that there was some discussion on educational funding priorities, although little has been delineated. Regent Lepre said that it would be

useful for NMT to have a conversation focusing on I&G in the Funding Formula, in setting an agenda for the Board meeting in October. Regent Armijo agreed to follow through on the suggestion. Dr. López noted the importance of reviewing what the study shows first, to ensure NMT is on the same page with the rest of the state's universities. Regent King said that the HERC really has not started on the issue, but will be taking a deep dive into finances, something that has not been done for a long-time.

## 5. Action Items

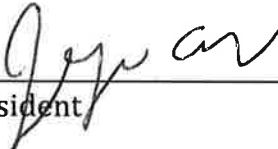
- a) **Approval of August 17, 2023 Mtg. Minutes.** Regent King moved to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2023 meeting. Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
  
- b) **Approval of NMHED FY 25 Research and Public Service Projects Ranking and Funding Requests.** In following up on recommendations made at the August 17, 2023 meeting, VP Cervantes provided the Board with a summary of financial justifications for increases in existing RPSP programs, and funding for new projects. He said historically these programs are an integral part of the research side -- with an impact on a number of different fronts -- and have rolled into NMT operations in a positive way. While NMHED has requested that entities forward no more than three requests, Tech forwarded all of them, said Mr. Cervantes, explaining that many projects are championed by individual legislators who recognize their widespread value. Regent Lepre said he was pleased to see that the majority of funding for expansion requests, and new programs, benefit personnel, as well as bringing students into the mix. There followed some discussion on how to get this message to Santa Fe. Because these RPSP proposals were woven into the mission of the University, Mr. Cervantes suggested a map showing how they have an impact on issues strategic to New Mexico; i.e., energy and water. VP Doyle noted that the educational component for the Cybersecurity Center for Excellence was cut, and consequently was submitted as a separate request. Historically, Dr. Romero explained, the Center had two different funding lines -- education and research -- whose combined budgets were less than when they were separate, and the request was to return them to their previous levels of funding. Following further discussion, Regent King moved to approve Tech's RPSP ranking and funding requests. Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. **Individual Board Member Comments.** Regents Armijo and Lepre met with the Governor, at her invitation, to gather in Santa Fe with the state's Regent Chairs and



Vice-Chairs. The purpose of the meeting was a discussion on state literacy, where New Mexico ranks at the bottom of the list. "Mississippi has now surpassed us in literacy competency, a glum situation," Regent Lepre said, adding that the state's chief executive supports science-based methodology to teach reading, wanting "buy-in" from the state's Regents. The problem, said Regent Lepre, is the belief that there is no single methodology to teach reading under a one-size-fits-all strategy. However, Regent Lepre said everyone left the meeting agreeing that if students cannot read, there are other problems down the line, especially in STEM fields.

7. **New Business.** None.
8. **Executive Session. NMSA 1978, Sec 10-15-1(H)(2), (If required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters).** Regent Mukkamala moved to meet in Executive Session. Regent King seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken by Ms. Grain, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am.
9. **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.** At 10:23 am Chair Armijo entertained a motion to reconvene the meeting. Regent King so moved, and Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Chair announced that only matters relating to legal and/or personnel were discussed.
10. **Adjournment.** Regent King moved to adjourn the meeting. Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.

  
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President

Attest:

  
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Secretary- Treasurer

