

Board of Regents Regular Meeting

Friday, May 8, 2020 ~ 1:00 pm

Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/586417160>

Or join by phone:

(408) 638 0968 or (669) 900 6833

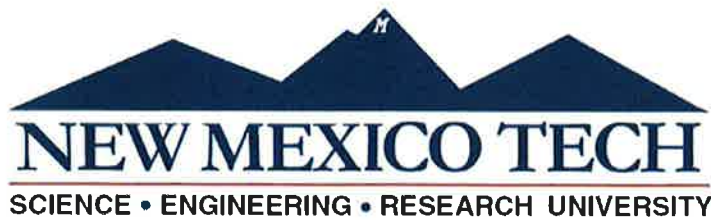
Webinar ID: 586 417 160

MINUTES

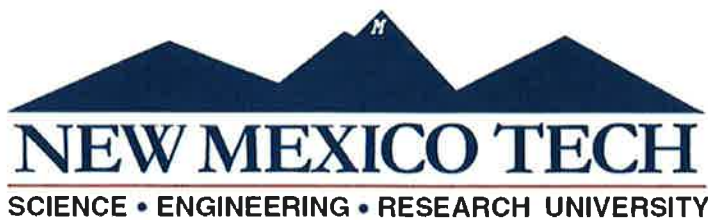
The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:02 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2020, with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

Stephen Wells	JoAnn Salome	Aly El -Osery
Vanessa Grain	Dave Lepre	Seda Senay
Juliann Ulibarri	Colleen Foster	Donghyeon Ryu
Mark Adams	Peter Anselmo	Mingji Zhang
Cleve McDaniel	Tom Engler	Gayan Rubasinghege
Peter Phaiah	David Landrum	Linda De Veaux
Doug Wells	Thom Guengerich	Jolante Van Wijk
Van Romero	Henry Prager	Wesley Cook
Nelia Dunbar	Michelle Sherman	Emma Aafloy
Robert Balch	Shari Montazeri	
Dave Manzano	Kenny Aerts	

- 1. Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. In accordance with social distance requirements ordered by Gov. Michelle Lujan-Grisham, the Chair announced that the meeting would be streamed via Zoom Webinar, and then she read the relevant provisions and requirements from the Attorney General for conducting virtual meetings under the Open Meetings Act, including asking that everyone who speaks, comments, or makes a motion identifies themselves each time. Chair Peacock also instructed Ms. Grain to conduct roll-call voting for all action items.
 - 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.** Regent King moved to approve the agenda as presented. Regent Armijo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.

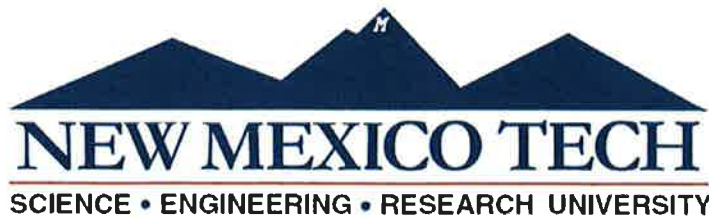


3. **Election of Officers for the Board of Regents.** Regent Peacock asked NMT Attorney, Mark Adams, to conduct the Regent Officer election. Regent King nominated Regent Peacock as President of the Board. Regent Peacock's nomination was approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents. Regent Gonzalez nominated Regent Jerry Armijo as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. Regent Armijo's nomination was approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.
4. **Public Comment.** None.
5. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a. **SGA President, Michelle Sherman.** Ms. Sherman reported that she and the SGA are encouraging members of the Class of 2020 to stay at NMT to pursue graduate degrees, particularly because the job market has tightened. Ms. Sherman said that other universities are preparing to switch to online courses, and CNM is advertising online instruction. Ms. Sherman recommended that NMT contract with local hotels to house students in a manner that satisfies social-distancing restrictions. Regent King commented that she participated in a virtual career fair that included STEM jobs in New Mexico. Both Regent Armijo and Regent King thanked Ms. Sherman for her great ideas.
 - b. **GSA President, Henry Prager.** Mr. Prager reported on the GSA online elections, which resulted in Mr. Prager returning as President. Mr. Prager reported that the GSA selected Jose Martinez-Claros and Mikell Coleman for the GSA's annual appreciation awards.
 - c. **Office of Student Life, AVP Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah reported that his office is planning for the re-opening of campus and following best practices in light of COVID-19 pandemic protocols. AVP Phaiah reported that the capacity of the residence halls will be reduced from 760 to 504 beds. Also, due to distancing protocols, half of the available beds will be reserved for incoming freshmen. He has opened discussions with local hotels for students if needed. AVP Phaiah is collaborating with the Office of Admission for online recruiting. Commencement is proceeding online for launch on Sat., May 16, at 8:45 a.m.
 - d. **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Doug Wells.** VP Wells presented a detailed report on enrollment, recruitment, and retention. He presented new data collected for trends over the past decade. Additionally, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on recruitment have yet to be determined.
 - e. **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel explained that Jones Hall construction is ongoing, and the project is still on schedule to be completed by July 20. NMT is strongly considering making West Hall available to allow forty-nine more beds for students. The Brown Hall renovation project is moving forward on design work, but it could be postponed for a year if West Hall is used as a dormitory and not as temporary administration offices. The project will still be within the range of the G.O. Bond specifications. The campus-wide space utilization survey is being compiled. The campus energy audit, which is being conducted by Ameresco, is moving forward as planned.
 - f. **Office of Research, VP Van Romero.** VP Romero reported that EMRTC is still conducting research, with social distancing protocols in place. ICASA is running, with some employees on site, but most are working from home. Playas Training and Research Center is operating as usual. NCKRI and IRIS-PASSCAL are operating with most employees working from home. VP Romero explained that with the proposal system fully electronic, faculty productivity in research proposals has nearly doubled. In response to a question from Regent Armijo, VP Romero reported that the First Responder Training Program has been completely shut down.



except for pre-recorded online classes. VP Romero and EMRTC administrators are considering moving some training courses to Playas. Much of the testing at EMRTC requires on-site government observers; in order to comply with the Governor's Executive Orders; EMRTC is reviewing each test on a case-by-case basis to assure that the tests are directly related to national security as well as following COVID-19 protocols.

- g. **Office of Innovation Commercialization (OIC), Director Dr. Peter Anselmo.** Dr. Anselmo reported that the 2020 Inventors and Entrepreneurs Workshop was cancelled, but the Wolves Den proceeded with a successful virtual online event. The OIC is starting a new Small Business Development Center for Socorro County in cooperation with Santa Fe Community College and UNM-Valencia Community College.
- h. **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster reported that donations have increased by \$263,000 over last year. The COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund raised \$157,000. About 550 students received checks for either \$532 or \$125, based on self-reported financial need. The Advancement Office has started virtual happy hours for alumni, which have been well attended. The comprehensive capital campaign project is nearing finalization.
- i. **Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Dr. Dunbar reported that the Bureau recently published a new book called, "Geology of Southern New Mexico Parks." Staff scientist Joseph Grigg and faculty member Dr. Jolante Van Wijk recently received a sizable donation of a powerful software suite from Kingdom Software. The Bureau has received two grants from the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division and has two more grants pending. Bureau scientists are actively looking for funding opportunities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a humanities-related grant.
- j. **Petroleum Recovery Research Center, Director Dr. Robert Balch.** The PRRC is gradually reopening and letting laboratory research expand to meet project needs. The PRRC has received two significant Department of Energy grants related to carbon storage. The PRRC received \$6 million last year and an additional \$6 million for carbon storage this year for its Carbon Utilization and Storage Partnership with the Western US, extending that project from three to five years. PRRC also won a DOE Carbonsafe project for \$22 million to support carbon capture and storage at the San Juan generating station in Farmington.
- k. **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** Tabled due to technical difficulties.
- l. **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Tom Engler.** Dr. Engler congratulated the faculty members approved for promotion and tenure. Dr. Engler thanked President Wells and VP Wells for providing the Faculty Senate with updates about the institution's response to the pandemic.
- m. **Office of Marketing and Communications, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** Director Lepre reported website traffic has increased dramatically, with 26,000 new users and 9,000 repeat users. The numbers of followers on official NMT social media platforms have increased as well. Staff member Benson Hendrix will share a social media best practices guide with all campus offices as needed. Three new TV commercials have started to air on Albuquerque TV stations.
- n. **Office of Government Affairs, Director David Manzano.** Director Manzano explained that the NM Legislature is expected to call a special session in mid-June, and it is expected to be a two-day session. A projected scenario is for a shortfall of \$368 million, with a worst-case-scenario of a \$483 million shortfall.
- o. **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** NMT has received \$1.3 million from the CARES Act. \$670,000 is going directly to students to help them cover costs. VP McDaniel added that NMT might qualify for additional funding as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. FEMA funding is



available, but McDaniel cautioned that the requirements are stringent. President Wells thanked the faculty for completing a successful semester online. He also thanked the faculty members responsible for manufacturing hand sanitizer and assisting NM's pueblos and reservations. NMT is preparing for hybrid delivery of courses for the fall semester – online and in-person. President Wells is working with Socorro Major Dr. Ravi Bhasker in developing testing protocols for returning students. NMT is working with the NM Higher Education Department on procedures for delivering meals, recreation, residence halls, and other details. NMT is considering allowing on-campus research during the summer if it can be done in a safe and reasonable manner.

6. Information Items.

- a. **NMT Foundation Updates.** Regent Armijo reported that the Foundation has taken steps to meet cash flow challenges, including curtailing travel and legislative support. Regent Armijo praised Director Foster for lobbying the Foundation Board to maintain the comprehensive campaign schedule.
- b. **Academic Tenure and Promotion Introductions.** The Board was introduced to associate professors with tenure: Dr. Donghyeon Ryu, Mechanical Eng., Dr. Gayan Rubasinghe, Chemical Eng., Dr. Mingji Zhang, Math Dept., Dr. Seda Senay, Electrical Eng., and Dr. Wesley Cook, Civil Eng. The Board was introduced to Dr. Jolante van Wijk, E&ES and Dr. Linda DeVeaux, Biology, both of whom were promoted to full professor.
- c. **Sabbatical.** The Board was presented with the proposed faculty sabbaticals for the following professors: Dr. Donghyeon Ryu, Mechanical Eng., Dr. Dongwan Shin, Computer Science, and Dr. Andrei Zagrai, Mechanical Eng.
- d. **Degree Conferrals for April 2020.** The Board was presented with the degree conferrals for April 2020.
- e. **Notification of Award over \$100,000.** The Board was notified of an EMRTC contract totaling \$253,185.00.

7. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of April 3, 2020 Minutes.** The minutes from April 3, 2020 were unanimously approved by roll call vote of the Regents on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- b) **May 2020 Graduates.** The list of graduates was approved on a motion by Regent Armijo and second by Regent Gonzales. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.
- c) **Approval of Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity Graduate Program.** Dr. El-Osery explained the various academic departments that will participate in this program. Dr. Lori Liebrock reported that NMT will collaborate with UNM and NMSU to ensure the program can be shared across statewide academic programs. Regent Gonzales moved approval, and Regent King seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the Regents.
- d) **Approval of Resolution of Langmuir Trust.** VP Romero explained the requested change was to bring official policy in line with actual procedure. Regent Armijo moved approval, and Regent King seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.
- e) **Approve FY 2021 I&G Operating Budget.** VP McDaniel presented the budget with a caveat that NMT might see reductions. In response to a question from Regent Armijo, VP McDaniel said NMT will abide by guidance from the NM Legislature and HED, with the expectation that salaries may not increase as expected and approved during the 2020 Legislative Session.



Director of Human Resources JoAnn Salome reported that faculty contracts have been distributed and HR is reviewing all staff hires. Regent Gonzales moved approval, seconded by Regent Armijo, with the provision that if the N.M. Legislature reduces the salary increases during the Special Session due potential budget cuts, the contracts will reflect the reduced salaries. The Board approved the motion unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.

- f) **Approve Unrestricted Budget Adjustment Request No. 2 and Restricted Budget Adjustment Request No. 1.** Regent Armijo moved to approve the requests as presented, and Regent Gonzales seconded. The Board approved the motion unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.
- g) **Approve NM HED Quarterly Financial Certification.** Regent Gonzales moved to approve the request as presented, and Regent King seconded. The Board approved the motion unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.
- h) **Approve Unrestricted Fund Purchase.** The Board considered purchases for EBSCO Subscription Services and Elsevier. Regent Gonzales asked if any progress has been made in alleviating the budget pressure from journal subscriptions. After a discussion related to the challenges of such university library subscriptions, the Board tabled this item.
- i) **Approval of Summer 2020 Board Retreat and Regular Meeting.** The Board agreed to meet in Socorro on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

8. **Individual Board Member Comments.** None.

9. **New Business.** None.

10. **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 King, the Board unanimously adjourned its regular session at 3:57 p.m. to meet in executive session under a roll-call vote of the Regents.

11. **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 4:31 p.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken, and only legal and personnel items were discussed. Regent Armijo moved to approve negotiated President's and Regents' goals and milestones. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Regent Armijo reported that he met with Mr. Holm "Cuatro" Bursum IV, the primary donor for the President's Residence. Regent Armijo stated that he explained to Mr. Bursum the need to delay the President's Residence construction until a time when the construction environment and state and economy are more conducive to a large construction project. Regent Armijo said that Mr. Bursum pledged to continue his support of the project with a delay with the New President's House which is considered to still be a Regents initiative. Regent Armijo continued to explain the proposal is to decouple the President's Residence construction project from the project to build the Deju University House, which is funded by a donation from donor Dr. Raul and Shari Deju. The proposal also moves the capital reserve funds from the President's Residence to the Deju House. VP McDaniel said the change of plans will require NMHED approval. Regent Armijo moved to decouple the two projects and proceed with the Deju University House construction while delaying the President's



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Residence project. Regent King seconded, and the Board approved the motion unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.

12. **Adjournment.** The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 4:40 p.m. on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales. The Board approved the motion unanimously by a roll-call vote of the Regents.



Deborah A. Peterson
President

Attest:



George King
Secretary-Treasurer