



**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Monday, March 5, 2021
Online via Zoom
New Mexico Tech, Socorro, N.M.**

Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

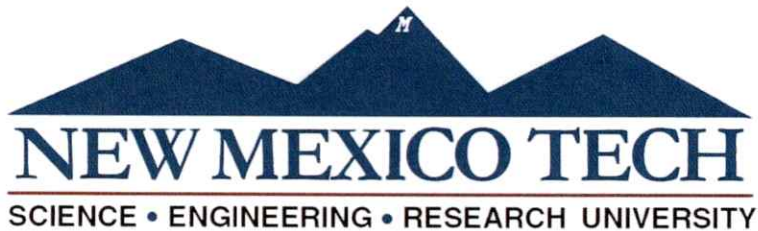
The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Monday, March 5, 2021, with Regent Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Board members present were: Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

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
Henry Prager
Quincy Bradfield
Carlos Romero
Bin Lim
Alex Garcia
Melissa Tull

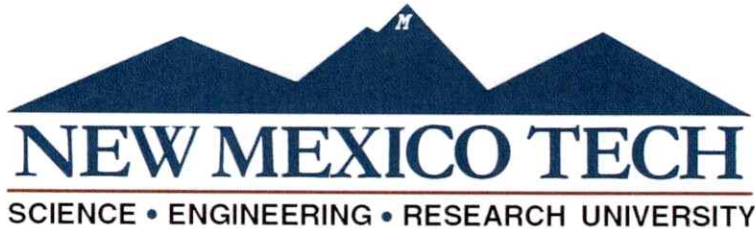
1. **Call to Order.** Regent Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She announced that the meeting was a regular meeting and would also be streamed via Zoom webinar. She explained all votes would be roll-call votes since the Board was convening remotely.
 - a) **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the Albuquerque Journal and El Defensor Chieftain.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Chair Peacock offered a fond farewell to Regent Gonzales and welcomed back Regent Armijo and Regent Espinoza, who have been nominated to serve another term. Chair Peacock then introduced incoming Regent Dr. David Lepre Sr., who will join the Board officially upon confirmation by the N.M. Senate. Regent-Designee Lepre introduced himself, and gave a summary of his career activities related to education, higher education, state government, and leadership.



3. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent King moved to approve the agenda. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.
4. **Public Comment.**
 - a) None
5. **Recurring Reports.**
 - a) **SGA President, Mr. Quincy Bradfield.** Mr. Bradfield said NMT SGA is collaborating with UNM and NMSU sister organizations to lobby the NM Legislature to keep the Lottery Scholarship funded for \$10 million recurring funds to keep the Opportunity Scholarship. He said the SGA has submitted a recommendation to maintain student fees with no increase.
 - b) **GSA President, Mr. Henry Prager.** Mr. Prager said GSA nominations are open until March 10. He said the all-virtual GSA Interdisciplinary Symposium will proceed on April 9, with the theme of climate change. He said travel grant applications are being accepted for the spring 2021 semester and summer 2021 soon. The symposium will include six panelists and an open forum session.
 - c) **Office of Student Life, Acting VP Dr. Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah reported on NMT's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI). He said the DEI Committee membership is diverse, and that activities are scheduled in March and April, including Women's History Month activities.
 - d) **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Dr. Doug Wells.** VP Wells presented a detailed enrollment report, including future estimates and past trends in enrollment. His report included a two-page list of initiatives to improve recruitment and enrollment. VP Wells reported that negotiations with Elsevier have been more successful than anticipated, resulting in savings of about \$500,000 over the next five years. VP Wells reported on initiatives to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the academic progress of those faculty members who have not achieved tenure.
 - e) **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Dr. Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel provided a report that updated the status of capital projects: Jones Hall, the Deju House, Brown Hall, Kelly Hall, the Bursum House, and the Burton House. Jones Hall inspections are under way. The fire suppression system needs to be updated. The project will finish in March with occupancy beginning during the summer. The Deju House is making good progress and will be completed in the fall of 2021. The campus-wide energy savings project will now be completed at the end of April. Seven solar panels and a support structure at Macey Center were damaged by a moving van. Regent Armijo reported on efforts related to the Bursum House (the future residence for the NMT President) and the Burton House, which is owned by the Foundation. The Bursum House will be transferred to NMT ownership in August. He said NMT will have the first option to lease the Burton House.



- f) **Office of Research, VP Dr. Van Romero.** VP Romero reported that the contact tracing app is ready to roll out. VP Romero shared a video introducing the contact tracing app with President Wells narrating. He also presented a report on research income, comparing 2020-2021 to the prior year before the pandemic.
- g) **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster said fund-raising for the Comprehensive Campaign is on track to reach the \$108 million goal, and it has reached over half the goal at this point in time. She said the new NMT Naming Policy has been approved. Director Foster said the alumni magazine, *Gold Pan*, was recently published for the Winter 2021 edition. She reported that the Office of Advancement has been hosting successful virtual events, including a recent online tour of the MRO with VP Romero.
- h) **NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar said the function of the Bureau's labs was a large concern during the pandemic, but thanks to NMT's flexibility, the labs have all been able to operate appropriately. She said a new staff scientist from France has joined the Bureau's Argon Geochronology Lab. Director Dunbar reported that staff scientist Bonnie Frey recently received provisional approval for an NSF grant, and that staff scientist Dr. Alex Gysi has brought in a major Department of Energy grant for assembling his Critical Minerals Lab (CML). Dr. Gysi will be adding two post-docs and two doctoral students to work in the CML.
- i) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** Director Balch offered an update on the produced water project that PRRC is pursuing with Navajo Technical University. He offered a brief overview of the PRRC's history and operation for Regent-Designee Lepre Sr.
- j) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** No report.
- k) **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Michael Hargather.** Dr. Hargather reported that the Faculty Senate has approved a new set of degree requirements that enable NMT to offer bachelors of arts degrees. He said the Faculty Senate is opening up the ability for high school students to earn dual credits. He reported that the Student Research Symposium will proceed entirely online from April 14 to 16. He also reported that two NMT faculty members have received NSF CAREER Awards – Dr. Caitano da Silva (Physics) and Chelsey Hargather (Materials Engineering).
- l) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** Director Lepre reported on NMT's social media campaign, which is targeting prospective students in neighboring states. He said the campaign through iHeart media has been such a success that the media company has asked to use the NMT campaign as a model for other advertisers. He said the effort is intended to increase enrollment from the targeted areas.
- m) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** Director Manzano said he's tracking several major bills in the N.M. Legislature, including the Lottery Scholarship and the Opportunity School. He presented a summary of important bills that affect higher education, including the proposed broadband legislation.



- n) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells reported on the broadband survey. He said that he and Director Lepre will be videotaping a segment on water research on the Navajo Reservation with representatives of Navajo Technical University and the Navajo Nation President, Dr. Elmer Guy. President Wells congratulated all the NMT faculty and staff for dealing with the pandemic aggressively and effectively. President Wells reported that NMT has a Small Business Development Center that focuses on Technology Management. He said the Cabinet Secretary of Education asked NMT to be a pilot project for broadband. He gave a brief report on COVID status, and then he turned over his time to Vanessa Grain, who introduced new COVID-19 Response Coordinator Stephanie Plant. Ms. Plant introduced herself and expressed her excitement to join the NMT Team.

6. Information Items

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo said the Foundation continues to work on the capital campaign.
- b) **NMT University Research Park Corp Updates.** Regent King said there would be no report.
- c) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board acknowledged the graduate lists for December 2020 and January 2021.
- d) **Sabbatical requests.** VP Wells presented three requests for sabbatical that have been previously approved. Faculty members are Dr. Snezna Rogelj (Biology), Dr. Frank Huang (Environmental Engineering), and Dr. Rosario Durao (CLASS)
- e) **Restricted Fund Purchase.** Chair Peacock acknowledged the purchase.
- f) **Financial Analysis for Dec. 31, 2021.** VP McDaniel presented the Financial Analysis report and summarized the highlights. He noted that through six months, NMT is below 50 percent in expenditures with reductions in utilities and maintenance.
- g) **Fiscal Year 2022 Auxiliary and Health Center Fees.** AVP Phaiah presented a report on scheduled fee increases for the 2021-2022 school year. He proposed increasing fees by \$60 to accommodate increased wages for RAs.

7. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of February 2021 Minutes.** Regent King moved for approval and Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
- b) **Approval of the NMT Naming Policy.** Megan Van Winkle of the Advancement Office presented an overview of the policy. After a brief discussion, Regent King moved for approval and Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
- c) **Approval of FY22 NMT Tuition.** VP McDaniel said NMT is recommending no tuition increase. Regent Espinoza moved for approval and Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.



- d) **Approval of NMHED Capital Project Transmittal Summary Sheets.** VP McDaniel requested approval of the following projects:
- Brown Hall project. Regent King moved for approval, and Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
 - Mini Baja Shop. Regent King moved for approval and Regent Espinoza seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
 - Playas Fiber Optic Research Backbone (PEACE Project). Regent King moved for approval and Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
- e) **Approval of Awards and Prizes Policy.** VP McDaniel presented the updated policy and related procedures for awards and prizes. In the procedures, the administration was instructed to increase the upper limit of two of the award categories from \$400 to \$500. Regent King moved for approval of the policy, and Regent Gonzales and Espinoza seconded simultaneously. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. Individual Board Member Comments.

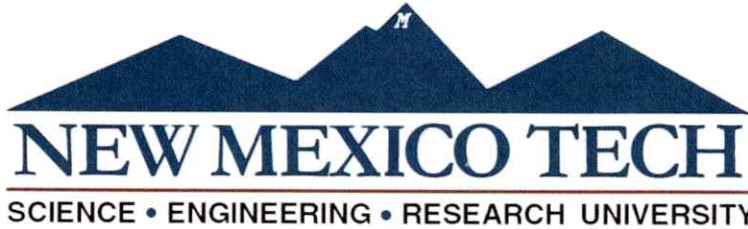
- a) Regent Gonzales congratulated everyone at NMT for a measured and reasonable response to the pandemic. He also thanked fellow board members who are continuing on with new terms.
- b) Chair Peacock reminded everyone that the next Board of Regents meeting is on Monday, April 26, 2021.

9. New Business.


- a) 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 King and a second from Regent Gonzales, the Board unanimously adjourned its regular session at 3:48 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 4:50 p.m. with the Chair announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed. Regent Armijo moved and Regent King seconded to reconvene. Approval was unanimous by roll call vote.



12. Adjournment. Regent Armijo moved to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. Regent King seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer