



Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2020
Macey Center Auditorium
New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, N.M.

Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/92855298826>

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Monday, August 24, 2020, with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. All board members were present: 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
Nelia Dunbar
Robert Balch
David Manzano

Tom Engler
Colleen Foster
JoAnn Salome
Peter Anselmo
Henry Prager
Quincy Bradfield
Mark Adams
Thom Guengerich
Gloria Gutierrez
Jenny Ma

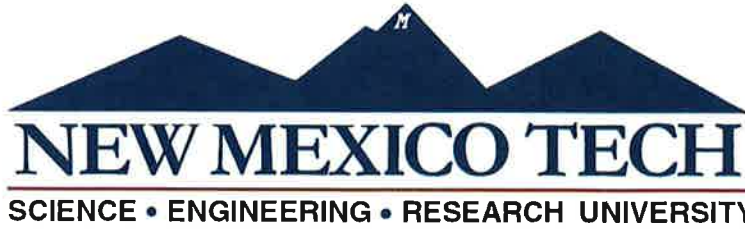
Rachel Montoya
BJ Lesperance
Emma Aafloy
Nick Fleming
Alex Garcia

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chair announced that the meeting was a regular meeting but would be also be streamed via Zoom Webinar. Regent Peacock said there would not be roll-call votes since all the Regents were in attendance.
 - 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.
3. **Public Comment.** City of Socorro City Council Representative Mr. Nick Fleming spoke on behalf of the City. He apologized on behalf of the City for the problems with water pressure experience in recent weeks. He explained that the Evergreen Well had a motor failure about 600 feet below the surface. He said the cost to replace the motor would be about \$150,000. He also provided an update on the sewer line construction project along Bullock Avenue, which will cost about \$17 million and last an undetermined length of time.

- i) **NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar reported that the Bureau employees and others who are using space in the Bureau building are checking in and out using a web-based “app” which creates a database of the rooms they accessed and people with whom they interacted. Any NMT staff, faculty or students using Bureau facilities must check in and out. She reported that the Bureau has been contacted by the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to partner on a project in the Permian Basin, where oil production straddles the state line. The two organizations will seek funding from the Department of Energy for this project. The Bureau has hired a new rare-earth element geochemist, Dr. Alex Gysi, bringing with him two large NSF projects from the Colorado School of Mines. Dr. Gysi has 3 graduate students starting at NMT this fall, and he has received a new three-year, \$861,000 Department of Energy research grant that will support additional graduate students and a post-doc. Director Dunbar said NMT is proceeding with an MOU with Navajo Technical University, along with the PRRC and the OIC. The Bureau is also working with Navajo Nation hydrologists to begin groundwater monitoring on the Navajo Nation as part of the Bureau’s statewide groundwater monitoring network.
- j) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** Director Balch said the MOU with Navajo Technical University will serve as a bridge for a long-term relationship with NTU. Balch also presented the PRRC financial analysis, explaining trends over the past five years.
- k) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** Director Salome presented a report on the NMPSIA rate increases. She said the high options will increase by 6 percent and the low options will increase 2 percent. Dental and vision plans will not increase.
- l) **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Tom Engler.** No Report.
- m) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** No report.
- n) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** No report.
- o) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells thanked everyone who contributed to the successful start of the Fall 2020 semester. Wells presented a report on COVID-19 testing on campus. He said 405 students have been tested out of 1,237 students who checked in. He reported that NMT is developing a protocol and procedures for supervisors to follow in the case of a positive test. He also reported that the website has an online COVID-19 Communication Center and a COVID-19 FAQ.

5. Information Items.

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo provided a short update about the upcoming NMT Capital Campaign. He said the Foundation has extended the contract with Kennari Consulting for another year.
- b) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board acknowledged the July 2020 graduate list.
- c) **Sabbatical Requests.** VP Wells presented one request for Dr. Christian M. Carrico. The Board acknowledged the request.




Regent Armijo moved to award President Wells an annual bonus and to give authority to Chair Peacock to negotiate the bonus. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment. Regent King moved to adjourn at 5:11 p.m. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.



President

Attest:



Secretary- Treasurer