

**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Friday, November 20, 2020**

Online via Zoom Webinar

Please use this link to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/92647897642>

Join by telephone by calling +1 (408) 638-0968 or +1 (669) 900-6833.

Webinar ID: 926 4789 7642

New Mexico Tech, Socorro, N.M.

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2020, with Regent Jerry Armijo presiding. Board members present were: David Gonzales, Yolanda King, and Veronica Espinoza. Regent Deborah Peacock was absent. 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

Michael Hargather
Colleen Foster
JoAnn Salome
Peter Anselmo
Robert Balch
Mark Adams
Dave Lepre
Thom Guengerich
David Manzano

Michael Smith
Carlos Romero

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Armijo called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He announced that the meeting was a regular meeting but would also be streamed via Zoom webinar. He explained all voting would be conducted by roll call vote. Regent Armijo explained that Regent Peacock was attending to a family illness and that he would preside over the meeting in her absence.
 - 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 with an amendment to show that Regent Armijo was presiding. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.



3. Public Comment.

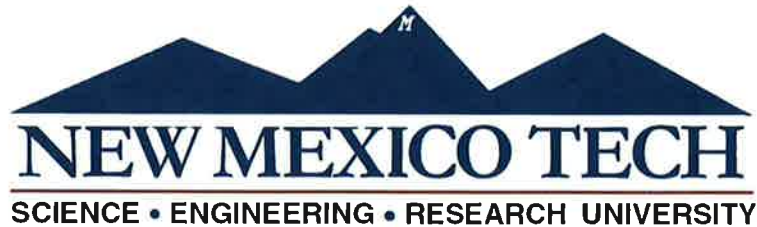
- a) None

4. Recurring Reports.

- a) **SGA President, Mr. Quincy Bradfield.** No report
- b) **GSA President, Mr. Henry Prager.** Mr. Prager explained that there is \$5,000 available to graduate students for travel during the spring 2021 semester. The GSA held a regular meeting in October. The GSA is hosting Trivia Night and a modified Thanksgiving event that is pandemic-friendly.
- c) **Office of Student Life, AVP Dr. Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah said NMT is in compliance with new Title IX rules. He explained that NMT is doing a range of things to help students with mental health. One recent addition is Zoom “fireside chats” twice a week, hosted by Michael Voegerl and guest hosts. He also noted that the Counseling Center has expanded hours. In response to a question from Regent Gonzales, AVP Phaiah said NMT is tracking student usage of the Counseling Center. NMT is also tracking mental health via regular student satisfaction surveys. Regent Espinoza asked about NMT’s participation in a national wellness survey. AVP Phaiah said the results will be available in January 2021. President Wells added that the fireside chats have been very engaging.
- d) **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Dr. Doug Wells.** VP Wells had no current report of admissions. He said not much has changed, and more activity will be reported at the next meeting.
- e) **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Dr. Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel summarized the capital projects, which were presented to the Board. He said the Deju House site work has commenced and the foundation will be poured in the next couple weeks. NMT key staff toured the Bursum House to gauge needed upgrades to utilities and IT infrastructure. The Burton House renovations will be done in house, except for the roof. He indicated that the Kelly Hall project will receive \$10 million from the recent G.O. Bond funds. While the cost estimates for the project were originally over \$21 million, the project will now be downsized to reduce the square footage of the building by about 6,000 square feet. The estimated cost of this revised project is estimated to be about \$16.7 million.
- f) **Office of Research, VP Dr. Van Romero.** VP Romero reported that FEMA has approved in-person training at the Playas Research and Testing Center. NMT will create a “bubble” in Playas to keep First Responders on site and disengaged from the outside community. VP Romero said the contact tracing app is proceeding quickly. The database is being populated and the cybersecurity team is finding and fixing bugs. VP Romero said the ongoing Americas University Conference has proved to be a great educational experience for all involved, including 10 universities in Mexico and NMT. He said more than 40,000 views occurred for the first day of the conference. In relation to COVID-19, Regent Armijo reported that the Days Inn has been leased to house Navajo Nation

members who have tested positive. Regent Armijo reported on the interactions between the City of Socorro, the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico, and the private company arranging the hotel-based quarantine. He said quarantined people are voluntarily staying in the hotel without leaving the premises. He said this model has been implemented around the state due to difficulties on the reservation to provide adequate housing for people who are ill. VP Romero reported that NMT is working with the Air Force Research Lab to be involved with the federal Space Force. He said the Magdalena Ridge Observatory will be involved in the new initiative as well.

- g) **Office of Innovation Commercialization, Director Dr. Peter Anselmo.** Director Anselmo reported that the Socorro Venture Fund is setting up a bank account, which is an important milestone. This is a NM seed fund for technology coming out of NMT University Research Park. Director Anselmo said NMT's Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity is collaborating with NMSU's Center of Excellence in Agriculture for a joint conference.
- h) **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster reported that giving has increased \$26,000 this year. A donor bequeathed 100 stocks in Amazon to the Foundation (value at over \$300,000). A recent telethon involved students calling donors to offer thanks. Feedback from alumni donors was overwhelmingly positive. The virtual 49ers event was a wild success with more than 600 people logging in for online events. Director Foster said \$38,000 from the Random Acts of Kindness was released to students in need. The comprehensive campaign has kicked off with 20 to 30 volunteers on board. The end goal is to raise \$100 million. She also said the Foundation had a clean audit for 2020. Regent Armijo praised Director Foster for the clean audit. He also praised her for sticking to her guns and insisting that the capital campaign should proceed during the pandemic, which led to positive results.
- i) **NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar said the Bureau is working with the Office of the State Engineer on the 50-year water plan for NM. The Bureau will convene a task force related to climate change in relation to water issues. She said the winter 2021 issue of *Earth Matters* focuses on volcanism in New Mexico. The summer 2021 issue will focus on seismicity in New Mexico. She said the Bureau has planned a Thanksgiving "house party" via Zoom to keep the staff members engaged and connected. Director Dunbar reported that NMT donor Raul Deju is providing two Bright Star scholarships for 2021, with encouragement to raise funds for a third or fourth scholarship.
- j) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** Director Balch began by relating an aside about a phone call he received from a student as part of the telethon thanking donors. He said it was a great way to reach out to donors, and it was much appreciated. Related to Thanksgiving, he said an institution is gauged on how it responds to adversity – and NMT has done very well to provide high level of education. PRRC staff has gone under



many changes and challenges. Nevertheless, PRRC has received more than \$13 million in new funds.

- k) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** Director Salome reported that work-from-home plans have been extended. The open enrollment for health insurance changes has ended with only a small number of changes.
- l) **Faculty Senate, President Dr. Michael Hargather.** Dr. Hargather reported that the 2021 version of the Student Research Symposium is being expanded to include senior design clinic presentations from at least five engineering departments. The April 21 event will be a very large event with engagement for recruiting. NMT is looking to expand dual credit opportunities for Socorro High School. This will involve changes to the course catalog for the fall 2021 semester. High school students could earn an associate's degree while in high school. He thanked everyone who made the in-person part of fall semester a success.
- m) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** Director Lepre reported that local media have expressed interest in the ongoing Americas University Conference. The iHeart media social media campaign guarantees 750,000 impressions from California to Colorado. The Admission related pages are being updated and revamped. The NM HED collaborative committee held its first meeting with a statewide marketing plan to drive students to attend universities in NM.
- n) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** Director Manzano did not give an official report during his time of the meeting. He talked about his own personal recovery from COVID-19.
- o) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells thanked everyone for a successful fall semester of in-person classes and expressed his appreciation to everyone for their hard work. He said spring semester will proceed in the same fashion. He said he responded to the SGA concerns about cancelling Spring Break with a change in plans. There will be two academic holidays, one in February and one in March, with commencement on May 8. President Wells offered kudos to everyone who worked on the GO Bond, which passed easily. He said he's looking forward to the budget outlook at the upcoming LFC hearing. The executive budget is due in early January, and the legislative session starts on January 19, 2021. Indications are that the budget will be flat with zero percent increases. NMT will ask for another \$2.8 million for Kelly Hall. Director Manzano said the forecast will be out on Monday, Nov 23, 2020. VP Romero also reported that NMT will receive 800,000 KN-95 masks, thanks to AVP Carlos Romero.

5. Information Items

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo had no report
- b) **NMT University Research Park Corp Updates.** Regent King said the board met and is considering expanding the board membership to include more representation.



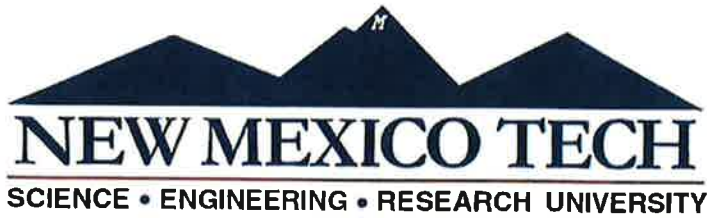
- c) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board acknowledged the September 2020 graduate list.
- d) **Freedom of Expression and Respectful Campus Policy.** AVP Phaiah said the interim policy that is in place will be replaced with this permanent, official policy.
- e) **PEACE Project Facility Construction Presentation.** AVP Carlos Romero summarized the report he presented to the Board of Regents. The plans involve new construction at the Playas center, with the U.S. Air Force as the main partner. The coalition will include 10 research partners. AVP Romero summarized the group's funding history, which is 100 percent from the federal government.
- f) **Updates to NMT Resilient Reopening Plan 3.0.** President Wells presented the plan briefly. He said definitions have been added along with other details. He also said NMT is offering incentives to students who use the daily symptom reporting website.

6. Action Items.

- a) **Approval of October, 2020, Minutes.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- b) **Approval of Resolution to Formalize the Name for Playas Research and Testing Center.** VP Romero said there's some confusion about the official name, offering a formal resolution to clarify the center's name. Regent King moved approval. Regent Espinoza seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- c) **Approval of 2021 meeting dates.** The board agreed to meet on February 1, 2021, March 5, 2021, April 26, 2021, and May 7, 2021. Regent King moved approval. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. Individual Board Member Comments.

- a) Regent Armijo pointed out that Regent Espinoza has applied for a second term, and Regent Gonzales has not. Regent Armijo thanked Regent Gonzales for his time and service on the board and especially his friendship. Regent Gonzales thanked NMT for the opportunity to serve and wished he had more time to continue as Regent. He expressed his love for NMT and would continue to be a supporter of NMT from Colorado. He explained his time needs to be dedicated to his family; especially his young children. He said that being a Regent transformed his life and he expressed accolades to NMT for being an exceptional, affordable and Hispanic serving institution, which he tried to honor during his service to NMT. In closing, Regent Gonzales thanked Regent Armijo for his kind words. Regent King echoed the sentiments for Regent Gonzales. Regent King also asked Regent Armijo if he would



be reapplying for another term to which Regent Armijo responded that he did re-apply.

8. New Business.

a) None

9. 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 3:10 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 personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session. The meeting reconvened at 5:10 p.m. with Regent Armijo announcing that no action had been taken and only legal and personnel items were discussed. Regent Gonzales moved and Regent King seconded to reconvene. Approval was unanimous by roll call vote.

11. Adjournment. Regent Gonzales moved to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. Regent King seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion by roll call vote.

DocuSigned by:
Deborah Peacock
67C8753FDB554A9...

President

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
Jerry Armijo
C82CB9D41767436...

Secretary-Treasurer