

**Board of Regents Regular Meeting
Monday, February 1, 2021
Online via Zoom
New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM**

Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, 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

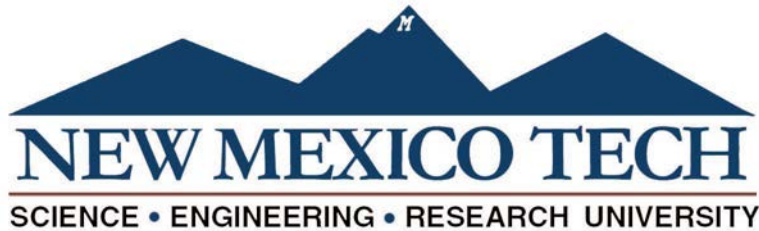
Michael Hargather
Colleen Foster
JoAnn Salome
Lisa Todd
Mark Adams
Dave Lepre
Thom Guengerich

David Manzano
Robert Balch
Nelia Dunbar

- 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.

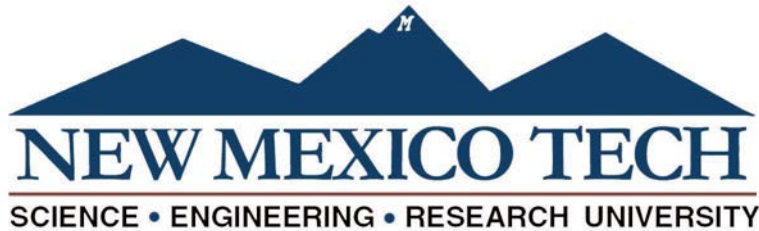
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** Regent Armijo moved to approve the agenda with an addition to the (5) Information section regarding giving a NMT University Park Research Update. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- 3. Public Comment.**
 - a) None



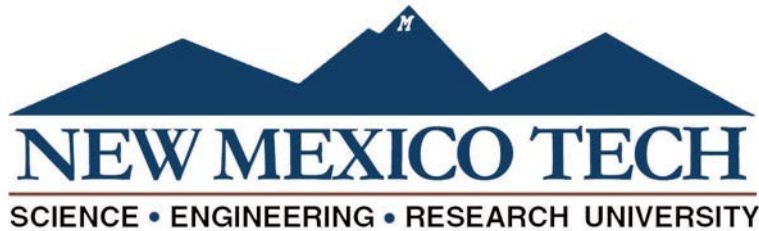
4. Recurring Reports.

- a) **SGA President, Mr. Quincy Bradfield.** Mr. Bradfield reported that the SGA will be allowing limited in-person club meetings starting Feb. 12, 2021, with restrictions. He said the SGA will review this policy as the positivity rate declines and vaccinations increase.
- b) **GSA President, Mr. Henry Prager.** Mr. Prager reported that all GSA meetings continue to be conducted virtually. Spring travel grant applications are now being accepted, and the majority of requests are for in-state events or virtual conferences. The GSA is also now accepting nominations for the 2021-2022 academic year. Mr. Prager said he is stepping down as President after this term in order to work on his degree requirement and assist in the transition to the next GSA leaders.
- c) **Office of Student Life, AVP Dr. Peter Phaiah.** AVP Phaiah said NMT had only nine COVID-19 cases in the fall 2020 semester, and no cases originated on campus. He updated the Board of Regents on the NMT health certification process and lanyard system, indicating that more than 1,100 students were tested for the spring 2021 semester with 35 possible cases detected. He said NMT's surveillance testing continues throughout the semester and includes an on-campus site on Thursdays. He explained that 86 COVID-19 tests were administered the first day with zero positive tests and all results returned within 48 hours. Regent Armijo offered kudos for the efficiency and effectiveness of the routine. President Wells thanked Positive Outcomes, Socorro Mayor Ravi Bhasker, and AVP Phaiah for establishing a routine quickly.
- d) **Office of Academic Affairs, VP Dr. Doug Wells.** VP Wells presented a detailed admission and recruiting report. He said undergraduate numbers are down about 10 percent in students but only down seven (7) percent in credit hours. Graduate numbers are even. He presented the results of a student survey related to satisfaction and educational experience. He summarized new offerings to help students who are struggling, including Calculus 2 intersession assistance and additional tutoring.
- e) **Office of Administration and Finance, VP Dr. Cleve McDaniel.** VP McDaniel reported on six construction projects: (1) Jones Hall is on schedule for completion in Spring 2021, with full occupancy by Fall 2021; (2) the Deju House is in early stages of construction and still on schedule for Fall 2021 completion; (3) Brown Hall construction drawings are complete and the building will be tied into NMT's chiller plant as opposed to a new separate system; (4) the Bursum House project will have a third site visit to finalize renovation and maintenance costs; (5) Burton House is moving forward with interior renovations; and (6) the Kelly Hall project has been downsized by 6,000 square feet and \$5 million. NMT will request \$3.3 million from the Legislature to bolster the \$10 million G.O. Bond funding.
- f) **Office of Research, VP Dr. Van Romero.** VP Romero reported that the contact tracing app is up and running in beta testing. The app will be rolled out to the campus



community in the near future. VP Romero said the app will allow for more detailed decision-making about quarantining with greater accuracy about contacts among students and employees.

- g) **Office of Advancement, Director Colleen Foster.** Director Foster reported that donations are at \$1.71 million, down from \$1.86 million last year. However, donations totaling \$186,000 were received today [Feb. 1, 2021], bringing the YTD total to \$1.9 million. Director Foster reported on the creation of a “Gift Table” and the new NMT Naming Policy. She also reported on the successes in the Bright Star Scholar campaign.
- h) **NM Bureau of Geology, Director Dr. Nelia Dunbar.** Director Dunbar said the Bureau has raised enough money to support three new Bright Star Scholars. One of the new scholars is working on the new water research project with Navajo Technical University. Director Dunbar also updated the board on the collaboration with the Interstate Stream Commission. The Bureau is contributing research to the Commission’s 50-year water plan.
- i) **PRRC, Director Dr. Bob Balch.** Director Balch said the PRRC has 22 research proposals outstanding, which puts it on pace for the annual average of 39. The PRRC has attracted \$10.3 million in funding for research. Director Balch reported that the PRRC will be the “well operator” of the San Juan Carbon SAFE Project. The PRRC has two water purification projects online – one with Navajo Tech and one with PESCO.
- j) **Human Resources, Director JoAnn Salome.** No report.
- k) **Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Michael Hargather.** Dr. Hargather reported on expanded options for interaction with Socorro High School, including new degree tracks and summer programs (REU and AMP, for example). In response to a question from Regent King, Dr. Hargather reported that lack of high-speed internet is a real problem for the Socorro Consolidated Schools.
- l) **Office of Marketing & Communication, Director Dave Lepre Jr.** President Wells reported on behalf of Director Lepre regarding the current status of the iHeart Radio advertising campaign. Since December 4th NMT has had 100,000 impressions, mostly from out of state.
- m) **Office of Government Affairs, Director Dave Manzano.** Director Manzano reported that the NMT Legislative Team is currently tracking more than 350 bills, and about 160 more bills were introduced today [Feb. 1, 2021]. He reported on pay increases for higher education employees, unfunded mandates, and capital outlay, including the Kelly Building. Regent Armijo reported on disheartening testimony in the NM Senate Rules Committee about higher education.
- n) **Office of the President, Dr. Stephen Wells.** President Wells thanked everyone for their efforts related to COVID-19. He said NMT has had 55 positive cases, but none are active currently. NMT has produced brochures to promote the collaboration with NTU and the Navajo Nation. President Wells is planning to meet with Navajo Technical University’s President Guy to film a promotional video in a traditional Hogan.

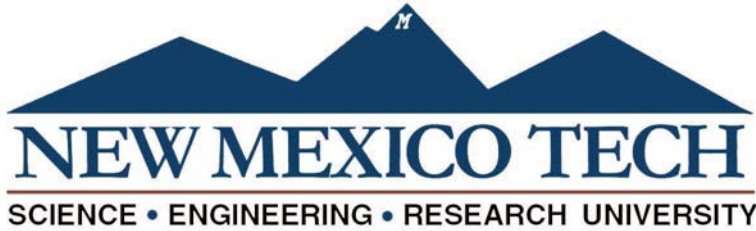


5. Information Items

- a) **NMT Foundation Update.** Regent Armijo said the Foundation met, but no substantive action was taken.
- b) **NMT University Research Park Corp Updates.** Regent King said the board has expanded its membership by five in order to be more inclusive and diverse.
- c) **Degree Conferrals for June 2020.** The Board acknowledged the November 2020 graduate list.
- d) **Restricted Fund Purchase.** Chair Peacock and Regents acknowledged the purchase.
- e) **Review of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Recommendations.** VP Cleve McDaniel reported that the recommendations are good, all things considered. He summarized LFC recommendations, CUP projections, and NM MESA budget.
- f) **MROI Invoices – Payout Solutions.** VP Romero said 2020 was a tough year for MROI due to a lack of federal funding. The project is going in to debt due to outstanding invoices, but the project is finding savings and has been informed that \$6.5 million was appropriated for this fiscal year.
- g) **Updates to NMT Resilient Reopening Plan 5.0.** President Wells said the plan has been streamlined. He said it's easier to follow and more efficient than prior iterations. Updates related to contact tracing, visitor protocols, and other clarifications. Vanessa Grain summarized some of the finer points of the new version.

6. Action Items.

- a) **Acceptance of NMT 2020 Audit.** Lisa Todd of the auditing company Moss Adams presented the audit. She summarized the various opinions offered on NMT, Employee Benefit Trust, NMT Foundation, and NMT University Research Foundation. There were some findings but no “material findings” or other deficiencies. Regent Armijo moved to accept the audit; Regent King seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- b) **Approval of November 11, 2020 Minutes.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Armijo seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- c) **Approval of 2021 Open Meetings Act Resolution.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- d) **Approval of NMT's COVID-19 Safe Practices for Intercollegiate Sports Plan 1.0.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Armijo seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- e) **Approval of NMHED Quarterly Certification as of 12/31/20.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.



- f) **Approval of Unrestricted Fund Purchases greater than \$250,000.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- g) **Approval of Property Resolutions.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Gonzales seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. Individual Board Member Comments. Regent King briefly spoke about NM HERC and their advocacy for expanded broadband services.

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 3:25 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 4:46 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. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

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Deborah Pearce 3/10/2021
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President

Attest: Signed by:
Jerry Armijo 3/10/2021
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Secretary- Treasurer