

**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Board of Regents
9:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2015
Tamaya Hotel
Bernalillo, New Mexico**

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 9:00 a.m., with Board of Regents Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Regent Jerry Armijo, Regent David Gonzales, Regent Donald Monette, and Regent Myissa Weiss. University administrators, staff, and guests who were also present included:

Daniel H. López	Greer Price	Kevin Wedeward
Warren Ostergren	John Meason	Mark Adams
Lonnie Marquez	Robert Lee	Van Romero
Melissa Jaramillo Fleming	Lala Garcia	Richard Jimenez

1. **Proof of Meeting Notice.** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Peacock after the President affirmed that proper legal notice had been given.
2. **Approval of the Agenda.** One amendment was made to the agenda and that was to include the Presidential search. Regent Armijo motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment; Regent Monette seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
3. **Minutes.** The Minutes from the May 8, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second by Regent Weiss.

Before proceeding with the agenda, Chair Peacock asked President Lopez to give a briefing on the one day special legislative session. President Lopez began by recognizing Senator Howie Morales. He stated that Senator Morales was instrumental in pushing for Tech's capital outlay request and ensuring that New Mexico Tech's capital funding was retained in the Bill. This included Severance Tax Bond funding for \$2.0 million for the Data and Telecommunication Center and \$190,000 for planning of Jones Hall improvements.

4. **Request for Unrestricted Fund Purchase.** Vice President Lonnie Marquez asked for approval to proceed with an extension of a three year lease for heavy equipment with the Blueline Rentals Company. The contract amount is for \$752,010.63. Regent Armijo motioned to approve; Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The second request was to award a contract to Sound and Signal Systems of New Mexico for upgrading the fire alarm system in Brown Hall,

Weir Hall, Jones Annex, NRAO and MSEC. The amount of the contract is for \$572,202.84. Regent Monette motioned for approval; Regent Armijo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

5. **Notification of Award.** Regent Monette discussed the request for proposal for the process to conduct the Presidential search. He stated that there were three proposals submitted. The proposals were ranked in order of preference. Regent Monette recommended to the Board that Storbeck – Pimentel & Associates be given the contract to help conduct the search. The Board unanimously agreed with Regent Monette's recommendation.
6. **Emeritus Status Request.** Vice President Van Romero recommended on behalf of the Research Division to award Dr. John Meason emeritus status upon his retirement effective June 30, 2015. He also noted that the Physics Department was also recommending emeritus status for Dr. Meason. Both Dr. Romero and President Lopez described Dr. Meason's career with New Mexico Tech and highlighted his long and distinguished career with Tech and the federal government. Dr. Meason has provided an invaluable service to New Mexico Tech as well as the State of New Mexico. Regent Armijo motioned to approve both emeritus status requests; Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and the requests were unanimously approved.
7. **Resolution for the State Highway Department.** Mr. Marquez reported that the state transportation department approved a road improvement project at New Mexico Tech in the amount of \$37,792.00, with a match of \$12,597.00 from New Mexico Tech. The road improvement is for the street beginning at Lopezville running all the way to Canyon Road. In order to receive these funds, the Board is required to approve a resolution stating Tech's willingness to participate in the funding with the New Mexico Department of Transportation. The Board of Regents on a motion by Regent Monette moved to approve the resolution; Regent Armijo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Chair of the Board signed the resolution as required by the State.
- 8 & 9. **Discussion on Credit Hours Towards Completion and Four Year Incentive Plan.** These two agenda items dovetailed with each other and so it was appropriate and necessary to discuss them jointly during the meeting. As a point of introduction of these agenda items, Dr. Lopez requested that the Board broaden the discussion while talking about reducing the number of credit hours required for a science, math or engineering degree from New Mexico Tech. Specifically, he emphasized the need to focus on all factors that may be important in accelerating the time to graduation for Tech students and not simply focus on the number of credit hours to graduation. The data gathered over the last several years regarding student academic progress at Tech suggest that math preparedness, group learning and student advising have more to do with a student's academic progress than any other factor. Dr. Lopez, however, did agree that the number of credit hours currently required for graduation from Tech needs to be critically examined and where there is an opportunity to reduce credit hour requirements, without affecting the quality of Tech degrees, we should do whatever we can to reduce credit hours requirements. Chair Peacock, next, talked about the

Executive Branch urging institutions to come up with ideas on how to shorten the time to graduation for students. High on the Executive's agenda is reducing the number of credit hours required to graduate and hopefully speeding up time to graduation in order to help the students, the student's families and the State.

Dr. Ostergren, subsequently, provided a full presentation on this entire matter, with several slides comparing New Mexico Tech to peer universities. The discussion also included the topic of an entryway course redesign to accelerate the timeframe at which students become eligible to start calculus courses, since calculus preparedness is the best predictor of a student's successful progress towards graduation. New Mexico Tech has a very rigorous calculus regiment, which is very challenging to many students. A number of ideas, in this context, were also discussed which centered around NMT utilizing student engagement to help students succeed by studying in groups and ultimately helping them graduate on time. Regent Gonzales asked how Georgia Tech, Colorado School of Mines and other peer universities tailored their course credits. Dr. Ostergren gave some background information on this in response to Regent Gonzales.

Discussion also centered on capping tuition at no more than 6% in order to make attendance more affordable. It was noted that it also made attendance more affordable. It was agreed, in addition, that more work was needed in advancing these two agenda items. For agenda item #8, Regent Monette made a motion to conduct further study in trying to identify ways to reduce time to graduation and develop a tangible plan to do so in the October 1 timeframe. Options to be evaluated include: Monitoring class attendance; institutionalizing the Living Learning Communities; Funding student research, if student is making satisfactory progress towards graduation; improve planning of course schedules to minimize non-required courses; reducing required course credits; offering required courses each semester; and distance teaching to high schools and community colleges to improve preparation. Regent Armijo seconded this motion and it unanimously passed. Regent Gonzales recommended a study of course availability and determine if this could be compacted into a four year plan. This, too, is included in the October 1 timeframe. For agenda item #9, Regent Gonzales motioned to adopt a 6% tuition cap as an incentive. Regent Weiss seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

10. **Recess.** The Board agreed to recess the Board meeting and reconvene after the noon hour for the annual retreat.

Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

President

