

**Board of Regents Special Meeting  
Friday, March 31, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Meeting - Public Zoom Webinar**

***MINUTES***

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened via virtual public webinar at 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 31, 2023, with Regent Jerry Armijo presiding. Board members present were Dr. Dave Lepre Sr., Dr. Yolanda King, Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala, and Adrian Salustri. Other university administrators, staff, and guests included:

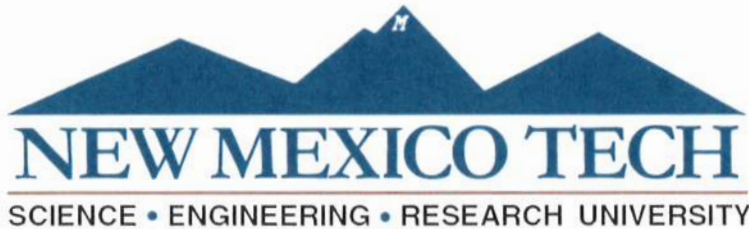
Vanessa Grain

Mark Adams

Katie Bauer

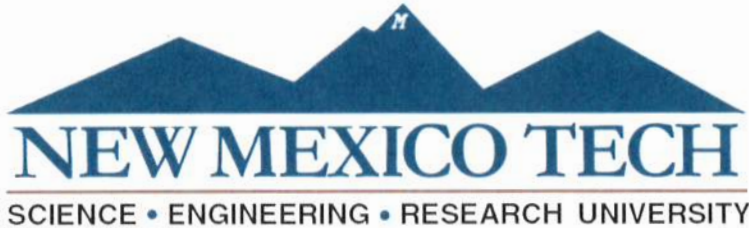
1. **Call to Order.** Chair Pro Tem Armijo called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
  - a. Vanessa Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *El Defensor Chieftain*.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent Lepre moved to approve the agenda. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** No public comment.
4. **Election of Officers.** Chair Pro Tem Armijo explained that the two officer positions, president and secretary have historically been two-year terms. Chair Pro Tem Armijo said he would entertain a motion for the offices to remain at two-year terms. Regent Mukkamala moved to elect Jerry Armijo as president of the Board. Regent King asked for a point of order and said that the Board had not yet voted on the length of the officers' term. Regent Mukkamala moved for board president to remain at two-year terms. Regent Lepre seconded the motion. Regent King commented that there has never been a vote on term limits and nor is it contained in the bylaws and the board bylaws should be updated. Chair Pro Tem Armijo agreed with Regent King. Regent Salustri asked for clarification of the motion if it was for nomination of president or the two-year term length. Chair Pro Tem Armijo clarified in response to Regent Salustri that the motion was for a two-year term for the president of the board. Regent Mukkamala responded that the two-year term should also apply to the secretary/treasurer as well. Regent King called for a point of order and requested Regent Lepre revise his previous second motion to apply to the amended motion of two-year terms for president and secretary/treasurer of the board. Regent Lepre

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responded and made a motion to second the amended motion for two-year terms of both offices. The amended motion for the officers' terms to remain two years in length was approved unanimously. Regent Mukkamala moved to nominate Regent Jerry Armijo as board president. Regent Lepre seconded the motion. Regent King moved for nominations to cease and that Regent Armijo be elected by acclamation. The motion was approved unanimously by all regents to elect Regent Armijo as president of the board. Regent Armijo accepted his election as board president. Chair Armijo moved to nominate Regent Lepre as board secretary/treasurer. Regent Mukkamala seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Regent Lepre accepted and was unanimously elected as the board secretary/treasurer.

5. **Individual Board Member Comments.** Regent King pointed out that both officers' positions require bonding and asked if that was covered under insurance. Mark Adams said he will look into that matter and will obtain a copy of the policy. Chair Armijo said that this issue has come up in the past and it is a good idea to clarify it. Regent Mukkamala asked what are the Board's key performance indicators (KPIs) for the leadership team – bonuses are being paid and he would like to know what is being measured and what the metrics are. He asked that the Board have a true regents' retreat to understand the strategic goals for the president and his direct reports. He would like to see the retreat held right after graduation. Chair Armijo asked if cabinet members should attend. Regent King said that key personnel will be needed at the retreat, but there can be a focused agenda. The NMT President and VPs can be there, but not the whole cabinet. She also suggested a facilitator. Chair Armijo asked that individual board members send ideas for topics and which staff should attend. He said he will work with Vanessa Grain to coordinate the retreat, which will be held sometime this summer. Regent King suggested holding the retreat at the Deju House or a smaller community. Both Regents Mukkamala and Salustri agreed that Socorro would be the best location. Regent Mukkamala said he wants to get up to speed on the university's finances. He suggested that the Board receive an independent financial audit. Regent Armijo asked if it should be one time or ongoing. Regent King suggested an internal audit position as a good practice and to consult with other universities. Regent Mukkamala suggested that this internal audit position give regular updates to the Board. Regent Lepre said he would consult with Manu Patel from the State Auditor's Office. Regent Lepre asked about the Budget Subcommittee's meeting as he has six items to address at the meeting, and whether its business should wait until the retreat. He said he was waiting to talk to President Wells when he returns from traveling. Regent Armijo said that the Board has not had committees or subcommittees in the past and the first one is the Budget Subcommittee

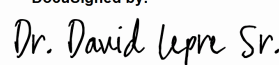


and said Regent Lepre is the only regent on the subcommittee. Chair Armijo also said that all regents are encouraged to serve on the various boards such as the HERC, Research Park, and Foundation. Regent Mukkamala said he was happy to be a sounding board for Regent Lepre and use his experience in capital and technology. Regent Salustri volunteered to serve on the subcommittee and Regent Armijo said he would appoint him. Regent Armijo said that at the next meeting the Board's appointments to external boards would be an action item. Regent King said HERC would be meeting at NMT April 27 and 28 and all Board members are encouraged to attend. The Secretary of Higher Education, Stephanie Rodriquez, will be speaking, along with a briefing on higher education funding from Dennis Jones and a panel on strategic planning with Lt. Gov. Howie Morales moderating. Regent Armijo said that he hopes to hold the Board's retreat soon, capitalizing on momentum, and tackle accountability and finances.

6. **New Business.** The next meeting of the Board of Regents will be Friday, April 28, 2023, in the afternoon at the Deju House.
7. **Executive Session, NMSA 1978, Sec 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If Required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters)** Regent Armijo said no Executive Session was required.
8. **Adjournment.** Regent King moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Regent Lepre seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

  
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**President**

**Attest:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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9FADBB724DD54F8... **Secretary- Treasurer**