

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Board of Regents
1:30 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2015
Eldorado Hotel, Zia Room
309 W. San Francisco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:45 p.m. with Board of Regents Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Regent Jerry Armijo, Regent David Gonzales, Regent Donald Monette, outgoing Student Regent Israel Rodriguez-Rios and new Student Regent Myissa Weiss. University administrators, staff, and guests who were also present included:

Daniel H. López	John Meason	Lisa Beinhoff
Warren Ostergren	Richard Jimenez	Elaine DeBrine-Howell
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Dave Raymond	Leyla Sedillo
Van Romero	Leyla Sedillo	JoAnn Salome
Lonnie Marquez	Miguel Hidalgo	Mona Torres
Lala Garcia	Tony Ortiz	Nouraddine Benalil
Mary Dezember	Tom Engler	Thomas Guengerich
Richard Cervantes	Mark Adams	Valerie Kimble
Greer Price	Barbara Damron	

1. **Proof of Meeting Notice.** The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Chair Peacock. The President affirmed that proper legal notice had been given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The Chair announced that no Executive Session was needed, thus vacating items 17 and 18. In addition, Dr. Barbara Damron, new Secretary for the Higher Education Department (HED) would address the Board later in the meeting. The Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Rodriguez-Rios.
3. **Minutes.** Two corrections were cited: Under item 6, change a reference to \$5,000 to \$500,000, and delete the title “Dr.” referencing Regent Gonzales. Regent Rodriguez-Rios moved to adopt the Minutes as amended. Regent Armijo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
4. **Announcements.**

Enrollment Updates. Mr. Ortiz reported that according to a mid-March snapshot, applications for Fall 2015 are up 57 percent compared with this time last year, paid applications are up 30 percent and admitted students up 13 percent. Mr. Ortiz and staff were lauded for a “great job.” President López noted that more students create challenges

regarding housing and sufficient faculty and staff positions to meet student needs. Regent Rodriguez-Rios then reported that a group of New Mexico guidance counselors will visit on April 8 for a tour that will allow them to see the University as a potential student would, a new endeavor.

Legislative Update. President López reported that 106 bills relating to higher education had been introduced during the 60-day Legislative session under way including several that, if passed, would create difficulties. One bill proposes another education oversight committee for a system already overburdened with oversight groups. Another would establish parity for all faculty regardless of discipline. “Some positions demand higher salaries,” he said. “This (bill) would affect all universities, not just New Mexico Tech.” A proposed amendment to the Lottery Scholarship would disenfranchise many students from qualifying for the scholarship, the President noted. Another proposal regarding matching private funds for research collaborations might be fine down the road, but without money, would have no effect and is “not appropriate for now,” he said. A proposal to reduce the scope of IPRA (Inspection of Public Records Act) would be a financial burden to universities in responding to requests. On New Mexico Tech’s capital fund request list are \$2 million to consolidate the University’s servers in one location, \$500,000 in planning money to replace Jones Hall, \$90,000 for the Bureau of Geology, and \$75,000 to develop a rocket launcher for the aerospace program, as part of a student research project in collaboration with the Spaceport.

President’s Goals. Regents were given copies of the President’s report on a series of goals for 2014, giving the Board a month for review until the April meeting and his annual evaluation. President López then noted that the new Strategic Plan will come before the Board for approval also in April; comments will be taken until the end of March.

Human Resources Handbook Update. Also out for feedback is the revised Employee Handbook. Dr. Raymond said he hoped faculty comments submitted to Ms. Salome would be integrated into the draft; however, the President noted that final authority rests with the Board and administration

Accreditation Update. Dr. Dezember reported that the Assurance Argument was sent to the HLC on Feb. 20. In addition, two reviewers for federal compliance are preparing a separate report which will be given to the accreditation team for their March 23-24 onsite visit which includes discussion forums open to the entire campus community. Meanwhile, the fourth Student Research Symposium (SRS) in April will be the largest to date.

Sabbatical Leave Request. Regents were informed of sabbatical leave granted to Dr. Ken Minschwaner of Physics to allow him to work on a collaborative research project in Boulder, Colorado.

Faculty Senate Update. Dr. Raymond had nothing to add outside of comments submitted on the Employee Handbook.

Other. Because of the growth at EMRTC, the facility has graduated to a large-quantity generator and must apply to the N.M. Environment Department to transfer its license from small to large, reported Dr. Romero, a process to begin shortly.

- Mr. Price reported that the Bureau of Geology has been given a temporary certificate of occupation, and will begin moving into the new building on March 16. Added Mr. Hidalgo: the project is near completion, and the furniture has arrived. Transferring the mineral collection to the new facility will begin soon, although the display may not be in by the May 8 grand opening.
- Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming reported that the cafeteria expansion has been completed, providing for a demo station, sushi bar, enclosed patio and additional seating.
- HED Secretary Damron offered her congratulations on the new Regents' confirmation and cited her educational and professional background. She said her goal is to build the HED to be a department of excellence, and noted that "Tech is already doing a lot of the right things." Dr. Damron emphasized the importance of keeping its research component strong.
- Ms. Weiss delivered a brief introduction, saying she was a sophomore in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in biomedical engineering, a member of Golden Key and Engineers without Borders, adding she "hoped to serve the school as best I can."
- The President announced a presentation on March 19 at La Fonda on a revolutionary way to manufacture batteries.
- President López informed Regents that he would be meeting with students regarding a tuition hike, an item scheduled for the Board's April meeting in Socorro. On the table are suggested increases of 2 percent, 4 percent or 6 percent. A Student Forum is set for April 7. The Chair noted that the Governor is opposed to tuition hikes; however, tuition at New Mexico Tech, in her opinion "is way too low."

5. Public Comment. None

6. Financial Analysis for January 2015. Mr. Marquez reported no unusual events for the month, adding that revenue is higher than this time last year and expenditures are about the same. Cost center expenditures are up slightly as is overhead. In response to a question from Regent Monette, Mr. Marquez said overhead is cyclical depending on contract volume. The report was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Gonzales.

7. Report on Endowment Funds. Mr. Marquez delivered a progress report on endowment funds, noting that the number of accounts has increased from 92 for FY 2005 to 130 for FY 2014. Three employees are working on the project: Leyla Sedillo, Carrie Marsyla and Arleen Valles. Ms. Sedillo also has completed 100 percent of the internal audits for the same period, and Ms. Marsyla continues to research capital gains for the corpus accounts and income distribution to the endowment accounts. The President noted that Mr. Marquez would prepare a spreadsheet for Regents detailing income and outgo on a year-to-year basis.

8. Monthly Report on Fund Raising Status. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming reported that revenue and the number of gifts have increased, and that Advancement Director Colleen

Guengerich has made many trips to meet personally with potential donors. The Chair commented that she was pleased with the format of the fund raising report.

9. **Emeritus Status Request.** In introducing the request for emeritus status for Dr. Robert Cormack, Professor of Psychology, the President noted that Dr. Cormack has been an institution at the University and has had a very successful career at the institution. He was very involved with the Master of Science for Teachers (MST) program early on, had mentored new faculty, served as department chair, Dean of Students and other positions during his tenure at New Mexico Tech. Dr. Ostergren requested that Regents confer emeritus status upon Dr. Cormack, which was approved unanimously on a motion by Regent Rodriguez-Rios and a second from Regent Gonzales.
10. **Unrestricted Fund Purchase Exceeding \$250,000.** The President requested Board approval to award a contract to Integrated Control Systems, Inc. for \$327,191.97 for an HVAC upgrade for Jones Annex. Regent Monette moved for approval. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Ms. Beinhoff, Library Director, then requested Board approval for contracts with Elsevier and EBSCO for subscription services for \$321,011 and \$499,722.14 respectively. She said the purchases were expensive, but vital to researchers. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Rodriguez-Rios and a second from Regent Monette.
11. **Restricted Fund Purchase Notifications.** Regents were briefed on several pending restricted fund purchases for EMRTC's First Responders program.
12. **Property Items to be Removed from Inventory.** Chair Peacock suggested that all four resolutions to remove property from inventory be handled as a package, which was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Rodriguez-Rios.
13. **January Degree Conferrals.** Five Master of Science, Master of Engineering Management and Master of Science for Teachers were conferred upon 14 individuals for the period.
14. **Employee Benefit Trust.** The Board recessed at 3:35 p.m. to convene as the Benefit Trust. Mr. Marquez reported that the trust is making progress on repaying its debt to the University, and cited positive trends. Large claims over a period of several years depleted reserves, he said, adding that adjustments have helped. Chair Peacock said the Trust would be a subject for the Board's summer retreat. The Trust session adjourned at 3:40 p.m.
15. **New Business – Retreat Dates and Topics.** Chair Peacock suggested that the annual retreat be held in June, rather than August, and listed options for discussion. It was decided that the retreat be held June 11-12; Ms. Garcia was to see if the Tamaya Hotel outside Bernalillo was available for those dates. In discussing topics for discussion, President López cautioned Regents that they be fully informed about financial constraints before making any decisions.

16. Individual Board Member Comments. The Chair thanked outgoing Student Regent Rodriguez-Rios, and he in turn quipped that this was his third “goodbye.” Regent Monette thanked Dr. Dezember for her work on preparing for the accreditation visit, while Dr. Romero passed out T-shirts to Regents celebrating “Pi-Day.”

17. N/A

18. N/A

19. Adjournment. Chair Peacock adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.