

**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Board of Regents Meeting
10 a.m., Monday, March 6, 2017
Hilton Inn, 100 Sandoval Street
Santa Fe, N.M.**

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 10:02 a.m., with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Donald Monette and Regent-designee Emily Silva. University administrators, staff and guests who were also present included:

Stephen Wells	Jenny Ma	Mark Adams
Lala Garcia	Valentina Avramidi	Ali El-Osery
Doug Wells	Mike Stanley	Gabe Montoya
Cleve McDaniel	Kevin Wedeward	Alex Garcia
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Randy Saavedra	Joe Galon
Van Romero	Colleen Foster	Thom Guengerich
Carlos Romero	Charles Hendrickson	Valerie Kimble
Tom Kieft		

- 1. Proof of Meeting.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Ms. Garcia reported that proper legal notice was given as required.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Gonzales. The Chair noted that HED Secretary Dr. Barbara Damron was expected to address the Board at some point during the meeting.
- 3. Minutes.** Regents unanimously approved Minutes from the January 26, 2017 meeting on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Armijo.
- 4. Announcements.** *Enrollment Updates.* Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming reported lower enrollment for the 2017 fall semester, not due to a lack effort on behalf of Admission staff who are actively recruiting. President Wells noted that all higher education is affected by declining enrollment.
Sabbatical Leave. Dr. Doug Wells informed Regents of sabbatical leave granted for Dr. Tom Engler, Professor of Petroleum Engineering, for the fall semester. Dr. Engler will spend his sabbatical working to attract research grants; his courses will be covered.
Advancement Update. Ms. Foster reported a gain of \$1.6 million in donations, in addition to \$500-plus in mineral specimens to the Bureau of Geology. She announced that Lisa Majkowski, currently director of the Office of Student Learning (OSL) program, is the new associate director for Advancement. Ms. Majkowski will manage the office when Ms. Foster is away on business, as well as fund-raising campaigns. The President noted

that Ms. Majkowski is a beloved staff member, and acknowledged the work done under Advancement despite the challenges of a depleted staff.

Legislative Update. The President referred Regents to the weekly written legislative reports submitted by Dave Manzano, announced that thus far, the University's Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP) have not lost funding, and briefed the Board on budget bills pending in the state Senate and House. However, "there is a lot still in play."

Update on Capital Projects. Dr. McDaniel reported a delay on the new Chemistry Building due to an unexpected piping issue, discovered by Mr. Garcia. Completion date and budget are both on track. In a follow-up to a space issue discussed at the January meeting, Dr. McDaniel, in updating the Board on finding an equal space to raze for a new IT center, said a 2000-square-foot structure currently used for storage will satisfy the state requirement, and he expected approval from the Board of Educational Finance. The Jones Hall renovation is on track, and once the conceptual design for the President's Residence is approved, a phasing schedule will be developed. President Wells noted that the space issue presents "a great challenge on our campus."

Faculty Senate Update. Dr. Kieft said Faculty Senate committees are meeting and reporting back to the full body. The next Senate meeting is March 7. The President said he wanted the Faculty Senate President to become a part of his executive Cabinet.

Other. Dr. Damron reviewed legislative bills related to higher education, offering insight into the bills and legislative process, including the consolidation issue. "I am keenly aware of the uniqueness of New Mexico Tech," which she called "the highest denominator" among the state's four-year schools. She recommended a "thoughtful approach" to consolidation, strongly objected to any more legislative cuts to higher education, and said the Lottery Scholarship which will never get ahead so long as it's tied to tuition. President Wells thanked Dr. Damron, noting that hard work and collaboration between the Council of University Presidents (CUP) and HED showed that teamwork gets things done.

5. **Public Comment.** None.

6. **Financial Analysis for January 2017.** Dr. McDaniel's report focused on new information or changes over the past month, including a follow-up on incorrect wording on Page 8 of the annual audit, which has been amended. Revenues are up with no real changes in transfers; expenditures remain a challenge, particularly rising electricity costs due to usage and with rate increases ahead. Planned energy audits are expected to pinpoint why usage has risen. During discussion opened by Regent Gonzales, it was noted that the University is considering revisiting the geothermal issue, dependent on federal funds; and that new structures; i.e., the Chemistry Building and Jones remodel, will incorporate "green" features. The mold issue with Brown Hall has been resolved, with approval to move forward with interior changes which will open up new office space. Dr. McDaniel noted that Brown Hall falls under the requirement for existing space, as previously discussed. Regents unanimously accepted the report on a motion by Regent Armijo and second by Regent Monette.

7. **State Budget Overview.** Mr. Galon, as part of his presentation on the state budget and higher education funding formula (included in Regents' packets,) reported that the state

will have no new money, only a base reduction of funds. Discussion included the dilemma between “pushing students through” in four years, versus education quality. “Tech is going in the right direction,” he said, noting that it outperforms the other two research-universities in many areas. Dr. McDaniel provided scenarios estimating revenue projections to cover expected budget cuts based on tuition-increase percentages. The Chair suggested a discussion on tuition at the April meeting, with the President backing development of a plan for long term.

8. **Updates on: Credit Hours, Retention & Accelerated Graduation, Gen Ed.** As part of a Power Point presentation (see attached), Dr. Douglas Wells, VPAA updated Regents on the status of University efforts regarding the above. Dr. Wells framed his presentation around seven questions, including retention, tuition and the impact of entering the University “calculus-ready.” Among discussion was the dilemma between reducing the number of credit hours required for graduation while retaining program integrity; and incentives to improve four-year graduation rates. The VPAA reported that students are “overloading on technical skills,” while lacking in communication, writing and teamwork, or “soft skills.” Not all programs are suited to a 120-credit hour limit; i.e., mechanical engineering, which he said would be a tough degree to complete in four years. Regent Gonzales requested a review of the Social Science/Humanities into the credit hour reduction because NMTs requirement is 18 hours whereas the state’s requirement is 15 hours. He furthered his statement by encouraging a review of reducing the social science/humanities before reducing engineering or science related courses because his belief is that the communication, technical writing and presentation skills could be covered in English courses, technical writing and senior design classes.
9. **Honorary Doctoral Degree.** Dr. Kieft brought before Regents a nomination from former Tech President Daniel López for an honorary doctoral degree to be given to alumnus John Dowdle during Commencement in May. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the nomination. Dr. Kieft noted that the University has not awarded an honorary doctorate in some time. Regent Armijo moved to approve that an honorary degree be given to Mr. Dowdle. Regent Monette seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
10. **Restricted Fund Purchase Notifications.** Information included in Regents’ packets.
11. **Property Items to be Removed from Inventory.** Regents unanimously approved Resolutions 170306-01, 170306-02, 170306-03 and 170306-04 on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Armijo.
12. **January Degree Conferrals.** Information included in Regents’ packets.
13. **AAAS Review.** President Wells described the visiting AAAS team as outstanding, and thanked those who participated for an opportunity for a critical evaluation. A full evaluation report is due in six weeks. The President highlighted several areas cited by the team, i.e., internal processes are not well defined, the University lacks an overarching strategy in select areas and has no real technology transfer office. “For me, it’s

phenomenal to get this kind of input,” he said, adding that the report will be made public. Regent Armijo, who the Chair acknowledged for his participation, said the team was asked not to pull punches in their evaluation. While the Regent noted a cultural disconnect with the team, overall he could see the University implementing some of their suggestions. Unfortunately, putting them into place will cost money, added Regent Gonzales, saying the University will have to bite the bullet if necessary. President Wells noted that the team was impressed with Tech’s outstanding faculty, students and research. Regent Monette added that “the committee was extremely impressed, and in fact amazed at how many hats our employees wear.”

14. Individual Board Member Comments. Chair Peacock noted that Gov. Martinez has been invited to the second annual Inventors & Entrepreneurs workshop April 7 – 8, and it is hoped she will attend. The workshop will highlight Tech success stories, with the President referencing Regent Gonzales as an example.

15. New Business. Ms. Garcia and the Board discussed the meeting schedule. The April 7 meeting will convene at 9 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. for the May 12 meeting, the day before Commencement. Ms. Garcia suggested and Regents agreed to meet in Carlsbad as part of their summer retreat, noting that the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) is hosting its annual banquet on June 10. Dr. Romero added that former U.S. Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman are expected to attend. Details will be discussed at the April meeting. In other new business, EMRTC Director Mike Stanley, in asking to give an update, said changes made since he returned will serve as a working model. He provided Regents with estimates of funding goals, noting that several major research corporations have responded positively to the administrative changes. Equity adjustments to some staff will be evaluated in 18 months and made permanent if they can be supported. Morale has improved, and the division is teaming up on more projects with the University’s academic departments. It was noted that with the bridge on the back road to EMRTC (off the I-25 Escondida exit) failing inspection, a temporary solution is in effect until the bridge is fixed.

16. Executive Session. Regents on a roll-call vote conducted by Ms. Garcia unanimously agreed to adjourn their regular meeting at 12:37 p.m. to meet in Executive Session on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Gonzales. Regents reconvened in open session at 1:13 p.m. Chair Peacock announced that only personnel and legal issues were discussed, and that a set of mutual milestones agreed to by the Board and President Wells will be sent out shortly.

17. Adjournment. Regents adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m. on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent Gonzales.

Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

President
