



**Board of Regents Regular Meeting**

***MINUTES***

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:00 pm on Friday, October 18, 2019 with Chair Deborah Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Jerry Armijo, David Gonzales, Yolanda King and Veronica Espinoza. Other university administrators, staff and guests included:

Stephen Wells	Bob Balch	David Landrum
Vanessa Grain	Peter Phaiah	John Archuleta
Juliann Ulibarri	Tom Engler	Daniel Alsup
Cleve McDaniel	Alex Garcia	Linda Melendres
Doug Wells	JoAnn Salome	Subroto Gunawan
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Valentina Avramidi	Henry Prager
Van Romero	David Hunter	Valerie Kimble
Nelia Dunbar	Mark Adams	

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Peacock called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
  - a. **Proof of Meeting Notice.** Ms. Grain confirmed that proper legal notice had been given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Chair Peacock noted that Item 6f, Unrestricted Fund Purchase for County of Socorro, would be omitted. Regent Armijo moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Recurring Reports.**
  - a. **SGA,** President Michelle Sherman (*no report*)
  - b. **GSA.** Mr. Prager, President, reported that the GSA has four new officers, and updated Regents on travel grants. He also cited as issues access to and the cost of health care in relation to salaries. Mr. Prager requested health insurance options, an increase in graduate student stipends, and a change in the “start date” for teaching assistants. President Wells is aware of the issues and invited Mr. Prager to make an appointment with his office.
  - c. **SUR.** VP Jaramillo-Fleming submitted her standard enrollment report to Regents, noting an increase in applications and paid. The office is progressing with an online enrollment management software system, which she will share with the Board at a future meeting.
  - d. **Academic Affairs.** VP Wells in his presentation, “NMT Student Enrollment: Current Status and the Path Forward,” showcased statistics, trends, initiatives and policies, along with recommendations on boosting enrollment numbers in the face of declining enrollment at both the undergraduate and graduate student levels. The office is pursuing several options.
  - e. **Capital Projects.** (*paper report*). Dr. McDaniel introduced the new AVP for Administration and Finance, Mr. David Landum. Dr. McDaniel noted that the HED approved the revised budget to remodel Jones Hall, and will seek approval from the state Board of Finance later this month. President Wells commended Dr. Cleve McDaniel and Mr. Alex Garcia as a reason for the project’s success.

- f. **Research.** Dr. Romero reported that the annual Paint the M 49ers event this morning drew 350+ participants. The President pronounced the event a lot of fun, noting that Regents Armijo, King and Espinoza participated this year.
- g. **OIC,** Director Anselmo (*no report*)
- h. **Advancement,** Director Foster (*paper report*)
- i. **Bureau of Geology,** Director Dunbar (*no report*)
- j. **PRRC.** Dr. Balch reported that a new project on carbon sequestration with several partner institutions that will total several million dollars in new money every year, as part of a multi-state, Carbon Utilization and Storage Partnership (CUSP). Supporting documents are in Regents' packets.
- k. **HR.** Ms. Salome announced that employees are in the midst of an open enrollment period that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.
- l. **Faculty Senate.** Dr. Engler had nothing to report.
- m. **President's Report.** The President attended a Governors Energy and Environment Summit that drew a remarkable collection of energy companies to discuss how to leverage resources toward a better economy. He suggested bringing forward competitive and innovative ideas from university students. The recent President's Golf Tournament brought in \$213,000 in sponsorship, the largest amount ever. President Wells said people are excited about a new Miners logo to be unveiled at 4:15 pm today at the Athletic Field for all of NMT sports.

#### 5. Information Items.

- a. **Degree Conferrals for July and August 2019.** Information in Regents' packets.
- b. **Playas Training and Research Ctr. Activities (PTRC),** VP Romero. Dr. Romero addressed a recent front-page article in the Albuquerque Journal which referred to a \$93 million DOD award to NMT for FY19-FY23, noting that an official press release has not yet been cleared by the Pentagon. (The press release has since been approved and was released Oct 28<sup>th</sup>). He likened the project in cyber-kinetic research as comparable to what NOAA does in tracking the course of hurricanes to cull data. The vast majority of work will be done on campus, transitioning to Playas for final testing. Dr. Romero explained that the project started with former EMRTC Director John Meason; seven years later, it's come to fruition. From a national search, the Pentagon chose NMT. President Wells added that infrastructure was not the reason NMT was selected – it was people, a testament to the team.

#### 6. Action Items.

- a. **Approval of Aug. 24, 2019 Minutes.** The Minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- b. **NM Higher Ed. Qtr. Financial Cert. for September 30, 2019.** Dr. McDaniel requested and received unanimous Board approval for the quarterly financial certification on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Armijo.
- c. **Resolutions Signature Authority – D. Landrum, AVP.** Dr. McDaniel requested Board approval for signature authority to Mr. Landrum. The motion was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales. The VP noted one small change to allow AVP Landrum to sign in his absence. Regent King amended her motion, which passed unanimously.
- d. **Guaranteed Utility Savings Project.** Dr. McDaniel brought to Regents for approval the Guaranteed Utility Savings Project Resolution which will result in significant utility savings for NMT. The proposal includes a contract with Ameresco for work performance.

Dr. McDaniel introduced representatives from Ameresco, Melendres and Melendres Law Firm and financial advisors, Stifel, Nicolaus & Company (formerly G.K. Baum) to speak on items related to their area of expertise. There was discussion on the lower yield on the solar project and concern over the payback timeline of the solar project, including risk of payback before expiration of the warranty and the discussion of risk to the bond. Regent Gonzales confirmed that Ameresco would be responsible for the savings short-fall if the project does not perform. The vote was tabled until after Exec. Session for a document clarification response to a clerical error.

- e. **Revised Research & Public Service Project Rankings (RPSPs).** On behalf of Dr. McDaniel, President Wells noted a revised set of RPSPs as requested by HED, to include two items to be folded into the RPSP list: Student Research Assistantships in Chemical Engineering for \$87,000 and the Rural Economic Development Project for \$25,000. The revised rankings were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent King.
- f. **Unrestricted Fund Purchase.** On a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Espinoza, the Board unanimously approved awarding a contract for architectural and engineering services to McClain + Yu for remodeling Brown Hall.
- g. **Property Resolutions.** VP McDaniel. Regent Gonzales moved to accept property resolutions as contained in Regents' packets. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

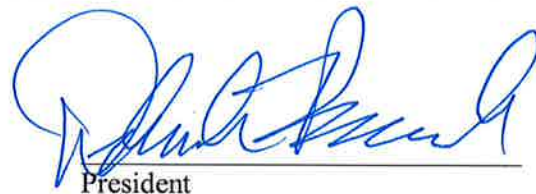
7. **Individual Board Member Comments.** None.

8. **New Business.** The final regular meeting of the year will be held at 1 pm on Friday, Nov. 22 in the Fidel Center, to be preceded by a meeting of the NMT Foundation.

9. **Executive Session.** NBMSA 1978, Sec. 10-15-1(H)(2), (If required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters). The Board unanimously recessed its regular meeting at 2:34 pm to meet in Executive Session following a roll call vote conducted by Ms. Grain.

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 3:25 pm. Chair Peacock announced that discussion was limited to legal and personnel issues. Regents voted on the Guaranteed Utility Savings Project and it was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Armijo and a second from Regent King, noting amended documents reflecting changes which will be sent electronically.

11. **Adjournment.** The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:26 pm on a motion by Regent King and a second from Regent Gonzales.

  
President

Attest:

  
Secretary-Treasurer

