New Mexico Tech
Board of Regents
Minutes

Date: Friday, May 15, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m. MST
Location: Fidel Center Ballroom B, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801
Public Zoom Webinar: https://nmt-edu.zoom.us/j/97703739901

1) **Call to Order.** Regent Chair Dr. David Lepre Sr. called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Other Board members attending were Regent Jerry Armijo, Yolanda Jones King, and Cody Johnston. Regent Srinivas Mukkamala was absent. In attendance: Michael Jackson, Vanessa Grain, Delilah Walsh, Lique Coolen, David Greene, Robert Balch, Mike Timmons, Katie Ismael, Sandi Lucero, Darryl Ackley, Linda DeVeaux, Val Thomas, and Daniel Grunow and many members of the public who attended in the audience and virtually on Zoom.

   a) **Proof of Meeting Notice**. Ms. Vanessa Grain confirmed that legal notices were placed in the Albuquerque Journal and Socorro El Defensor Chieftain.

2) **Approval of Agenda**. Chairman Lepre presented the agenda for approval. Regent Armijo moved to approve the agenda as presented. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3) **Public Comment**. Chairman Lepre welcomed members of the public and explained the procedures for public comment. He stated that the Board would receive public comments at the beginning of the meeting, he would conduct the scheduled business of the Board, and then remain after adjournment with President Jackson to continue listening to community members. He also announced that a public town hall regarding the proposed Green Data Centers project would be held on Tuesday, May 19, at the Macey Center, noting that he had received legal guidance allowing Regents to attend in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

   The majority of public comments focused on the proposed Green Data Centers project. Speakers expressed concerns regarding the following topics: Water availability and the feasibility of atmospheric water generation technology in New Mexico's arid climate. Potential environmental impacts, including groundwater resources, water rights, heat generation, noise, and air quality. Seismic activity and concerns regarding proposed energy infrastructure. Transparency surrounding the proposed project, including the Letter of Intent, corporate structure, and due diligence. Potential impacts on New Mexico Tech's reputation, student recruitment, and the surrounding community. Requests that the Board discontinue consideration of the project and instead prioritize protection of community resources. And requests for additional independent scientific review and environmental analysis before any future action is considered.

   Chairman Lepre thanked each speaker for their comments and emphasized that the Board valued community input. He reiterated that he and President Jackson would remain following adjournment to continue discussions with community members and encouraged attendance at the upcoming public town hall.

4) **Regent Committee Reports**.

   a) **NMT Foundation Updates**. Regent Armijo reported that there had been no new developments since the previous meeting. He advised that the next Foundation board meeting was scheduled for June 26 and that he would provide an update following that meeting.

b) **Regent Enrollment Subcommittee.** Regent Armijo noted that the comprehensive enrollment report would be presented later in the meting under the Student Affairs report. He deferred his committee report to allow for the more detailed presentation.

c) **NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates**. Regent King noted that the officers have been invited to participate in the Board of Regents annual retreat.

d) **NM HERC Updates.** Regent King reported that the HERC issued a call for nominations for new officers. She noted that one volunteer had submitted a nomination to date and that new officers would be elected during the fall meeting in Portales.

e) **Regent Research Subcommittee.** No report.

f) **Student Updates.** No report.

g) **Regent Finance Subcommittee/Legislative Updates.** Chair Lepre reported that a detailed financial update would be provided later in the meeting as part of the Administration and Finance report. Regarding legislative affairs, Chairman Lepre shared that Regents and university leadership recently met with Connor Jorgensen, Higher Education Staff Analyst for the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). He stated that the discussions were productive and provided valuable recommendations and encouragement regarding future legislative priorities and opportunities for New Mexico Tech over the next several years.

5) **Info Items**.

a) **Student Government Association.** No report.

b) **Graduate Student Association.** No report.

c) **Faculty Senate.** Chair Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Linda DeVeaux presented the 2026 Regents Faculty Conference Report, summarizing faculty survey responses regarding institutional priorities, faculty morale, and campus climate. Dr. DeVeaux noted that participation in the survey declined from the previous year, which she believed reflected lingering faculty concerns from the previous administration and uncertainty during the presidential transition. She stated that respondents expressed appreciation for the University's commitment to shared governance under President Jackson while identifying several ongoing institutional challenges. The report highlighted recurring concerns related to faculty recruitment and retention, salary competitiveness, workload, administrative support, operational efficiencies, childcare availability, research capacity, enrollment challenges, and overall quality of life on campus. Faculty also expressed concerns regarding increasing administrative responsibilities, alignment of teaching, research, and service expectations, and the need for greater participation in institutional decision-making. Positive feedback included appreciation for faculty mentoring programs, faculty development opportunities, and the collegial nature of the New Mexico Tech community. Chairman Lepre thanked Dr. DeVeaux for the comprehensive report and noted that he had reviewed several years of Faculty Conference reports. He acknowledged that many of the concerns had been recurring and stated that the Board and administration were committed to addressing those issues where possible, including exploring opportunities for employee recognition and incentive funding while continuing efforts to improve the University's structural financial position. He commended the Faculty Senate for its thoughtful work and expressed optimism regarding the institution's direction. Dr. DeVeaux concluded by recognizing Dr. Taffeta Elliott for her significant contributions in preparing the Faculty Conference Report.

d) **Staff Council.** Staff Council Co-Chairs Val Thomas and Heidi Love reported that Staff Council was conducting its mid-term elections to ensure staggered terms for representatives and officers. They noted continued strong employee engagement and interest in serving on the Council. The Co-Chairs also reported that New Mexico Tech's Staff Council had become the first staff governance organization in the state to participate in a newly forming statewide governance collaboration with faculty and staff representatives from New Mexico's public higher education institutions. The initiative is focused on developing communication, collaboration, and shared governance among New Mexico colleges and universities. Chairman Lepre commended the Staff Council for its continued progress and observed that many of the issues identified by staff aligned with concerns raised in the Faculty Conference Report. He noted that strengthening staff support would also help alleviate administrative burdens placed on faculty.

e) **Student Affairs.** VP Greene presented an update on enrollment management, student recruitment, financial aid, and student success initiatives. He reported that fall enrollment indicators continued to trend positively, with increases in both paid and committed students compared to the same period in the previous year. Vice President Greene noted that the institution had reached approximately 300 committed students, representing continued momentum in recruitment efforts as students continue to confirm enrollment throughout the summer. Vice President Greene also provided an overview of the University's financial aid strategy, highlighting efforts to increase scholarship utilization and improve access to institutional, state, and federal financial aid. He discussed enhancements to scholarship packaging and outreach designed to improve enrollment yield and student retention. The presentation also included updates on orientation planning, student engagement initiatives, and collaboration across campus to support student success. During discussion, the Regents asked several questions regarding enrollment reporting, scholarship utilization, and student headcount. Vice President Greene explained the distinction between census enrollment figures and annual unduplicated headcount, noting that students entering during different academic terms are reflected differently in institutional reporting and that a comprehensive annual headcount would be available following the conclusion of the summer term. Chairman Lepre referenced concerns raised in the Faculty Senate report regarding healthcare resources for graduate students and requested that the administration provide the Board with a future presentation outlining healthcare services available to graduate and undergraduate students, as well as any identified gaps or opportunities for improvement. Vice President Greene agreed to coordinate a future presentation on the topic. Vice President Greene concluded his report by inviting the Regents and senior leadership to attend the Division of Student Affairs Professional Development program on May 19, 2026, featuring Stephanie Rodriguez as the keynote speaker.

f) **Administration and Finance**. Ms. Emma Aafloy, Director of Budget and Analysis, presented the Administration and Finance report on behalf of Vice President for Administration and Finance Delilah Walsh. Ms. Aafloy provided the Board with the Third Quarter Financial Report, highlighting the University's overall financial position. She reported that New Mexico Tech's net position had increased by approximately 24 percent, with roughly half of the increase attributable to one-time funding received during the fiscal year. She also noted that institutional liabilities had decreased by approximately $3 million and that reserve balances remained healthy. Ms. Aafloy reviewed unrestricted revenue trends, including increases in state appropriations, general operating funding, and funding provided for the institution's four percent salary increase. During discussion, Chairman Lepre requested that future financial reports distinguish recurring and one-time state appropriations, or restricted and unrestricted funding, to provide greater clarity regarding year-to-year revenue changes. He also requested that page numbers be included in future Board financial reports to facilitate discussion during meetings. Ms. Aafloy agreed to incorporate those suggestions into future presentations.

g) **Academic Affairs.** Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Lique Coolen initially indicated there were no Academic Affairs updates. She then advised the Board that, in response to a previous request from the Regents, she had invited Dr. Aly El-Osery, Dean of Graduate Studies, to provide an update on graduate education. Dr. El-Osery presented an overview of graduate enrollment trends and reported continued growth in graduate education, particularly within the University's research degree programs. He noted that doctoral enrollment had increased significantly in recent years while master's degree enrollment had remained stable, resulting in overall growth across graduate research programs. He attributed this growth to continued student interest in New Mexico Tech's research programs and the institution's strong research environment. Dr. El-Osery also discussed graduate student demographics, enrollment trends, and efforts to strengthen graduate recruitment and support services.

The presentation highlighted the important role graduate students play in the University's research enterprise and academic mission. The Regents engaged in discussion regarding graduate enrollment, student support, and the continued development of graduate education at New Mexico Tech.

h) **Research.** Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Lique Coolen reported that she had no additional Research report beyond the graduate education update presented by Dr. Aly El-Osery. During discussion, Dr. Coolen emphasized that the continued growth in graduate education is closely tied to New Mexico Tech's research enterprise. She recognized the significant contributions of faculty, research centers, and external collaborators in mentoring graduate students and supporting research assistantships. Dr. Coolen noted that graduate student success is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the academic departments, the research centers, including the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources and the Petroleum Recovery Research Center, and partnerships with organizations such as Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. She also acknowledged the continued support provided through the New Mexico Higher Education Department for graduate education initiatives and student support.

i) **President's Updates.** President Dr. Michael Jackson congratulated the New Mexico Tech Esports program on winning consecutive national championships in Rocket League and League of Legends. He recognized the dedication of the student-athletes, coaching staff, and campus supporters, and invited Coach Banks to address the Board. Coach Banks thanked the Board and University leadership for their continued support of the Esports program. He reported that since 2023, the program has earned two regional championships and four national championships. He also highlighted the team's academic and community achievements, noting that participating students maintained an average GPA of approximately 3.4, contributed more than 800 hours of community service, and significantly increased New Mexico Tech's visibility through livestream broadcasts and social media engagement. President Jackson congratulated the student competitors and coaching staff on their accomplishments, recognizing the program as an example of New Mexico Tech students' excellence in academics, leadership, service, and national competition. The Board joined President Jackson in recognizing the Esports team with a round of applause.

6) **Consent Items.**

a) **Restricted Fund Purchases over $300,000.**
1. MMB Solutions
2. Classic Industries
3. Terra Core Int'l Corp

b) **Unrestricted Fund Purchases over $300,000.**
1. Southwest Concrete and Paving (Playas Road and Paving Project)
2. J29 Enterprises LLC (Playas Water Rehabilitation Project)
3. ASE Construction (Classroom Complex HVAC & Lighting Replacement)
4. SS Papadopulos and Associates Inc. (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
5. WSP USA Inc. ((Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
6. Intera Inc. (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
7. Glorieta Geoscience (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
8. DatHere Inc. (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
9. GeoTech Ltd. (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
10. RESPEC Company LLC (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)
11. Virga Labs (Bureau Hydrogeological Services)

c) **NMT Property Resolutions (4).**

Regent Armijo moved to approve the Consent Items 6a) through 6c) as presented, followed by a second from Regent King. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7) **Executive Session**, Chairman Lepre
Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 H(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, if required, to consider limited personnel matters, specifically, 1) tenure and promotions; 2) discussion of the approval process for appointment/selection/hiring of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; 3) salary adjustment for an associate director; 4) promotion of associate director from interim to permanent status at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center; 5) discussion of the approval process for appointment/selection/hiring process of the Hiring Director of the Office of Innovation Commercialization; and 6) President's hiring authority.

Chairman Lepre stated that the Board would enter Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act to discuss limited personnel matters, specifically: Tenure and promotions; The approval process for the appointment/selection/hiring of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Salary adjustment for an Associate Director; Promotion of an Associate Director from Interim to Permanent Status at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center; The approval process for the appointment/selection/hiring of the Director of the Office of Innovation Commercialization; and The President's hiring authority. Regent Armijo moved that the Board enter Executive Session. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The regular session was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

8) **Vote to 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**, Chairman Lepre
Chair Lepre called for a motion to reconvene in open session at 3:22 p.m. Regent Armijo moved to reconvene in open session. Regent King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote conducted by Ms. Grain. Chair Lepre stated the matters discussed in the closed session were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7), and limited personnel matters, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2), as well as.

9) **Action Items.**
   a) **Approval of Amended and Restated Board Resolution Providing Board of Regents Direction to the President Regarding Executive Positions,** Chairman Lepre. Chairman Lepre presented the resolution and called for a motion. Regent King moved to table the item. The motion was seconded by Regent Armijo. The motion to table passed unanimously by voice vote.
   b) **Approval of Limited Personnel Action Items.** Chairman Lepre presented the following limited personnel action items for consideration: 1) Approval of Tenure and Promotions; 2) Approval of the Process for Appointment/Selection/Hiring of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; 3) Approval of Salary Adjustment for an Associate Director; 4) Approval of the Promotion of an Associate Director from Interim to Permanent Status at EMRTC; and 5) Approval of the Process for Appointment/Selection/Hiring for the Director of the Office of Innovation Commercialization.

      Chairman Lepre called for a motion to approve the recommended faculty tenure and promotions for fall 2026. Regent Armijo moved to approve the recommended tenure and promotions. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

      Following Board approval, President Jackson invited department leaders and Dr. Lique Coolen, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to recognize each faculty member receiving tenure or promotion. Department representatives highlighted the recipients' accomplishments in teaching, research, scholarship, service, and contributions to New Mexico Tech before each recipient was recognized by the Board and audience.

The Board approved the following faculty actions effective fall 2026:
Dr. Kevin Hobbs, NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Tenure for FY27.
Dr. Rebecca Spruill, Communication, Liberal Arts, and Social Sciences, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor for fall 2026.
Dr. Nicole C. Hurtig, Earth and Environmental Science, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor for fall 2026.
Dr. Lynda Ballou, Mathematics, Promotion to Associate Teaching Professor for fall 2026.
Dr. Mingji Zhang, Mathematics, Promotion to Professor for fall 2026.

President Jackson presented the proposed process for the appointment and selection of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He explained that the process would include stakeholder engagement, opportunities for campus participation, and Board involvement consistent with University policy and established hiring practices. Regent King moved to approve the proposed process for the appointment/selection/hiring of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Lepre presented the proposed salary adjustment for an Associate Director.
Regent King moved to approve the salary adjustment. The motion was seconded by Regent Armijo. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Lepre presented the recommendation to promote the Associate Director from Interim to Permanent status at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC).
Regent Armijo moved to approve the promotion. The motion was seconded by Regent King. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Lepre presented the proposed process for the appointment/selection/hiring of the Director of the Office of Innovation Commercialization. Regent King moved to approve the proposed process. The motion was seconded by Regent Johnston. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

c) **Approval of Minutes for Regular Mtg. on April 10, 2026**. Regent King moved approval. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
d) **Approval of Minutes for Special Mtg. on April 17, 2026**. Regent King moved approval. Regent Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
e) **Approval of Policy on Non-Faculty Research Emeriti Status.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
f) **Approval of Addition to the NMT Employee Handbook.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
g) **Approval of Policy for Voluntary Phased Retirement.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
h) **Approval of Policy for Minors on Campus.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
i) **Approval of NMT Campus Food Services.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
j) **Approval of NMHED Capital Project Transmittal Summary Sheet for Campus Wide Infrastructure Improvement Project.** Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
k) **Approval of Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP**). Regent Armijo moved approval. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

l) **Approval of NMDOT Resolution.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Johnston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

m) **Approval of Mountain Springs Apartments Lease Purchase.** Regent King moved approval. Regent Johnston seconded. Regent Armijo abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10) **Individual Board Member Comments.** Chair Lepre reminded the Regents and Cabinet of the upcoming Regents Retreat and Regular Board meeting in July held in Los Alamos.

11) **Announcements and New Business.** None.

12) **Adjournment.** Regent King moved to adjourn the meeting. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Regents on July 24, 2026.

Approved by David Lepre Sr., Chairman

Attested by Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Secretary-Treasurer