

July 9, 2024

Upcoming Organizational Changes at New Mexico Tech

Dear Colleagues,

One of my immediate objectives upon becoming president of New Mexico Tech has been to understand how our campus functions—identifying both our strengths and areas for improvement.

Over the past three months, I have enjoyed getting to know the ways and means of NMT through your assistance and goodwill. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the faculty, staff, students, alumni, NMT friends, and the Regents who have provided invaluable feedback and context about our organizational structure and the strengths and opportunities therein.

I've learned quite a bit, and I'm grateful for the input received, both formally and informally, during meetings, over meals, via phone, and through email. These suggestions have helped me determine our path forward from a systematic standpoint.

In many instances, NMT will continue to operate as it has, as many parts of NMT are running smoothly and efficiently. I look forward to seeing how we can sustain this impressive momentum.

However, some of the divisions or programs will be reorganized. The reasons are largely about operational efficiency, fiscal stewardship, and best practices. Here are some of the key changes:

- **Office of Research:** We will again have a single Office of Research. After extensive discussion with the campus community and the Regents, we have decided to remerge the Office of Special Research Programs and the Office of Research to create efficiencies and cost savings. We discussed options on moving forward with the President's Executive Cabinet and decided to conduct an open national search for a sole leader to oversee the Office of Research. I have discussed this with current Vice Presidents Romero and Doyle and have encouraged them to apply. They both have agreed to stay on in their current roles in the interim and the merger will occur once a single administrator has been hired and started working.
- **Office of Administration and Finance:** We will conduct a national search for a new Vice President of Administration and Finance. The current CFO, Richard Cervantes, who has served NMT in several capacities for over 15 years over two terms, recently informed me of his plans to retire. I have asked him to stay on until we hire a replacement, and I'm very grateful that he agreed to do so.
- **Office of Student Life:** The Office of Student Life is renamed the Office of Student Affairs because the former is a subset of the latter. Campuses nationwide group things in a similar way: student affairs as the all-encompassing, umbrella entity that is comprised of numerous units, such as student life, housing, dining, student success, etc.
- **Performing Arts Series:** The Performing Arts Series will now be part of Academic Affairs. This realignment allows the Performing Arts Series to receive appropriate attention and integrate better with the academic side of campus.
- **Government Relations, Advancement and Alumni Relations, and Marketing and Communications:** These three offices will now report to the President's Office.

I encourage faculty and staff to volunteer to serve on both the VPAF and VPR national search committees. Please contact Vanessa Grain, my chief executive assistant, at vanessa.grain@nmt.edu to add your name for consideration.

I will announce other changes soon.

Change is exciting and can be unnerving as it brings new processes, roles, and people. And I'm mindful that NMT underwent a reorganization in June 2023, too. I recognize that you might have questions, and I am here to answer them.

Let me stress that while many U.S. colleges and universities confront various uncertainties, we are fortunate that NMT remains on solid ground amid these changes. I trust that we, as a team, will continue to excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching, learning, research, entrepreneurship, innovation, and engagement.

Warm regards,
Mahyar