

Board of Regents Regular Meeting

Friday, November 21, 2025

9:00 am

NMT Main Campus, Fidel Ballroom

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Regent Chair Dr. David Lepre Sr. called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Other Board members attending were Regent Jerry Armijo, Regent Dr. Yolanda Jones King, Regent Cody Johnston, and Regent Dr. Srinivas Mukkamala via Zoom.

University administration was represented by Interim President Michael Jackson, Vice Presidents Delilah Walsh, Lique Coolen, and David Greene. Other attendees included Mike Timmons, Robert Balch, Colleen Foster, Sandi Lucero, Brandon Boulter, Katie Ismael, Val Thomas, Heidi Love, Darryl Ackley, and Vanessa Grain, and Attorney Jenica Jacobi along with various guest attendees in person and on Zoom.

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

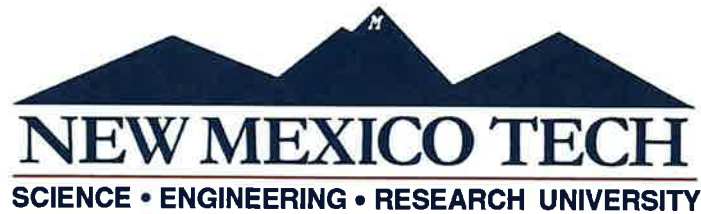
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Regent Armijo moved to approve the agenda, followed by a second from Regent Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comment.** None.

4. **Welcome and Introduce Ms. Katie Ismael, Director of Marketing and Communications.** President Dr. Michael Jackson introduced Ms. Ismael as an award-winning journalist with over 20 years of experience. She recognized the Institute as having a strong foundation in academics and research, and the many opportunities to ensure that Tech's story gets told.

5. **Regent Committee Reports.**

- a) **NMT Foundation Updates.** Regent Armijo reported that the Foundation is coming off the heels of an in-depth retreat, noting that it has reached a critical stage as a fund-raising organization. He explained the challenge, with some members rotating out over the next five years, is that future appointments be consistent with fundraising in meeting a Foundation goal of being able to sustain draw-downs.
- b) **Regent Enrollment Subcommittee.** Regent Armijo noted that NMT will reach its enrollment goals thanks to "true leadership" in tearing down the silos that have blocked communication channels for over a decade. The committee and its subcommittees are listening, sharing and collaborating, providing new insights into NMT and its future.
- c) **NMT Univ. Research Park Corp. Updates.** Regent King reported that the RPC's recent board meeting was very successful, adding that communication is the key. Advisory groups and individuals have also offered help in technical areas.
- d) **NM HERC Updates.** Regent King reported that HERC President Michael Martin hosted the annual meeting in Española, with briefings by members of the HED. She explained the Executive Director position has drawn 175 applications. She noted that she and

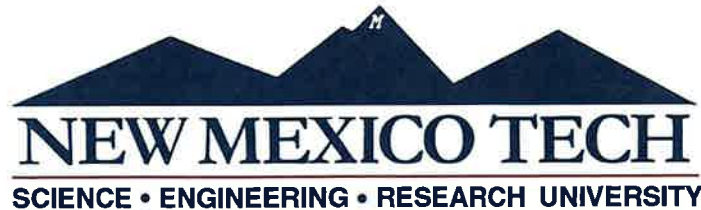


Chair Lepre attended the HERC meeting in person and other Regents online. She commended VPAF Delilah Walsh for her presentation on higher education finance.

- e) **Regent Finance Subcmte/Legislative Updates.** Chair Lepre noted that the subcommittee usually hosts a Spring Budget Forum and a session on Legislative priorities in the Fall. He and President Jackson agreed it was best to move up these discussions. The Chair will call a subcommittee meeting after the 2026 Legislature adjourns, when funding will be known along with emerging campus needs; and the importance of staff and faculty input in moving forward.
- f) **Regent Research Subcmte.** Regent Mukkamala in his update reported that VPR Dr. Lique Coolen has been working with other state universities on impacts from federal cutbacks. UTEP President Heather Wilson spoke on how to proceed from a national security perspective, and expressed her desire to work closely with NMT and external shareholders on Project Jupiter, planned for Santa Teresa, NM.
- g) **Student Updates.** Regent Cody Johnston reported that almost 300 students attended the Thursday event at 49ers, noting the overwhelming student support for President Jackson, who attended every 49ers event.

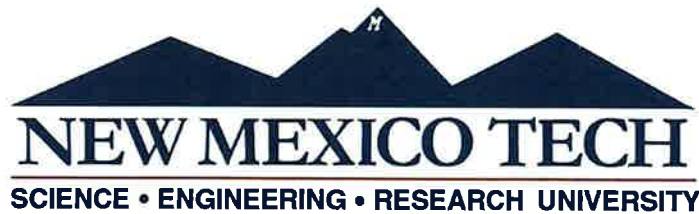
6. Info Items.

- a) **SGA Update.** President Ella Hooks provided Regents with a detailed report on SGA activities, the status of KTEK as a free-standing student club, the challenge in finding writers for *Paydirt*, and declining participation in student clubs. The first draft of a streamlined student club handbook will be presented at the next GSA meeting on Dec. 3 at 8 pm in the SAC. Regents expressed their willingness to help as needed. There followed a discussion on how AI should be used in the classroom.
- b) **GSA Update.** President Imtiaz Ahmed. No report.
- c) **Faculty Senate Update.** Chair Linda DeVeaux. No report.
- d) **Staff Council Update.** Co-Chairs Val Thomas and Heidi Love reported that some 50 to 60 staff attend meetings; the next is Jan. 13, 2026. A survey will be launched the week after Thanksgiving, similar in tone to that used by the Faculty Senate and by-laws are being refined. She said working committees have proposed several ideas, including a “buddy” to guide new staff from day-one, highlighting staff accomplishments, efforts aimed at recycling and energy savings, and to ensure that staff at all levels feel “heard” and valued.
- e) **Alumni Affairs Update.** Director Sandi Lucero in her presentation summarized 49ers activities and provided attendance numbers, crediting her staff for the successful weekend: “Paint the M” drew 367 individuals who hiked up the mountain, and parade entries more than doubled from last year. Some stories submitted for the “Techie Shenanigans” comic book will be saved for future issues. Ms. Lucero also outlined upcoming events with a reminder that the 2026 Commencement will be on May 16, 2026.
- f) **Annual Cybersecurity Update.** CIO Darryl Ackley referred Regents to a letter in their packets summarizing the status of NMT’s Information Security Program (ISP), which, as Tech’s CIO, he oversees. Mr. Ackley reported that the annual ISP audit is expected to be



completed early next month, and three areas of improvements from the 2024 audit have been accomplished, improving the University's security posture.

- g) Enrollment Update.** AVP Brandon Boulter reported that enrollment is moving in a positive direction. New student numbers are stabilizing and in line or slightly ahead of 2024 and 2023, as supported by graphs and charts. The objective in recruitment is to encourage students to “take the next step,” i.e., attend a campus event or tour, apply, pay the enrollment fee, and enroll. The only way to grow enrollment is to steal students from NMT’s competitors by having a better message and showing that Tech is a better value. Some institutions are implementing a no-fee, one-click application process to better compete. There followed discussion on options for students who are not “math ready.” It was noted that students must have the potential for math readiness, and Tech’s math gateway is the mechanism to measure that. Other topics included scholarships and Tech graduates securing good-paying jobs. He also mentioned that the proposed Wellness Center would be an important facility to engage students.
- h) VPSA Updates.** VP Greene presented highlights from an Executive Summary on results of a statewide “basic needs” survey on food, housing and financial insecurity across NM’s public colleges and universities. The summary listed key quantitative findings on basic needs insecurity, mental health (44 percent screened positive for anxiety), employment and financial stress. Among key survey findings were that food insecurity is pervasive; and housing insecurity, exacerbated by limited options, particularly affects graduate students, who often live below the poverty line. Faculty and staff cite stagnant wages, rising utilities and limited grocery options. Later in the meeting, VP Greene updated the Board on Auxiliaries, including a proposal to be presented at the Jan. 30, 2026 meeting to add more space and additional staff for the Child Care Center; and re-evaluating after-school programs, i.e., determining age levels and classroom space. VP Walsh noted that the lease has expired on the Mountain Springs Apartments. While NMT has no current need for the complex, it could be an asset in the future under a lease-purchase agreement.
- i) VPAF Updates.** VP Delilah Walsh updated the Board on the status of capital projects; e.g., the PRRC construction is on schedule for Spring 2026 completion. Ms. Walsh reported that Regents Lepre and Armijo attended the annual audit exit conference with her and her team; once released by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA), the full audit will be made available to the entire Board. The audit received an Unmodified/Clean Opinion, showing strong internal controls. Among other highlights: The audit report for the NMTURPC cited doubts about its ability to continue viably as a going concern, primarily due to sustained operating losses and liabilities exceeding investment assets. Ms. Walsh attached a snapshot of the audit scope, key results and a financial summary for the Board’s immediate review. She also presented a proposed update to NMT’s Policy and Procedure Style Guide and its standardized numbering system.
- j) FY26 Qtr. Financial Report as of 09/30/25.** VP Walsh noted that the updated report is designed to look like a management discussion analysis report and is aligned with annual financial statements. Among key highlights: NMT’s net position indicates overall financial health. Because Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) is cyclical, the VP recommended strategic use of ICR funds. The University would be lucky to see a 1 percent or 2 percent

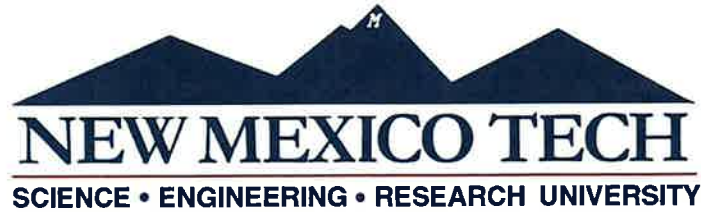


increase in Legislative appropriations, and a flat budget is anticipated. The report provides detailed financial statements and a comprehensive breakdown of investment holdings and performance.

- k) VPAA and VPR Updates.** VP Coolen reported that Academic Affairs has been busy preparing promotion and tenure packets. She announced that AVP Dr. Rick Thompson will be leaving Tech, and applauded and recognized him for leading the HLC reaccreditation effort. VP Coolen proposed developing an opportunity for a faculty provost fellow as a good pathway forward in providing training and administrative experience for faculty. Regent Armijo voiced his full support for growing in-house talent. As the VP for Research, Dr. Coolen announced that a new director has been hired for EMRTC, and NMT is searching for a deputy director for EMRTC and a director for the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. She stated that the Office of Research is working with all divisions to break down silos. The office is being strategic in its efforts to be competitive and to strengthen collaboration with other universities, the national labs, AFRL and industry. VP Coolen also updated Regents on the status of federal funding cuts statewide, of which NMT's loss of over \$45 million is 66 percent of the total loss of federal funding by the 3 research universities. The University has submitted appeals which are pending. Another \$17.6 million of funding that will not be awarded is anticipated. Those awards have not yet started, so it is not a loss of funding per se.
- l) Research Presentation: MRO.** Dr. Eileen Ryan delivered a slide presentation on NMT's 2.4-meter telescope facility in the Magdalena Mountains and its mission in planetary defense. Dr. Eileen and Bill Ryan, both astronomers, were recruited to develop a business model, and their proposal to NASA was funded. Over the past 18 years of operations, the Ryan's have worked to incorporate academic training and hands-on experience for NMT students in tracking Near-Earth Asteroids and Comets (NEOs). MRO also hosts summer camps and field trips for K-12 students.
- m) President's Updates.** Dr. Jackson stated, that although more needs to be done, he credited the VPs, division directors, academic deans and the individuals that they work with for facilitating the conversations that led to breaking down campus silos. Dr. Jackson mentioned the example of a parent's acknowledgement of improvements in the Financial Aid Office and embracing the mindset of collaboration with student services. He also acknowledged VP Coolen for her role in high-level committee meetings and working with other university research VPs in developing an overview of research activities in NM. President Jackson developed a summary of his events and engagements since July 2025 in strengthening key relationships while advancing NMT's strategic priorities. In a meeting with Mr. Cuatro Bursum, and Regent Armijo it was agreed to use the former president's residence for fund-raising/donor events as a bridge into the community. Dr. Jackson also highlighted efforts to aid staff in career advancement, and asked for suggestions on strengthening NMT's Mission and Vision statements.

7. Consent Items.

- a) Unrestricted Fund Purchase >\$300k**
-Elsevier Library Subscription Service

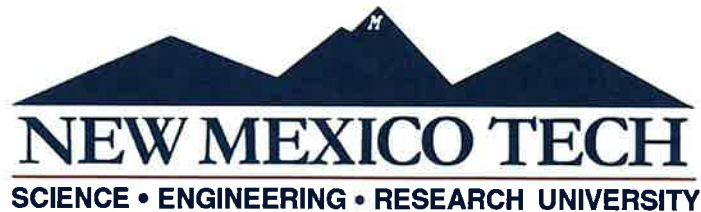


- Lynn Landscaping
- Nanometrics Inc.
- RESPEC Company LLC
- Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

- b) FY26 NMHED Qtr. Certification, ending 09/30/25**
- c) FY26 Unrestricted Budget Adjustment Request #1**
- d) Resolution for NMDOT for Playas Road Phase 3.**
- e) NM HED Capital Projects Transmittal Sheets.**

Regent Armijo moved to approve the Consent Items 7a) through e) as listed, followed by a second from Regent King. The motion passed unanimously.

- 8. Regents Election of Officer for Vice President.** Chair Lepre asked that this action item be moved forward on the agenda from Action Item 10h), citing that Regent Mukkamala may not be able to attend the remainder of the board meeting and it was essential that all board members be able to vote. He explained the amended Regent by-laws addition of the Vice President role, allows the Vice President to fill in when the Chair of the Board is unavailable. Chair Lepre explained the position will be filling a vacancy that would be consistent with the cycle of the regent's normal elections, which is also consistent with the cycle of regent appointments made by the Governor. Chair Lepre called for nominations to add a Vice-President to the Board. Regent Mukkamala nominated Regent Armijo for the position of Vice President of the Board of Regents. Chair Lepre called for other nominations. Regent King moved to close nominations, and accept Regent Armijo as Vice President by acclamation. All regents voted in favor of Regent King's motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 9. Executive Session. NMSA 1978 Sec. 10-15-1 (H) (2), (If required to Consider Legal and/or Personnel Matters).** Regent King moved to adjourn the regular meeting and meet in Executive Session. Regent Armijo seconded the motion which passed on a roll call vote conducted by Ms. Grain. The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 pm.
- 10. Reconvene in open session and take final action, if any, on such limited legal and personnel matters which shall be acted upon in open session following conclusion of the closed session.** Chair Lepre called for a motion to reconvene in open session at 1:51 pm. Regent King moved to reconvene in open session. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chair Lepre stated that the Board certified that the matters discussed in executive session were limited to legal matters and/or personnel matters as authorized under the Open Meetings Act, and that no final action was taken.
- 11. Action Items.**
 - a) Approval of Personnel Action Items.** Chair Lepre put forward for approval two memos for personnel action. Regent King moved to approve the first memo regarding Dean of Student Success Initiatives. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, which passed



unanimously. Regent King moved to approve the second memo regarding the Office of Financial Aid. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b) **Approval of Minutes for Sept. 15, 2025 and October 21, 2025.** Chair Lepre proposed an adjustment to the Sept. 15, 2025 Minutes to read "... has a projected General Fund revenue increase..." Regent King moved to approve the Minutes as amended. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- c) **Approval of Bench Dedication for Ms. Mary Pargas.** Regent King moved for approval. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- d) **Approval of Scholarship Proposal.** Regent King moved for approval, followed by a second from Regent Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Approval of Distribution of Employee Benefits.** Regent King moved for approval. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- f) **Approval of 2026 Legislative Priorities.** Regent Johnston moved for approval, followed by a second from Regent King. The motion passed unanimously.
- g) **Approval of Emeritus Status for Dr. Liebrock.** Both President Jackson and VP Coolen recognized Dr. Liebrock's contributions to NMT and its students during her 22 years with the University. Regent Johnston moved that Dr. Liebrock be approved for Emeritus Status. Regent King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, followed by audience applause.
- h) **Approval of 2026 Regents Meeting Dates.** Following a discussion, Regent King moved to approve the following dates for Board meetings in 2026: Jan. 28, March 6, April 17, May 15, July 23-24 (retreat), Sept. 11 and Nov 16. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. Individual Board Member Comments. Chair Lepre commented on the Board's ongoing interest in strengthening oversight and improving operations across the institution, including matters related to the NMT University Research Park Corporation (RPC). He emphasized the importance of transparency, consistency, and continued evaluation of governance and financial practices. He noted that the Regents will be reviewing the NMT-RPC MOU that was approved in September of 2024, and noted that Regents have the authority to rescind the MOU with proper notice.

13. Announcements and New Business. N/A

14. Adjournment. Regent King moved to adjourn the meeting. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.


Chair, David Lepre Sr.

Attest:


Secretary-Treasurer, Yolanda Jones King