

**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
Board of Regents  
1:30 p.m., Monday, March 21, 2016  
Bureau of Geology Building  
New Mexico Tech Campus / Socorro, New Mexico**

***MINUTES***

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 1:30 p.m. with Board of Regents Chair Debra Peacock presiding. Other Board members present were Regent Jerry Armijo, Regent David Gonzales, Regent Donald Monette and Student Regent Myissa Weiss. University administrators, staff, and guests who were also present included:

|                           |                 |                    |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Daniel H. López           | JoAnn Salome    | Al Garcia          |
| Warren Ostergren          | Matthew Rhoades | Robert Lucero      |
| Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming | Robert Lee      | Colleen Guengerich |
| Van Romero                | Dave Raymond    | Tony Ortiz         |
| Richard Cervantes         | Mona Torres     | Valerie Kimble     |
| Lala Garcia               |                 |                    |

- 1. Proof of Meeting Notice.** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Peacock, Ms. Garcia affirmed that proper legal notice had been given as required by state statute.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** The Chair announced the need for an executive session on a personnel issue to follow Agenda Item 15. Regent Monette moved to approve the Agenda to include the executive session. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 3. Minutes.** Regent Monette cited a comment attributed to him in the minutes for the February meeting that he did not make. He then moved to accept the minutes with the comment deleted. Regent Armijo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 4. Announcements.** *Enrollment Update.* Paid admissions exceed those from end-of-month 2015 totals by 12, Mr. Ortiz reported, adding that a recent effort using current University students to telephonically contact potential enrollees in the paid category was very successful. A high school counselor “visit day” set for April 6 received 43 RSVPs compared with 33 at this time last year; the office also is utilizing social media as a recruitment tool. Dr. Ostergren added that plans for a summer distance education math initiative through the Office for Student Learning are proceeding.  
*Sabbatical Leaves.* Dr. Mary Dezember, CLASS Department, and Dr. Ivan Avramidi, Math, have been granted sabbaticals for the fall semester, noted Dr. Ostergren. In response to a question, he updated Regents on HLC issues, including the accreditation of

distance education programs for the Master of Science for Teachers (MST) and Master of Science in Materials Engineering, with no need for an onsite review.

*Advancement Update.* Ms. Guengerich's report was included in Regents' packets.

*State Initiative Update.* Efforts are under way to seek approval for two new doctoral programs, with plans for 12 project-based learning communities, up from five last year; the goal is 100 percent participation, according to Dr. Ostergren. Math and other academic programs are being redesigned for greater student success and the collegiate division is revamping attempts to better track failing students for intervention purposes. Departments also continue to work on reducing the number of credit hours in their programs with an additional focus on changing the University's gen-ed core, efforts that received praise from HED Secretary Damron. Dr. Ostergren also noted the dedication of faculty and staff to these ongoing initiatives.

*Faculty Senate Update.* Dr. Raymond reported that the Faculty Senate had no issues that rise to the level of Regents.

*Other.* Negotiations are under way with three major competitors for the contract to operate Sandia Labs. An RFP will be followed by a 30-day comment period, noted Dr. Romero, adding that the entire bid, including resumes, is 25 pages. The proposal will be written in June and July with an August deadline; the contract will be let in April 2017. The V.P. for R&ED noted that New Mexico Tech was heavily featured in the final episode of MythBusters, and that he has met with representatives of the Science Channel regarding a new show.

5. **Public Comment.** None

6. **Financial Analysis for February 2016.** The report presented by Mr. Cervantes detailed financial transactions for the past eight months. I&G expenditures are up slightly over last year and research and public service projects are tracking well. Overhead revenue is down about \$500k. The previous Science Fair/Science Olympiad deficit of \$44k has been reduced to \$18k. Under cost centers, the VPAF noted that Playas is expected to break even to close out FY16. During discussion, it was determined that the deficit at Playas is down, and will be covered in part with "venue revenue" (extra fee to use the facility). Under capital projects, construction should begin this summer on the telecommunications project. Regent Armijo moved to accept the financial analysis as presented. Regent Gonzales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

7. **Tuition and Fees.** President López outlined for Regents an historical perspective, including eight years of inflation and budget cuts, in recommending a 5 percent tuition increase. He also cited the "critical" need for a 2 percent, across-the-board salary boost. Regent Armijo moved to approve the tuition increase for purposes of discussion, and then amended his motion to include the salary increase as part of his motion. Regent Monette seconded the motion. During the lengthy discussion that followed, Regent Weiss called the proposal "disappointing," saying she thought last year's tuition increase would suffice for a while, and that Tech's low tuition was "extremely attractive" to potential students. Regent Gonzales noted that a pay raise "on the back of students" looked bad; Regent Monette agreed. The President responded that the proposal was reasonable, would help address a faculty/staff morale issue. Students were "part of the solution," he said, adding

that tuition generally increases with inflation. Mr. Cervantes said the proposal would not increase student fees. Since 2008, the brunt of the burden has fallen on faculty and staff, and on departments, it was noted. Philosophical and financial issues were raised and analyzed, with the President explaining that if the University did not raise tuition now, it would have to consider an even higher increase next year. When called for the question, the motion approving the tuition increase and salary boost passed unanimously.

8. **Proforma.** Mr. Cervantes walked Regents through the proforma (preliminary) budget for FY 17, noting that 80 percent of the budget is tied to personnel, leaving “little wiggle room.” He added that \$250,000 is budgeted to make up for the loss in utilities. Regent Monette moved to approve the proforma budget. Regent Weiss seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board will consider the final budget at its April meeting; it is due in Santa Fe on May 1.
9. **Security Management Group Resolution.** The President explained the necessity of the resolution for those unfamiliar with it. In order for the University to undertake classified work, Board members must recuse themselves from receiving classified data. He therefore asked Regents to approve the resolution and to add Mr. Cervantes to the security group. Regent Armijo moved for approval, followed by a second from Regent Weiss. The motion passed unanimously.
10. **Restricted Fund Purchase Notifications.** The President notified Regents of several restricted funds purchases, mostly for EMRTC contracts, for their personal edification.
11. **Property Items to be Removed from Inventory – Resolutions 160321-01, 160321-02 and 160321-03.** The Board unanimously approved the resolutions on a motion by Regent Weiss and a second from Regent Monette.
12. **February Degree Conferrals.** President López reported that six degrees were conferred during the month of February.
13. **New Mexico Tech Research Foundation and New Mexico Tech Research Corporation.** As reported by Regent Armijo, the Foundation audit was completed and returned as “clean.” In addition, the Foundation is continuing to inventory and analyze assets. Drawings for the new president’s residence should be completed this summer, with plans to seek construction approval from Regents at the August or September meeting. Thus far, the project has a “clear design, a clear cost estimate and a clear mechanism on how to pay for the residence,” he said. Regent Monette, reporting on the Corporation, noted that a financial update and a review of bylaws will be conducted at the next meeting on April 11; any recommendations then will be brought to the Board.
14. **Individual Board Member Comments.** Chair Peacock said she would welcome a presentation on RiskSense in laymen’s terms. Mr. Cervantes requested additional turnaround time to have the draft final budget in Regents’ hands for review prior to the April meeting, which Ms. Garcia and the Board determined would begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 17. Noting that there is no formal 10-day requirement for Regents to

receive meeting information in advance, Mr. Cervantes said he would shoot for an April 11 deadline.

**15. New Business.** None.

**16. Executive Session Pursuant to 10-15-1 (H)(2) and 10-15-1 (I)(2), NMSA 1978.**

Regents on a roll call unanimous vote adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m. to meet in Executive Session under a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Weiss. Regents reconvened the meeting at 3:36 p.m. The Chair announced that no vote was taken during the closed session and that Regents discussed only the issue cited.

**17. Employee Benefit Trust.** The Board recessed its regular meeting at 3:37 p.m. to convene as the Employee Benefit Trust (see separate Minutes).

**18. Adjournment.** There being no further business to bring before the Board, Chair Peacock adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

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Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

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President