

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Board of Regents Meeting
9 a.m., Friday, April 7, 2017
Torres Hall, NMT Campus

MINUTES

The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents convened at 9:02 a.m., with Regent Vice President and Secretary Jerry Armijo presiding. Other Board members present were David Gonzales, Donald Monette, Myissa Weiss and Regent-designee Emily Silva. University administrators, staff and guests who were also present included:

Stephen Wells	Lorie Liebrock	Andrei Zagri
Lala Garcia	Valerie Del Curto	Emma Aafloy
Douglas Wells	Valentina Avramidi	Mitch Tappen
Cleve McDaniel	Charles Hendrickson	Elaine DeBrine Howell
Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming	Colleen Foster	Cynthia Loehr
Van Romero	Bill Stone	Scott Turner
Robert Balch	Alex Garcia	Nick Fleming
Nelia Dunbar	Gabe Montoya	Thom Guengerich
Michael Stanley	David Manzano	Valerie Kimble
Tom Kieft	Gina Chavez	

- 1. Proof of Meeting.** Regent Armijo called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Garcia reported that proper legal notice was given as required.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- 3. Minutes.** Regents unanimously approved Minutes from the March 6, 2017 meeting on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Gonzales.
- 4. Announcements.** *Enrollment Updates.* Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming reported similar trends as for March 2017, with a projected lower enrollment compared to last year. Regent Monette, however, noted a dramatic increase compared with last month's report, as echoed by Regent Gonzales. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming said Tony Ortiz and the Admission Office staff is working to enroll applicants with paid deposits; and that recruitment is on an 18-month timeline; i.e., students also are contacted as sophomores and juniors. "We're doing all we can to get students here," she said, adding that Admission is working with Academic Affairs on marketing materials highlighting University achievements and opportunities. President Wells noted that fewer applications in the pipeline is a state trend, perhaps necessitating a stronger emphasis on out-of-state contacts.
Legislative Roll-up. The President, saying he wished he had better information for Regents, noted that until a budget bill is signed in Santa Fe, New Mexico Tech, like all publicly funded colleges and universities in the state, is unable to finalize its FY18 budget. A Special Session is likely, he said, until then, "We're in limbo." With all state

budgets due in Santa Fe by May 1, a special meeting via teleconference may be necessary. Dr. McDaniel will outline several budget scenarios under Agenda item 8. *Commencement Changes.* President Wells outlined several changes for the May 13 event, including having as speakers a graduate chosen by the student body, and a mentor-type who could infuse the ceremony with humor and guidance. Regent Weiss and Dr. Frank Etscorn have agreed to fill those roles. In turn, stage time previously spent introducing award winners – 13 this year – will be reduced, with background information in the Commencement program itself. The President proposed an awards ceremony, except for those given by student associations, to honor select individuals.

Report on Advancement. Ms. Foster reported contributions of \$1.2 million thus far this fiscal year, an increase of \$100,000 over last month, with another \$60,000 contribution expected shortly. At an organizational meeting of the Foundation on April 5, the Foundation agreed to provide financial support for five Advancement hires, three for full-time fundraising and two support staff; which, said Ms. Foster, should pay dividends. President Wells noted that the contribution includes funds for student support and the Center for Technology Commercialization (CTC). He cited a continuing alumni gift to a Distance Education program for incoming freshmen to improve their math skills prior to arrival. Regent Armijo, also a Foundation Trustee, noted that for the first time, all IP activities generated by the University will reside with the Foundation through the Research Park, to allow its staff to monitor and manage IP operations, including those connected with the CTC. President Wells said the goal was to develop a plan on how to move all IP concepts forward.

Sabbatical Leaves. Dr. Douglas Wells announced that sabbatical leaves had been granted for Dr. Rene Arechiga, Electrical Engineering, to further his research into biometrics in Mexico; and for Dr. Navid Mojtabai, Mineral Engineering, who is taking his first sabbatical leave after 27 years. Dr. Mehrdad Razavi has agreed to cover as department chair in Mojtabai's absence.

Update on Capital Projects. The contractor for the new Chemistry Building is being charged \$1000 per day in liquidated damages for every day behind schedule, according to Dr. McDaniel, adding that the real target is a summer move-in date in time for the fall 2017 semester. An RFP was sent out week for construction services to build a new Data Center, following project approval from the Board of Educational Finance (BEF). Dr. McDaniel said he would ask for formal Board approval to proceed with construction at the June meeting. A project manager also has been hired for the Jones Hall project, an appropriate expense, since Capital Projects Manager Garcia cannot be onsite every day. Dr. McDaniel reported that President and Mrs. Wells have approved the conceptual design for the proposed University Residence. A loan from the Foundation to the University for up to \$1.5 million is still on the table, Regent Armijo said. President Wells noted, however, that project phasing could be delayed, were it to impact support for faculty and students. Next on the capital outlay wish list is a recreation center/classroom complex, to be shared with the local community perhaps as a joint-government venture, a fundamental step in attracting and retaining both students and faculty.

Faculty Senate Update. Dr. Kieft resurrected “old, old business” regarding naming campus buildings. Years ago, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution to name the MSEC complex the Hanna and Larry Lattman Center, after its former president and his wife, a member of the MSEC design group. At that time, executive policy prohibited naming

buildings after living individuals; which, it was noted, has obviously changed. Regent Armijo, calling the recommendation an excellent idea, said he would recommend action at the May meeting.

Other. President Wells issued a reminder of the second annual Inventors and Entrepreneurs Workshop under way at Macey Center.

5. **Public Comment.** Regent Monette introduced City Councilor Nick Fleming, who will attend Board meetings as part of a five-year plan toward better “town-gown” relations. President Wells and Regent Armijo have attended City Council meetings along with Dr. Bill Stone and Ms. Lillian Armijo, and Dr. Sharon Sessions attends school board meetings. Mr. Montoya added that student government leaders also have been at council and Legislative meetings.
6. **Degree Conferrals for February 2017.** Dr. Douglas Wells reported two degrees awarded during the month.
7. **Financial Analysis for February 2017.** Dr. McDaniel’s report focused on highlights of the past month, two-thirds through the current fiscal year. Revenues are slightly down from last year, while overhead recovery is up. Expenses are up, with all departments within target except Facilities Management, which sustained a reduction in charge-backs, including utility costs. Socorro Electric Cooperative recently discovered a malfunctioning meter that for a time had failed to show usage; actual usage numbers are now reflected for the current fiscal year. Dr. McDaniel reported no real changes in Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP); small deficits, but improved cost-centers operations; and improved ability to add new revenue to Playas along with efforts to reduce its debt. “Overall, things are as they should be,” he said. The report was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Weiss and a second from Regent Monette.
8. **FY ’18 Budget Scenarios.** Dr. McDaniel presented spreadsheets showing different ways to approach expected state budget reductions, ranging from 1 to 9 percent. President Wells noted that higher education in the state accounts for 13 percent of the state budget, but has carried 40 percent of recent budget reductions totaling 7.4 percent for the past two years. Further cuts will not be easy, said Dr. McDaniel, but Tech is able to handle them better than its two New Mexico research-university peers. He also tied tuition increases to projected cuts, explaining that no decision can be made on tuition until the state budget is approved, likely in a special session. Best hope is a 1 percent cut. At 3 percent, a hiring freeze is likely. A 6 percent cut would cut operations across the board, with cuts exceeding \$1 million. At 9 percent, that amount would double. The level of tuition increases to meet such reductions “shows how deep these cuts are,” said Dr. McDaniel. Dr. Wells reiterated that such scenarios were not meant to alarm, but “due diligence” requires that the administration be open with its constituents. “We knew this was coming,” said Regent Monette, adding his thanks for an informative presentation.
9. **Tuition and Fees.** President Wells recommended deferring action on the issue, citing a state of limbo with no new state budget in place. He will address students and the campus community at a forum April 17.

- 10. Unrestricted Fund Purchases: EBSCO Library Subscription and ELSEVIER Library Subscription.** Dr. Stone, serving as interim library director, presented subscription renewal costs for two professional-journal suppliers, beginning with Elsevier, a “sole source” for top journals in fields for which the University is known. Tech usage reflected 40,000 downloads, which, at a subscription cost of ~\$355,600, is less than half the cost of a pay-per-view option at \$22 per download. The cost for Ebsco, which bundles journal sources for universities, is priced at \$359,000, down from close to a half-million in 2012. Dr. Romero noted that Ebsco provides significant data on metrics. The two subscription service purchases were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Weiss.
- 11. Restricted Fund Purchase Notification.** Dr. McDaniel informed Regents of two restricted funds purchases for EMRTC, one for roadwork and the other under Homeland Security.
- 12. New Business.** It was determined that the June meeting and retreat would take place in Carlsbad June 9 - 10, with a June 11 return date. The retreat includes a tour of the Carlsbad Caverns, followed by dinner. Saturday’s 1:30 p.m. meeting would be held at the offices of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), which will honor former Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, and former Tech President Daniel H. López.
- 13. Individual Board Member Comments.** None.
- 14. Executive Session: Information/Possible Action Following Executive Session Pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) & 10-15-1(I)(2) NMSA 1978.** Regents on a roll-call vote conducted by Ms. Garcia unanimously agreed to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. to meet in Executive Session on a motion by Regent Monette and a second from Regent Weiss. Regents reconvened in open session at 11:19 a.m. on a motion by Regent Weiss and a second from Regent Gonzales. Presiding Chair Armijo announced that only issues pursuant to the above-named statutes were discussed.
- 15. Academic Tenure and Promotions Recommendations.** Dr. Douglas Wells presented recommendations for Tenure and Promotion as follows; all were unanimously approved. Regents making a motion for approval and seconding the motion are parenthetically reflected, respectively.
- Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor*
- Dr. Daniel Cadol, Assistant Professor of Geology, E&ES (Regent Weiss and Regent Gonzales)
 - Dr. Michael Hargather, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering (Regent Weiss and Regent Gonzales)
 - Dr. Jamie Kimberley, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering (Regent Gonzales and Regent Weiss)

- Dr. Hamid Rahnema, Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering (Regent Monette and Regent Gonzales)
- Dr. Jolante van Wijk, Assistant Professor of Geophysics, E&ES (Regent Gonzales and Regent Monette)

Promotion to Full Professor

- Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman, Physics (Regent Monette and Regent Gonzales)
- Dr. Nikolai Kalugin, Materials Engineering (Regent Weiss and Regent Gonzales)
- Dr. Andrei Zagrai, Mechanical Engineering (Regent Gonzales and Regent Monette)

16. Adjournment. At 11:25 a.m., Presiding Chair Armijo declared the meeting adjourned.

Secretary-Treasurer

President