



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING
WORK SESSION**

February 6, 2017

3:00pm

University Center and President's Residence
4501 Geothermal Drive
NMSU Las Cruces Campus
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Regents of New Mexico State University

Debra Hicks, Chair

Mike Cheney, Vice Chair

Jerean Hutchinson, Secretary/Treasurer

Amanda López Askin, Member

Kari Mitchell, Member

Hobbs, New Mexico

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Las Cruces, New Mexico

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Board of Regents on March 6, 2017

1. Call to Order.

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order and reminded the members the meeting was a work session only, with discussion limited to internal operations and budget for the Board of Regents Office and no votes or other official actions will be taken.

2. Board of Regents Protocol.

General Counsel Liz Ellis discussed and differentiated policy, rules and by-laws. Policy provides directives from the Regents, which dictate what University officials, be allowed to do, and which actions need to come before the Board. General Counsel is currently engaged in a comprehensive effort to separate rules, practice and procedure from policy to help streamline university actions. The Board discussed the value of meeting minutes in capturing decisions and important conclusions, rather than individual statements.

3. Board of Regents Policies.

NM Statute clearly states the overall responsibility of the Board of Regents. Policy provides for delegating responsibility; however, authority remains with the Board. The role and oversight of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) should be fully and consistently articulated in policy, according to General Counsel. The Board discussed its important role in the oversight of NMDA and the criticality of risk management. The Board discussed reporting relationships with University staff, and stated positions reporting to the Board should be specifically stated in policy / by-laws. Definitions for administrative and functional reporting relationships should be clearly articulated, and organizational charts should reflect these relationships.

4. Board of Regents By-Laws.

General Counsel recommended the Regent by-laws become an addendum to policy and stated the by-laws require several small edits to be fully integrated with policy. General Counsel stated a desire to bring forward some of the associated revisions to the March Board meeting for consideration.

The Board discussed NMSU's current practice of resolutions being used for both ceremonial and substantive purpose. The Board requested General Counsel's assistance in differentiating ceremonial awards and resolutions with legal standing in the by-laws. The Board expressed interest in resolutions being used to direct administrative action, which may include deadlines. General Counsel plans to number and post resolutions electronically on the University website.

The Board discussed timelines for distribution of agendas and the necessity for executive summaries regarding items requiring action. The Board discussed with General Counsel the importance of the Provost and CFO positions and interface opportunities for the Board.

5. Board of Regents Committees.

General Counsel stated Regent committees and charters are enumerated in the by-laws, and will benefit from the comprehensive effort to overhaul policy, rules, procedures and by-laws.

6. Board of Regents Roles, Responsibilities and Performance.

The Board discussed the sequence of events in defining key strategic priorities and inquired of General Counsel how best to align priorities with institutional budget priorities. The Board expressed the desire, in the coming years, to determine and share strategic priorities with University administration prior to the University budget process, in order to ensure the budget proposal brought forward by the administration is highly aligned with the institution's key strategic priorities. The Board sought General Counsel's assistance in framing this within the revamped policy and by-law protocol.

The Board discussed the fact that previous NMSU budgets appear to have been highly subject to actions of the NM legislature. The Board concluded that it would be advantageous to develop an independent multiple year strategic business plan, similar to Arizona State University, that identifies university controlled revenue sources and annual target performance levels, and includes greater accountability for performance.

7. Office of the Board of Regents Operations, Staffing and Budget for FY16-17 and FY17-18.

Regent López Askin and Natalie Kellner recused themselves from the meeting. The Board discussed necessary Board of Regents functions to be performed and potential staffing requirements. Regent López Askin and Ms. Kellner rejoined the meeting.

The Board expressed a desire for easier access to information and discussed challenges with using SharePoint. The Board requested staff perform further research on alternate methodologies and a proposal for a streamlined, cost-effective solution. Board members performed and exercise in discussing individual strengths and weaknesses. The Board discussed the importance of focused national messaging, roadshows and talking points. Regent Mike Cheney left the meeting due to the late hour. The Board briefly discussed upcoming leadership transitions and the costs of Freshman Orientation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.