

**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Regents Room, Educational Services

NMSU Main Campus

Las Cruces, New Mexico

4:00 pm

MINUTES

A verbatim copy of these minutes are available at nmse.edu/regents. Select “Webcasts” tab. Select September 29, 2016.

All members of the NMSU Board of Regents were present.

Regents of New Mexico State University

Debra Hicks, Chair	Hobbs, New Mexico
Mike Cheney, Vice Chair	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Jerean Hutchinson, Sect./Treas.	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Amanda López Askin, Member	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Kari Mitchell, Member	Las Cruces, New Mexico

Ex officio Members of the Board of Regents:

The Honorable Susana Martinez, Governor
Christopher Brown, Ph. D., Faculty Senate
Mr. Mathew Bose, President ASNMSU
Ms. Monica Dunivan, Chair, NMSU
Employee Council

Officers of New Mexico State University:

Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D., Chancellor & President
Dan Howard, Ph. D, Executive Vice President & Provost

AGENDA

4:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**- NMSU Board of Regents Chair Debra Hicks

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introduction of Press, Elected Officials, and Others by Justin Bannister, News and Media Relations

Justin Bannister introduced Damien Willis of the *Las Cruces Sun News*.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**-NMSU Chair Debra Hicks

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**-Justin Bannister, NMSU News and Media Relations

No person(s) signed in to make public comment.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE REGENTS**--NMSU Chair Debra Hicks

No members of the Board of Regents had comments.

6. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR**-Chancellor Garrey Carruthers

Chancellor Carruthers reported that Brian Sanderoff of Research and Polling in Albuquerque indicated that 55% of people recently polled supported Bond Issue C, but 29% polled did not support it. We need to continue to support it. Chancellor Carruthers discussed potential cuts during the Special Legislative Session. They may strike a deal at 5%. Currently the House and the Senate are not on the same page for addressing cuts to higher education.

7. **COMMENTS FROM THE PROVOST**-Provost Dan Howard

Provost Howard shared some good news, several grant awards were recently announced in the Provost's Post:

"Perhaps more importantly, I provided a glimpse into the immense research activity at NMSU, describing three grants awarded to the university in the previous week. The first was a National Institutes of Health RO1 Award to Regents Professor Jeffrey Arterburn and Dr. Eric Prossnitz (from UNM) for cancer research that combines Dr. Arterburn's expertise in medicinal chemistry with Dr. Prossnitz's expertise in cancer biology.

The second was a National Science Foundation INCLUDES grant to Dr. Steve Stochaj, Associate Vice President Luis Vazquez, and Associate Dean Patricia Sullivan. The purpose of the INCLUDES program is to enhance the leadership of the United States in the STEM disciplines by broadening participation by groups underrepresented in the sciences. It is a massive new initiative and NMSU received the only award in the state.

The third award was an NSF infrastructure grant to Dr. Tanner Schaub, Dr. Nirmala Khandan, Dr. Emily Indriolo, Dr. Arterburn, and Dr. Omar Holguin to purchase a High Resolution/Accurate Orbitrap Mass Spectrometer, an instrument that will benefit multi-disciplinary research efforts across the state."

Chancellor Carruthers announced that the Department of Defense (DOD) is poised to bring a \$600,000 to NMSU. They will pay for improvements as needed and there will be an accompaniment of 6 million dollars in research funding. Research would be performed by various academic units with a focus for minority student participation and STEM.

8. **COMMENTS FROM EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Christopher Brown, Ph.D., Chair, NMSU Faculty Senate

Donna Alden who was representing Faculty Senate Chair Christopher Brown, read a letter of support during the meeting:

Comments from Christopher Brown, NMSU Faculty Senate Chair, concerning Regent Mitchell's letter to David Abbey – read at 9.29.16 meeting.

After review of the letter that Regent Mitchell sent to Mr. David Abbey, Director of the Legislative Finance Committee, I worked up some brief comments that I have asked Donna Alden to share with the Board. A Senate Senior Leadership Committee meeting that is being held at the same time as this Regents meeting prevents me or other members of senior Senate leadership from attending today's Regents meeting. Although I have not had the opportunity to poll either the NMSU faculty or members of the Faculty Senate, I believe that these comments do a reasonable job at reflecting a "faculty perspective" to the issues at hand.

I fully agree with and support the statements that Regent Mitchell makes as regards the following points:

Chancellor Carruthers and his senior leadership have worked very hard the last 3 years to reduce budget expenditures by a combined total of \$32.1 million dollars.

- This has been done by an open process by which faculty, deans, and staff have had opportunities to provide input.
- These efforts were accompanied by several initiatives to assist students in timely completion towards degree, including The Aggie Pathways to the Baccalaureate and successful efforts to reduce total student credits hours required for the Bachelor's degree.
- NMSU faculty and senior leadership have also supported efforts to revise the general education curriculum at both the NMSU and State level. Such efforts will insure that the education our students are getting at NMSU is adequately preparing them to be productive members of society that can make a difference at NMSU, in Southern New Mexico, and in the State of New Mexico.

Put simply, NMSU has truly "done more with less, MUCH more with less." I support Regent Mitchell's argument that, during deliberations of how to meet our current budget challenges, members of the New Mexico House and Senate and also members of Governor Martinez' administration take into account the excellent work that NMSU has done to successfully execute our mission while working hard to address the budget realities that we all face.

Mathew Bose, President, Associated Students of NMSU

ASNMSU President Bose thanked Chancellor Carruthers who was tasked with cutting 12 million dollars from the budget. He acknowledged the Board of Regents comments about not building the budget on the backs of students, he gets asked, what is your stance on tuition. What would you do with a tuition increase? What would you do without a tuition increase?

My two roles are student voice and doing what is in the best interest of the institution. Student support for a tuition increase is "not off the table. It depends on the special session. We need to educate on the financial status of New Mexico. There is a negative stigma with a tuition increase, but students are open to the dialogue.

Ms. Monica Dunivan, Chair, NMSU Employee Council

Monica Dunivan read the following:

We have experienced several months of challenges to our institution, I believe that transforming NMSU will be a positive move in the long run. I have spoken with the employee council executive team and here are some points moving forward...

Help us keep the cost of higher education low for students. We wouldn't raise taxes on students that make less than \$20,000 per year, so why would we force institutions to raise tuition? You should incentivize the public educational institutions as drivers of economic growth like you would do for energy companies.

If the budget reduction causes us to cut programs, these could be long-term reductions in services and resources provided, such as the Survey Engineering program or other programs that aren't as "financial viable" to the institution but are crucial to the state. We won't just be able to put these programs back online when financial circumstances are better. It deeply cuts into our ability to execute our mission.

Employee council has supported the administration and the institution in these times of challenges as we look to make hard decisions related to the budget. It needs to be noted that employees have had little if any pay raises in a number of years despite the fact that the cost of living continually keeps climbing, insurance premiums continue to rise, parking fees rise, cell phone allowances were removed from employees who are required to have a cell phone access by their employer and campus services.

We hope that the BOR will look hard at and challenge the institution to commit to putting every effort into compensating the employees. Many faculty have received increases as we have worked to bring faculty salaries in line with their peers. We have outstanding employees at the institution who also are working hard to provide the services and direction to the campus and our hope is that with these budget challenges there can be a commitment to bring our employees some form of increase in compensation going forward.

We are in global competition for the best faculty in the world. Such an enduring commitment to recruit world-class talent requires sure financial footing. We have made budget reductions, we have laid off staff, we have cut programs and we have plans to decrease spending in areas moving forward.

In closing, we cannot afford to have more layoffs, we cannot afford to lose more faculty. The staff/faculty are getting hit with a lot of changes all at once, the first budget reduction, that

caused layoffs, changes in rules/regulations for FLSA, and now more budget reductions and probably more layoffs, depending on the percentage of cuts. We have attempted to explain too many staff/faculty of this great university that the current financial crisis within the state of New Mexico directly affects our funding, because we are part of the land grant mission. NMSU cannot take another hit, we are losing qualified and hardworking staff/faculty. Thank you for your time.

Chancellor Carruthers said we will not return a % reduction to higher paid administrators until the NMSU staff get a raise.

9. ACTION ITEMS-

1. Approval of a Resolution Addressing Higher Education Funding Challenges in NM

Regent Mike Cheney moved the adoption of the Resolution Addressing Higher Education Funding Challenges in NM with the addition of the following introductory paragraph:

“Whereas through this resolution we formally request our Legislature and state administration to consider NMS’s pro-active cost saving measures as state appropriations for each higher education institution are individually formalized.”

Motion was seconded by Regent Kari Mitchell. Regent Mitchell wants to punctuate the work of Chancellor Carruthers, Provost Howard, and the staff. In the session, the message to Institutions of Higher Education will be not to do outcome based behavior, but wait until directed. That message will have long term impacts. We need to acknowledge NMSU Leadership.

Chancellor Carruthers noted that this resolution needs to be rushed to Santa Fe. And encourages the passing of it. Chair Hicks thanked the Board of Regents for the resolution stating that both she and Regent Mitchell had sent individual letters which had received positive responses from several legislators.

Chair Hicks also stated her appreciation for the work on the budget cuts. She called for the question, Motion to approve the Resolution Addressing Higher Education Funding Challenges in NM passed unanimously.

2. Approval of participation in the New Mexico Higher Education Regents’ Coalition

The discussion centered on the proposed training of Regents, providing of information to Regents, the purposes of the Coalition. Chair Hicks has spoken to Secretary Damron, each Board was asked to vote on their support for the formation of NMHERC. ASNMSU President Matt Bose recommended diversity in selecting the President and Vice President of the Coalition.

A motion was made by Regent Mike Cheney to approve and seconded by Regent

Amanda López Askin. Motion passed.

3. Approval of the Proposed Honorary Degree Recipients

Chancellor Carruthers proposed with the Vice President of Advancement and the Honorary Degree Recipient Committee (Ad Hoc) of the Board of Regents that Lou and Pat Sisbarro, who are very engaged with NMSU and the community, be honored at the Fall 2016 Commencement with honorary doctorates. They have made a substantial gift to NMSU but prefer that the amount not be disclosed. A motion accepting that nomination was made by Regent Jerean Hutchinson and seconded by Regent Mike Cheney. Regent Cheney said that Lou and Pat Sisbarro set the example every day. Motion passed.

Chancellor Carruthers announced on behalf of the HDR Committee the nomination of former Regent Laree Perez of Encino, New Mexico for the Spring of 2017. He noted that she served in the late 1990's on the NMSU Board of Regents and has made a legacy gift to NMSU. She is known for her work in the financial field.

The second nominee for Spring 2017 is Kevin Johnson. He is a graduate of the NMSU College of Business. He was president of a Microsoft company, Juniper Systems, and is currently the Chief operating Officer (COO) of Starbucks. Kevin prefers to be known for his work in mentoring students.

Regent Cheney moved approval of the nominees for Spring 2017. The motion was seconded by Regent Jerean Hutchinson. Motion passed.

10. **OTHER**

Chancellor Carruthers noted which New Mexico Legislators we might want to reach out to about the resolution. They are Representative Larry Larranaga, Senator Steve Neville, Senator Mary Kay Papen, and Senator Stuart Ingle.

ASNMSU President matt Bose invited everyone to the Homecoming Bonfire.

Regents' Chief of Staff Janet green announced the new "Eat for Pete" initiative where participating restaurants give a percentage of their sales back to NMSU's Aggie Cupboard for students and families in need of food. La Posta de Mesilla is the Thursday, September 29th featured restaurant owned by Regent Jerean Hutchinson.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**-Chair Debra Hicks

Motion to adjourn was made by Regent Jerean Hutchinson. "Go Aggies".