

**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR
MEETING
MINUTES
December 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM**

Regents of New Mexico State University

Chair Ammu Devasthali, Vice Chair Arsenio Romero, Secretary/Treasurer Neal Bitsie, Dina Chacón-Reitzel, Christopher T. Saucedo

Non-Voting Advisory Members - ASNMSU President Garrett Moseley, Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fassenko, Ph.D., Employee Council Chair Susanne Berger

University Officials - Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu, Ph.D., Interim Provost Dorothy Campbell, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor Ruth A. Johnston, Ph.D., General Counsel Roy Collins III, J.D.

MINUTES

A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members of the 4-H, Tanner Dean, Braden Macintosh, Adeline Macintosh, and Joah Owens, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, New Mexico Pledge, and the 4-H Pledge. Dr. Laura Bittner introduced staff Eva Madrid, who is the 4-H agent and Theresa Dean, who is the Doña Ana County Director of Cooperative Extension Service.

Opening Statement from the Chair

Chairwoman Devasthali read the opening statement, "I'd like to start our meeting with a statement regarding the shooting that took place last month at the University of New Mexico, involving one of our basketball players, Mike Peak. First, let me express our condolences to the family of Brandon Travis and everyone who has been impacted by these tragic events. The loss of this young person's life is a tragedy, no matter the circumstances. While our two universities are rivals in athletic competitions, we're also members of a tight knit higher education community in New Mexico. And we stand with our friends at UNM at this difficult time. At NMSU we strive to create an environment on our campus where our students, faculty, staff, and community feel welcome and safe. That is why we have zero tolerance for the kind of behavior that led to this tragedy. Guns are not permitted on our campuses and are not permitted on university trips. Furthermore, at our university, we treat one another with respect. Insulting language has no place here on our campus. Each of us serves as a role model by promoting good, responsible behavior. We know the overwhelming majority of our students and those in our university community follow the rules. But when even one person violates those rules, it can cast a shadow over the entire university. It undermines our sense of safety and it unfairly calls into question the character and values of everyone associated with this university. This behavior does not represent our values as a university. At NMSU we value leadership, excellence, access, diversity and inclusion, and a clear student-centered vision. It is our mission to serve the needs of our students in our state while fostering learning, inquiry, and social

mobility. We will all learn from this experience and we will recommit ourselves to acting in accordance with our core values in all that we do.

1. Introduction of the Media and Elected Officials, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced Meg Potter and Justin Garcia from the Las Cruces Sun News as well as Rosemary Montañez from KVIA TV 7.

2. Introduction of Senior Associate Athletic Director Amber Burdge, Director of Athletics Mario Moccia

Athletics Director Moccia introduced the Senior Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator, Amber Burdge. This position has only been held twice before in NMSU's athletic history in their department since the advent of Title IX legislation in 1972, first by their Hall of Fame coach for over 30 years, Karen Fay, who passed away last year, and Maria Roth an Aggie Hall of Fame member and former volleyball student athlete. Dr. Burdge most recently served as the Associate Athletic Director of Student Athlete Success Services at Louisiana Tech University for the past 8 years. Prior to Louisiana Tech, she served as the Director of Athletics for Neosho Community College where she oversaw 16 programs and won 6 national titles. Before that she worked as Director of Student Services for Steven F. Austin and as Assistant Athletic Director for Academics at Texas A&M, Corpus Christi. Dr. Burdge has a bachelor's of science and health as well as a master's of science and counseling and student personnel from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Burdge earned her doctorate of education from Louisiana Tech University.

3. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

The Chief of Staff confirmed the quorum. Five members of the regents were present in the room: Regent Saucedo, Regent Chacón-Reitzel, Regent Bitsie, Regent Romero, and Regent Devasthali. Members of the administration who were present in the room were Chancellor Arvizu, Vice Chancellor Ruth Johnston. Also, present in the room were University General Counsel Collins and Advisory Committee members Suzanne Berger and Garrett Mosley. Faculty Senate Chair, Gaylene Fassenko, joined via Zoom.

4. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Chacón-Reitzel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Regent Bitsie seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

B. Approval of the Minutes and Confirmation of Prior Closed Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

1. Work Session Minutes August 24 - 25, 2022

Chairwoman Devasthali motioned to approve the minutes. Regent Romero seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

2. Regular Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022

Chairwoman Devasthali motioned to approve the minutes. Regent Saucedo seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

3. Special Meeting Minutes October 17, 2022

Chairwoman Devasthali motioned to approve the minutes. Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

4. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session November 17, 2022

The Chief of Staff confirmed certification of prior closed executive session. The Board of Regents met in an

online closed executive session at 9:00am on November 17, 2022. The closed executive session meeting was held to discuss the evaluation for the Director and Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Jeff Witte as well as discussion of limited personnel matters concerning individual NMSU employees as permitted under the personnel matters exemption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act NMSA Section 10-15-1 subsection (H)(2).

The Chief of Staff confirmed certification of regents who were present that only matters of that nature were discussed.

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Chairwoman Devasthali – Yes

5. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session November 29, 2022

The Chief of Staff confirmed certification of regents who were present that only matters of that nature were discussed. The Board of Regents met in an online closed executive session at 1pm on November 29, 2022. The closed meeting was called to discuss limited personnel matters concerning individual NMSU employees permitted under the personnel matters exemption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act NMSA section 10-15-1 subsection (H)(2).

The Chief of Staff confirmed certification of regents who were present that only matters of that nature were discussed.

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Chairwoman Devasthali – Yes

6. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session December 8, 2022

The Chief of Staff confirmed certification of prior closed executive session. The Board of Regents met in closed executive session at 10am on December 8, 2022 in the Curry room in the Corporate Center Student Union. A closed meeting was called to discuss limited personnel matters concerning individual NMSU employees as permitted under the New Mexico Open Meetings Act NMSA section 10-15-1 subsection (H)(2). Those matters may have included discussions of personally identifiable information about individual NMSU students as permitted under the New Mexico Open Meetings Act NMSA section 10-15-1 subsection (H)(4).

The Chief of Staff confirmed certification of regents who were present that only matters of that nature were discussed.

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Chairwoman Devasthali – Yes

C. Regent Committee Reports

1. Real Estate Committee Report, *Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel*

The Regents Real Estate Committee met once since the last regular meeting on November 28, 2022. The agenda included several items that will be presented to the Board for approval today, including the consent items for campus improvements listed as items G-4 through G-7 on the agenda. Several other items were discussed, which are not ready to bring to the Board at this time or did not require Board approval, such as short-term leases. One planning activity slated for the future is going to be related to an overall master plan for various real estate assets in Las Cruces and elsewhere in New Mexico. This is in the early stages, and it will be coordinated between Scott Eschenbrenner and Heather Watenpaugh. There were no questions.

2. Audit and Risk Committee Report, *Regent Ammu Devasthali*

The Regents Audit and Risk Committee met on October 26, 2022. This was the date of the annual exit conference with Moss Adams for the financial statement audit for NMSU, NMSU Foundation, and NMSU Arrowhead Center. Details of that meeting cannot be discussed at this point, because they have not been authorized to do so by the Office of the State Auditor. The final report will be brought to the Board at the January special meeting in Santa Fe. There were no questions.

3. Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee Report, *Regent Christopher Saucedo*

The Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee met once since the last regular meeting on October 26, 2022. The agenda included a presentation of the budget adjustment request that is before the Board today as action item H-1. There were several other informational presentations related to both the current status of the budget and future considerations of those issues. NMSU ended in a somewhat stronger financial position at all campuses. The major contributors on main campus included receipt of large appropriations for HEST and NMDA late in the year as well as IDC related to HEERF projects. The outside of increase in utility costs the Main Campus held expenses close to flat over previous year. Community colleges also held expenses flat or cut them and had positive results across several sources of revenue. There was also some discussion of legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Finally, we heard a presentation from Sherry Kollmann and Linda Scholz regarding the proposed changes to the LEADS 2025 Strategic Plan related to equity, inclusion, and diversity, as well as NMSU-Online. The full Board will see more information about these proposed changes to the strategic plan in January 2023. There were no questions.

4. Student Success Committee Report, *Regent Arsenio Romero*

The Regents Student Success Committee met twice since the last regular meeting on September 29, 2022 and October 27, 2022. In the September 29 meeting they heard from administration and students that were involved in an international student Town Hall earlier that month and updates were provided on some of the matters discussed in that town hall. One major area of focus was student housing and discussion about move in and move out dates and the unique challenges that international students face regarding the beginning and ending of the semester. They heard about the different opinions that NMSU housing and residential life has available that allows flexibility and there was discussion about continued work to reach out to students to make them aware of these options. They also received an enrollment update for main campus and the Community Colleges. Faculty Senate Chair, Gaylene Fasenko, provided a brief update to inform the committee about the Faculty Talk 2.0 e-mail list and how that resource is working so far.

In the October 27 meeting the committee had our second report from Faculty Senate Student Success committee. It's a very positive step for them to have this information regularly reported to the Regent Committee in order to be continually engaged with Faculty Senate about issues that they are discussing related to student success. These reports always generate a lot of good discussion. The committee also heard a report from various committee members and the NMSU-Online Program about their visit to the Meta Data Center in Los Lunas, New Mexico. This was a great opportunity for staff and community members on the committee to get out there and have these experiences and get to know one another. Regent committees couldn't do the work that we do without the insight and contributions of our community member volunteers. Thank you to Amy Himelright of Las Cruces Public Schools, Rebecca Lescombes of DH Lescombes Winery, and Rick Lucero of Cisco. They also heard from Sherry Kollmann and Linda Scholz about proposed changes to the LEADS 2025 Strategic Plan to more explicitly include equity, inclusion, and diversity as well as NMSU-Online in the plan. There were no questions.

D. **Advisory Member Reports**

1. Associated Students of NMSU Report, *President Garrett Moseley*

On November 18, 2022 the Graduate Student Council hosted the Annual Graduate Research and Art Symposium. There were 74 students in participation and 24 students won awards totaling \$7,200 in scholarships. On December 4, 2022 ASNMSU hosted the Noche de Luminarias event in collaboration with SILP. There were over 1,000 members of Las Cruces and Aggie community in attendance. Last Thursday ASNMU concluded their last scheduled meeting for the Recreation and Wellness Initiative, which has resulted in \$4.3 million secured from the student revenue bond. They completed a building condition assessment. They received their construction and materials estimates and their governmental affairs team will be traveling to Santa Fe for the legislative session for additional funding in January. There were no questions.

2. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, *Chair Gaylene Fasenko*

There were 3 propositions this semester. A resolution authorized Faculty Senate Chair to send a letter to New Mexico legislators regarding advocacy for faculty salary and we will be working with government and community relations people to move forward on that effort. There was a proposal to reorganize and relocate borderlands and ethnic studies, acronym BEST. That was passed on December 1, 2022 as well as a memorial expressing faculty senate support for tuition remission and health insurance for NMSU graduate workers. Faculty Senate felt it was important to pass the resolution supporting the grad students. They strongly believe that they are part of the core of the university and will help achieve one of the goals in LEADS 2025 of reaching R1 status. They are a huge factor in the success of undergraduate students. There were no questions.

3. NMSU Employee Council Report, *Chair Susanne Berger*

This is the report of activities for months of October and November for Employee Council. With regard to the compensation study that affects issues, such as, the new pay scale and new grade mapping of positions, there is a quick follow up on the last board of Regents Activity Report. Chair Berger met with HRS and Dr. Jones to discuss concerns shared with Employee Council regarding the new pay scale and new great mapping of positions. That was part of a conversation they also had with departmental issues. In that conversation Dr. Jones explained that the mapping of the new positions was not related to either experience or educational requirements. Instead, the mapping is tied to the market salary, and that determines the grade. This was information they didn't have, prior to that conversation. Compensation continues to be a concern for both faculty and staff. Employee Council will continue to work on this issue, and they will follow up with an activity update when appropriate. The Employee Appreciation picnic took place on Monday, October 31, 2022 and it was a great success. They appreciate that their distinguished leaders and most of the Regents were able to join.

Thank you to the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Interim Provost, and Dr. Scott for attending. They served as judges for the pumpkin contest and the best costume contest. Feedback for this event was very positive across campus. Thank you to the Chancellor, who awarded the 'A' Mountain Award for Fall 2022 to the recipient, Carley Casey. In November, Employee Council voted to change the term of office for Employee Council Officers to 2 years. This will allow officers to develop and deepen working relationships past the 12-months timeframe as well as take the strain off the annual meeting, where it was sometimes difficult to find volunteers for office. The vast majority wanted this resolution. It is sitting in the Chancellor's office for final approval. Also, Employee Council is on target with their timeline preparing for the upcoming elections in January 2023. The ballots for Employee Council candidate nominations have been opened and will close on December 12, 2022 at 5 PM. Those are just the elections to nominate your candidate. For all employees, please take the time to nominate someone. Elections for the positions will be held in January with ballots opening on January 9, 2023 and closing on January 30, 2023. There were no questions.

E. **Affiliated Entity Reports**

1. **Arrowhead Center Inc. Report, Director & CEO Kathryn Hansen**

The report is deferred to the written report that is in the binder.

F. **Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister**

Associate Vice President Bannister stated that there were several people signed up for public comment. He reminded everyone in attendance that public comment is provided so that members of the community have an opportunity to give input to the Board of Regents. In compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, the Board is prohibited from taking action on any item that does not appear on the agenda, except in the case of an emergency. Consequently, regents will not take into account for action any communication made in public comment unless the matter is already on the agenda for consideration at the meeting. Each individual addressing the Board is asked to state their name and keep their comments to three minutes. Associate Vice President Bannister stated that he will let them know when 30 seconds remain.

(29:38) Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the first person for public comment, Gauge Burnett. Gauge stated, "Good morning, everyone. My name is Gauge Burnett and in my time at NMSU I have been told repeatedly that this is a minority serving institution. And just this past week a faculty member took the opportunity to remind me that grad school is, and I quote, "A short chapter in one's life." So, really the low pay and bad working conditions faced by graduate workers at this institution really don't matter all that much. Unfortunately asking people to spend a 2 to 6 year chapter of our lives working for embarrassing wages at impossible conditions is incompatible with service to underrepresented communities and here's why: First, international graduate workers are overburdened by the international student health care fee, which will increase an additional \$156 between now and the spring semester for just a single student. This year, Dean Carol Flinchbaugh, Associate Dean of the graduate college, made \$146,000 to taunt international grads with broken promises and flat-out false information about ending this fee, even as she privately urged her colleagues to block tuition coverage for graduate workers. Second, LGBT plus graduate workers, like myself, have less access to family and other financial support compared to their peers, and are also at a high risk for discrimination even from the NMSU community. But it still took NMSU more than 5 months of bargaining to agree that gender-based discrimination should be grievable under the Union contract. Renay Scott, Vice President for Student Success and self-proclaimed GLBT Ally made \$230,000 this year to remain silent on this issue. Third, disabled and chronically ill graduate workers balance our need for health care against the fact that, unlike other NMSU staff, we do not have access to medical bereavement, domestic violence or sick leave. I have personally, repeatedly, put off doctor's visits and at one point had to choose between purchasing medication or purchasing food. One of the grads who spoke at this last meeting has since dropped out for medical reasons. The

outside lawyer, Dina Holcomb, who is running NMSU's bargaining committee is paid \$205 an hour equivalent to my monthly grocery bill, to fight the union on health care and leave. First generation grads, workers with families, and especially grads like me, with intersecting marginalized identities based personal and financial struggle compounded every single minute we work for NMSU. This body, this year, has found the time in your busy meeting schedules to raise Chancellor Arvizu's salary to \$650,000 this year, enough to cover the tuition for 100 grad workers. You found the time and resources to support exorbitant salaries for Arvizu, Scott, Flinchbaugh, and Holcomb. The bulk with so much as acknowledging the workers who you exploit. This is not a minority serving institution. This is an administrator serving institution and it is well past time for you, as Regents, to wake up. Thank you."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Alexander Allison. Alexander stated, "Good afternoon, Board, Chancellor, Vice Chancellor. We've gathered here today with a simple request, for you to provide humane working conditions for us as graduate employees. This is not a lofty request, nor is it an unreasonable one. This is a request that the ASNMSU, the GSC, and the Faculty Senate, with zero no votes, have approved of. We thank Chair Fasenko for her kind words before. So, if not listen to us. Why not listen to the preeminent professors at this university? But we do ask that you listen to us. That you listen to the grad workers here today who have taken time out of the final week of our semesters when we could be working on final grades or our own research. That's right. We teach thousands of undergrads and conduct thousands of hours of research every semester. We keep this university running and yet many of us, after paying tuition, are held \$1,000 below the federal poverty line. Let that sink in. In the words of recently re-elected Senator Raphael Warnock, "You can't lead the people, unless you love the people. You can't love the people, unless you know the people. And you can't know the people, unless you walk among the people." We're not asking you to love us, but it has become quite apparent that you don't know us. That you don't recognize our abysmal working conditions. So, what we're asking is this, for you to get down from your ivory towers and walk among us. Listen to us. Acknowledge us at the very least, even if you don't respect our request. Because at the end of the day, with our teaching and our research, grad workers, us, keep this university running. The money may be in your hands, but the power is in ours."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Lindley Hornsby. Lindley stated, "Well hello, we meet again. My name is Lindley Hornsby. I'm a student in HEST and I work for NMSU as a graduate research assistant. Last time we met I told you all about me, and the preventable ailments from which I suffer as a result of this administration's failure to adequately compensate grad workers. Remember that? Well today, I respectfully call upon the NMSU Board of Regents to use their power and influence to rebuild the relationship between the university and the graduate student workers union. The NMSU community, from ASNMSU to the graduate student council to the Faculty Senate to the Las Cruces community at large agrees that the workers who run this university are in dire straits and that something must be done to alleviate this heinous tuition crisis immediately. NMSU has been combative and uncooperative since the moment grad workers organized. I take umbrage with the fact that we had to fight for a year just to gain recognition that we do work. And then, when we finally got to the bargaining table, instead of using the well capable labor management staff already employed by the university, NMSU chose to hire an adversarial, disrespectful, and expensive lawyer, Dina Holcomb, who is known in the State of New Mexico to make her money by busting educators' unions. Then you wasted months of time and squandered tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars, arguing that we didn't have the right to unionize. Not only is this inconsiderate and a misuse of time and funds, but it's deeply disrespectful to me and my colleagues, who pour our lives into working at this university, teaching and conducting research. My bargaining committee tells me that they have to fight tooth and nail on even the most basic non-discrimination language in the contract. It took months to come to an agreement to something that is standard and union contracts. Further, NMSU has failed to comply with the public Employee Bargaining Act by denying grad students access to new worker orientation. You all have withheld information requested by us, or taken an absurdly long time to get back to us. In sum, the bargaining efforts put forth by the University have been a travesty. I ask you, 'why aren't, you taking this seriously?' We are. We are here during finals week. We've been showing up to the bargaining table, all semester long focused, prepared

and ready to come to a reasonable deal. Yet NMSU does not reciprocate the same level of professionalism or goal of finding a fair solution. You can do better. Tell us today, how you're going to find a solution to this problem.”

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Kevin Dhanapal. “Good afternoon Madam Chair and Board of Regents. My name is Kevin Dhanapal. I am a graduate student during fall and spring semesters. I enroll for graduate level courses and work hard to get good grades. I also work hard to excel in my research, teaching duties and work hard producing research publications. The sad truth is, I pay to work here at NMSU. The decision to have redundant office holders at the cost of half a million dollars a year and coming up with a sketchy scheme to pay for it, using the funds, unjustly acquired from international students under the name of health insurance fees, is not good. These are not the actions expected from renowned dignitaries and scholars. Remember, everyone is watching all these mistreatments against some hard-working people who serve the NMSU student community. Paying the top leadership can only be justified as long as every hardworking employee gets their fair share of the pie. I am not demanding a ride in NMSU’s private jet to attend a research conference to present our research paper publications. All I ask for is a fair wage and tuition coverage to stay out of poverty. At least I should eat enough and eat healthy, to be able to walk to work. NMSU, like many other universities, has its R1 bandwagon parading, but please pay attention to feeding your horses, or else your wagon won't get anywhere soon. When you have the reason and resources it is unjust to stop or wait to act. I hope God gives the strength and right mind to the people in charge to make the right decisions and empower the graduate student workers by agreeing to full tuition coverage and insurance coverage. In God's kingdom, it is always good to do the right thing. It is never too late to do things right. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.”

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Nelson Crane. Nelson stated, “Hello again. Good to be back for another Board of Regents meeting public comment session. If there's anything of value that I can say to you guys, while I'm standing up here, it's that it's not too late to mend the breaking relationship that this institution has with its graduate workers. You invite graduate workers from around the country and around the world here, only to suspend us and a very financially precarious situation. The demands of school and an assistantship are too great to allow for working an additional job, but the stipend for grad workers is not enough to allow workers to pay tuition and meet their basic needs. You’ve heard this before. It hasn’t changed your mind. Permitting tuition is not an expense at NMSU. It seems that the alignment of principles that guide a Land Grant University are to increase the accessibility of this education. Gifted people will go elsewhere, even if they want to stay in Las Cruces. Please remember the benefits of adopting this common practice go beyond the well-being of graduate workers. This would reflect well on the spirit of the university and its values. Our research is pointed to the fact that it is you, you all here, who have the power to make this decision at any time. We know that. And it’s not too late to reconcile the relationship between the workers and the administration. I know it’s not. And I just ask, what do you have to lose? Be bold. Shape the future.”

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Neil Harvey. Neil stated, “My name is Neil Harvey. I’m the department head of the Department of Governments, here, at NMSU. I got a little sick yesterday, so unfortunately it can't be there in person. But I wanted to share the thoughts of the Department of Government following a discussion we held our last faculty meeting on this topic. In broad strokes, we support the graduate workers fully as it's been also expressed by Faculty Senate and our own Faculty Senator, Dr. Tad Connor, in that body. And we see the demands as reasonable, as just, and is necessary to address stagnate or declining graduate enrollments at the university. We believe if Goal 2 of LEADS 2025 is to move from R2 to R1, it is vital that we attract more and more qualified graduate assistants by including payments of tuition in addition to health insurance and living stipends that most R1 universities do already. We also discussed our own backgrounds. None of us as faculty members would be here if we had not had substantive support and tuition remission in our own graduate degree, granting programs. We also see this as an investment in Goal 1 for NMSU. An investment in graduates to stay in the region in New Mexico and continue contributing to the state, including its economic development. This is important for supporting Goal 1 of student success and social mobility. You cannot achieve

those goals, if you do not provide the necessary support to begin with. I think it's a really important moment for also, for NMSU. In the past couple of years, we've also seen, of course, greater attention to questions of equity, diversity, and inclusion and we've just heard how those goals are to be incorporated into the strategic plan LEADS 2025. Again, it would be a total mismatch and a contradiction if we speak about equity in that document, but are not prepared to put in the resources to truly provide for it. So, the position of the Department of Governments at New Mexico State University is very clear and unanimous on this. We support the graduate workers and their demands. Thank you."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Jordan Ellison. Jordan stated, "Hi, my name is Jordan Ellison. I'm a grad student in Fish and Wildlife. Actually, one of the people who won an award, but is here living in poverty due to thanks to your inability to make decisions to support us. It's ridiculous. You guys have the money. You had 8 and a half million dollars in a surplus, and it would take 3 point, 6 million to cover graduate student tuition. And yet you still refuse to work with us and to just pay tuition to cover your workers and to care for your students. You refuse do it. I'm pretty sure I have PTSD, also. And I can't go to a therapist, or a psychiatrist because I don't have health care, because NMSU doesn't provide that. I don't make enough money to pay for health care. And, funny thing, it's a result of something that happened as a grad student here at NMSU. So, you guys are just providing the best environment for me. That was ironic. I should probably say that, just in case you don't get that. Yeah, I mean, it's obviously affecting my work. It's affecting my life. And at the end of the day, you guys say on your website and I quote, "as a State's Land Grant institution, NMSU provides teaching, research and service to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of New Mexico. Not me. Not us. What about us?"

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Christopher Brown. The Chief of Staff stated, "Madam Chair, on behalf of Dr. Brown, he asked me to read this statement because, sort of, last minute he was not able to make it due to scheduling conflict. Members of the NMSU Board of Regents, I write this short note to share my unequivocal support for the consent, Item G-8, Reorganization of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department into the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies department and to relocate it from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation. I had hoped to attend the BOR meeting in person to make these comments, but I needed to make a meeting on a funded research project that conflicts with this meeting. I was a co-sponsor of the Faculty Senate bill that supported the launch of the BEST program. I've worked with the BEST faculty members for years on a range of projects. Along the way, I've learned much about ethnic studies and the good work of BEST faculty to advance ethnic studies at NMSU, support the development of a culturally appropriate K through 12 social studies curriculums, and advocate the causes of social justice in New Mexico. Their work is highly noteworthy, and helps NMSU meet its mission as an HSI MSI institution of higher education. The proposed reorganization of BEST in the move to the college of HEST will position BEST faculty to continue their important work, compete more effectively for external funds to support their work and help advance NMSU's efforts to re-achieve Carnegie, R1 status. I close this short note with a respectful request that you advance this proposal either as a consent item or as an item that receives discussion and a vote. Thank you in advance for consideration of the of this request. Best regards, Christopher Brown, Ph.D. Professor Department of Geography and Environmental studies."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Alexander Warner-Garrett. Alexander stated, "Thank you Madam Chair and members of the Regents. Good afternoon. My name is Alexander Warner-Garrett and I am an alumnus of New Mexico State University, a former ASNMSU Senator, and a current graduate student in the department of educational leadership and administration. I am here to express support for providing full tuition remission for our graduate workers and lowering the minimum semester credit hour requirements to 6 credit hours. Having been a part of the NMSU community for the last 7 years, and having studied higher education for the last year and a half, I strongly believe that these changes are essential for NMSU to become an R1 research institution and meet LEADS 2025. Ninety-Five percent of R1 institutions provide full tuition coverage for graduate workers as a standard benefit. Additionally, many graduate programs have prescribed curriculums of 6

credit hours per semester so graduate workers are currently forced to take on the burden of extra course work they wouldn't need to graduate and pay even more tuition and fees, as a result, just to be able to work as a graduate assistant. These working conditions put our graduate students at a huge disservice. I am calling on the NMSU Board of Regents and administration to make these changes in order to improve the quality of our university and the students it claims to serve. These are very important for the recruitment and retention of graduate students. Thank you.”

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Steven Cousler. Steven stated, “Good afternoon. Madam Chair, members of the Board, my name is Steven Cousler. I'm an alumnus of the university, here. I recently graduated with my masters, and while I'm not currently under the conditions of my once peers, I've come today to bring these issues before you. I understand that part of our goals, as a university, are trying to reach R1 status to increase our equity and our diversity here on campus. This, however, is impossible in light of the circumstances reflected upon my peers, and those who have presented before me today. Part of that is of the immense burden put upon my peers through lack of tuition remission, being forced below the poverty line. It is impossible to do quality research to develop or devote time and energy to teaching and to doing the fundamental work here that creates a university that is inclusive, that is trying to push the way forward in progress in science and in humanities. These fly in the face of the things that this board has failed to do to adequately meet the needs of those here in this building and of those who are teaching over a fourth of the classes here on campus who make up 25% or more of the efforts that goes into in creating an environment that students want to be here for. It is only right that these students, that these workers, get what they deserve, a pay that is adequate to help them reach this University's goals and their own in their research and in their personal lives. These are not mutually exclusive costs; they are equally possible, and the decision rests with you. Some of the actions that should be taken include a total remission of tuition, so that students have the resources and money they need to take care of themselves and devote their energy to why they're here in the first place. The second thing is more accessible health care for international students that includes a reduction in deductibles, reduce copays and improve coverage overall. Right now, the majority of the money, the international students, the talent and the creativity, the intellect, and the drive that we are bringing from all over the world is being squandered because we cannot meet their needs, fundamental though they are, and simple as it would be to do so. The other thing that we need and require for my peers, here, is guaranteed summer employment. It is unfeasible that we have such a great and competitive working environment while we are here, but because of lack of tuition and lack of job security over the summer, there's no guarantee that students, even if they do a good job from semester to semester can even come back. I've had several friends who in their time here have had to leave because of the extraordinary conditions pressed upon them. That is a loss of talents, of intellect and of the drive that has made this university important, valuable. And well, a shortcoming our goals and trying to become an R1 institution, and just simply taking care of each other. You cannot press equity and diversity if you do not look at those you are supposed to care for. Thank you.”

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Laura Laemmle. Laura stated, “I'm an alumni. I'm not a grad student and I never have been. But I'm here to talk to you today about the treatment of grad workers here because I think that your short-sighted approach and dealing with them is not only wrong, but it's harming the entire NMSU system. Part of my organizing efforts in tandem with the Union, I've talked to countless community members, and it's sad to see just how poor the reputation of this institution is. I've spoken to people unconnected with NMSU, who have said that they've told their relatives to go to grad school at UTEP or UNM because they'll have better benefits and a better experience. I've spoken to undergraduate students here who are afraid to take advantage of programs like the accelerated masters, which should benefit them because they know they'll receive a wage that's lower than at any other peer institution. I wonder if any of you paying enough attention to how much ground you've lost by stalling on tuition remission and unnecessarily dragging out contract negotiations with your research and teaching staff. We all know you stayed silent on this issue. I think it's because you have no justification for actively making things here worse, and spending all of our money to do it. What do you

have to show for all of your efforts over the last few years? Has the quality or the quantity of research here increased. Have you bettered your reputation with the State legislature or with the people that live here? Have your graduate programs become more prestigious or attracted more applicants, because I think we all know that the answer is, No. If you wanted to be accountable to the taxpayers and to your employees, you would. If you had justification for doing any of this, you would have put it out there. But we've all seen the meeting with ad copy that goes on to the official socials and in the newsletters, and we know that that is the only statement you're interested in making. But I sincerely wish that everyone in New Mexico is here to watch you sit in silence as you act like you're being fiscally responsible with their money while spending it in utterly ridiculous ways, keeping their friends and their family and poverty, and running the university into the ground; and I think they would find it illuminating to watch you try and slime your way out of anything that even resembles leadership by paying your lawyers to misrepresent bargaining law, and falsely claim that you can't legally comment on this. We all know that that is simply untrue. At least the Chancellor will make statements pretending he wants to fix this, and will lie about having no idea why these contract negotiations are stalling compared to those with staff, when he knows very well, and so do all of you that, unlike in those negotiations you've brought in an outside lawyer who specializes installing union contracts for \$200 an hour, and none of it has stopped grads from organizing. In the last year, tens of thousands of grad students have joined unions, and there are 10,000 in the UC System, alone, striking right now. It's not going to stop. So, I urge you to tell us what goal you could possibly have in mind by sabotaging the working conditions here, and stubbornly committing to being last place among all of your peer institutions. You owe everyone in this room and everyone in the State an explanation."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Anna Laemmle. Anna stated, "Hi, my name is Ana Laemmle. Now, your days may look like paperwork, calling people, meeting people. My days looks like going to labs, going to classes, being taught by grad students. And you know what I think about when I see grad students standing up there and teaching me, I think, 'do they have enough money for their kids?' I've worked at ASNMSU and I've worked with international grad students with children. And to learn that they're living under the federal poverty line is honestly disgusting. I care about these people. So, why don't you? Because your actions and your lack of words, and your cheap, quick words that you have given have made it clear that you do not care. And besides the fact that 4 and 10 years ago the Council of Graduate Schools outlined the crucial nature of health care and tuition being introduced to NMSU policies. Besides the fact that you guys ignored that, we've been asking and the time is now. When I graduate with my bachelors, I don't want to be embarrassed when I say I graduated from NMSU. Because currently I am embarrassed that this is the third time I've been here, this year alone, and the rock has moved only ever so slightly. No, thanks to the push from the \$200 an hour, Union-crushing lawyer that you all have hired. I'm an undergraduate organizer and I have no issue telling my peers what has and hasn't happened regarding you all helping graduate students, which at this point, is very little. I can see the embarrassment and shock on their face when I tell them. Over 2 years, I have paid only 44 days of work of Dina Holcomb. The pledge to the New Mexico State flag, that flag right there that you all serve under, states, "I salute the flag of the State of New Mexico, the Zia symbol of perfect friendship among united cultures." This, an idea that our land that we represent is a well-placed addition to the New Mexico statutes and court rules. Section 12-3-3. Perfect friendship. United cultures. Esymbolo Zia de amistad perfecta. Entre culturas unidas. Right now, no estamos unidos. We are not united. In fact, we as a group who simply asked to be addressed by those we should be united with are forced to sit back and see no effort of unity on your part. As an employer who uses their graduate students for research, teaching, and, above all, making this university function. As a person who is face to face with other people who walk the same world and earth, as you, speak as you are able. Speak to the people you affect. Take inspiration from the Zia symbol you serve under. Speak up and feed the spark of unity. Take responsibility. We are all a part of this university. We can start working together, but your resistance is making that possibility so incredibly challenging. You all may not hide inside of yourself righteous chambers any longer. Speak to the people you affect. Be the leaders you get paid thousands upon thousands of dollars to be. I honestly don't even know what to say anymore. I've spent my time with these people, and it's really insane, and you all should be embarrassed that under this State of New Mexico,

this great land, you all have not stepped up in the way that you should. And you know what, it's not too late. So, get to it."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Jane Asche. Jane stated, "My name is Jane Asche and I'm changing gears here, slightly, from one important issue to another. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Regents, Chancellor, faculty, staff, students. I come before you today as a member of the community to respectfully ask that in the spirit of the tripartite mission of a Land Grant University that you genuinely embrace involvement of the leadership of the Piro Manso Tiwa tribe in the planning and decisions for the Aggie Uptown development as a measure of providing service to the community. I encourage you to carefully consider both the environmental and cultural impacts of this development. It is my understanding that this development will take place, at least in part, on the sacred ceremonial lands of the tribe. These sacred lands are where the spiritual retreats take place that connect the tribal members with their ancestors who migrated to this area several hundred years ago, after the Pueblo revolt. Such involvement will show respect for the many injustices indigenous people have suffered over the years at the hands of their white European colonizers and is a necessary component of cultural healing, which is desperately needed currently throughout our country, and especially in New Mexico, where indigenous people and other persons of color constitute the majority population of our State. Thank you for your time."

Associate Vice President Bannister introduced the next person for public comment, Brad Hanson. Brad stated, "Good afternoon fellow Aggies. I see 2 words plaster around our campus. 'Be Bold.' To me, these 2 words are shorthand for putting NMSU's mission and values into action. Do they mean anything more than words to you? I was blessed to serve as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Albert Town, Jamaica. During my 2 years there I met a taxi driver and DJ, named Red Rat. Red Rat did not like me. My first interaction with him involved him cussing me out and insulting me in public simply because I was a white foreigner. I have considerably more respect for Red Rat than anyone on this board, or you, Chancellor Arvizu. Even though Red Rat never liked me, I always knew where I stood with him. He was bold enough to be honest and transparent. Are any of you? My experiences with this board and the upper echelons of NMSU administration thus far have been two-faced and full of cowardice. This very morning your negotiators opened up with the very same offer of less than half full tuition remission that has been the same for more than a month, and has been proven that you have the money for. Chancellor Arvizu, your smiles and kind words have been hollow for over 2 years. Instead of taking ownership for how you go through the process of negotiating, you have tossed your hands up and blamed the process as if you don't have a choice. You do have a choice. Negotiations could be between us and NMSU's existing fully capable labor management staff as is the case for other unions here. You have chosen to continue to pay outside overpriced lawyers, as my colleagues have said. I don't know. Is it your responsibility to take ownership of, Regent Devasthali? All I know is that these actions are not bold in any way. At the very least you could have the honesty and transparency of Red Rat. I would respect you more if you chose to look me in the eye and tell me you think I am not essential to NMSU's mission. I would prefer you insult me to my face, not behind my back. Despite your extended history of poor choices and two-faced dealings, I believe each of you can demonstrate better leadership. At the end of my comments I encourage at least one of you to have the boldness to respond. There is no reason to stay silent on your part after I'm done speaking. In fact, the spirit of this as an open meeting under the Open Meeting Act explicitly empowers you to have an open discussion with us. No action on what we discussed can be taken, but the act of having discussion is not just allowed, but in the context of you refusing to offer a response for over a year, it is needed. I have provided Adam with the language and the Open Meetings Act which supersedes any legal misinterpretation of NMSU policy regarding these meetings which you have hidden behind multiple times. So, what say you? Are any of you willing to be bold. Please explain your reasoning for how you have negotiated with us this far, and why you have chosen to not provide us with tuition remission, despite the money being available, if you would like. I can read the language in the Opening Meetings Act for all our benefit. Thank you."

Associate Vice President Bannister stated that public comment has been concluded.

General Counsel Collins stated, "Madam Chair, members of the Board, the issue of responding has to do with labor law. It has to do with direct dealing and indeed to negotiate in good faith, we have to negotiate according to the rules that are already established. We have established negotiations in place. That's the proper form. You have discretion to do what you want to do. However, according to labor law and regulations carrying on discussions in this form is actually contrary to the expectations of good faith negotiations at the actual negotiation side."

Brad Hanson continued by saying, "Thank you for those comments, and just to be very clear in the legal sense, this is not a direct dealing at all. This is a chance for you all to not be isolated as leaders up on this island because you're not just isolated from us graduate workers. You're isolated from faculty staff and a larger community. So, it's just a discussion on what has been presented here. I want to give you the opportunity to speak. It has pained me to only provide constructive feedback, and never be able to have a chance for you all to talk."

Associate Vice President Bannister reminded Brad Hanson that public comment has ended.

Brad Hanson stated, "Thank you. It's. I know it's ended. I just want to be clear that this is not a direct dealing. So, this this this is not in a legal sense in any way what was just mentioned for."

Associate Vice President Bannister stated that public comment has concluded.

The Chief of Staff confirmed that Mr. Sean Sellers was on the list for public comment.

Associate Vice President Bannister invited Mr. Sean Sellers to give public comment. Mr. Sellers stated, "I'm louder without the microphone, so I'm just gonna do this. Chapter 3, section F, number 2 action on agenda items. A public body may discuss a matter, but cannot take action, unless the matter is listed as a specific item of business on the agenda. Action on items that are not listed on the agenda for a meeting must be taken at a subsequent special or regular meeting. Example: A mutual domestic water users association reserves an hour of its regular board meeting for public comment.. Blah blah blah blah. Point is, you can talk to us, regardless of any sort of Labor Relations Act. That is, I believe, what we are talking about. You can speak to us. I am graduating tomorrow after 13 semesters, and these issues were old when I got here. Alright. I've been getting emails from people who graduated in 2012 with these problems. Front and center. A decade is how old these issues are to NMSU. You refuse to pay your workers a living wage. You refuse to provide them health insurance. You choose to do this and have chosen to do this for over a decade. That's where we're at. There is nothing else to it, except, I don't know if this is, willful ignorance or apathy on your part? I don't know which is worse, but that's where we are at now. Nothing?"

Associate Vice President Bannister stated that public comment has concluded.

G. **Consent Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

1. **Amendment to RPM 3.00, Assistant General Counsel Mariah Ortiz**
2. **Temporary Investments Report for the Quarter ended 09/30/2022, Associate Vice President D'Anne Stuart**
3. **Disposition / Deletion of Property, Associate Vice President D'Anne Stuart**
4. **NMSU Alamogordo: Classroom Buildings Mechanical Upgrades, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**
5. **NMSU Alamogordo: Rohovec Fine Arts Theatre Renovations, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**
6. **NMSU Las Cruces: Corbett Center Fire Alarm Replacement, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**
7. **NMSU Las Cruces: Campus wide Roadway Resurfacing, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**
8. **Reorganization of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department into the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies (BEST) Department and to relocate it from the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) to the College of Health,**

Education, and Social Transformation (HEST), Senior Associate Provost James McAteer (on behalf of the Office of the Provost)

9. Philanthropic naming of space in the Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities in honor of Neil Burcham, President Derek Dictson

Regent Chacón-Reitzel motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Regent Bitsie seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

H. Action Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

1. Budget Adjustment Requests (BAR) for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, Chief Budget Officer Kim Rumford

Chief Budget Officer Rumford presented the Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) for FY23. At this time the adjustments relate only to the beginning balances, which means that's where the balance is ended at the end of FY22 and have to be updated for the budgets for this year. This includes all 4 campuses, Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Doña Ana and Grants. There were no questions.

Regent Romero motioned to approve the Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Regent Saucedo seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

2. Authorization for Conferral of Degrees and Certificates, Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu presented the conferral of degrees and certificates. There are 1,702 candidates for degrees. Of those 1,702 students, 1,230 are from the Las Cruces 4-year college, which includes 253 masters students and 49 Ph.D. students. Another 472 are at the community colleges. Doña Ana Community College has 377. Alamogordo has 33. Carlsbad has 32. Grants has 30.

Chancellor Arvizu read the following proposal, "We request approval of the Board of Regents to confer degrees and certificates to named candidates listed in the Fall of 2022 commencement program of the institutions for campuses. Conferral is contingent upon the student satisfactory completion of the courses in which they are enrolled and meeting the requirements of the appropriate catalogue. It is further contingent upon the assumption that the content of the thesis submitted by each student required to do so is original, unless otherwise represented in the document. The journey of the student to New Mexico State University is filled with caring faculty and staff working at the front of classrooms are behind the scenes."

Chairwoman Devasthali congratulated all of the graduating students this year and hope that they have had a great year and do great things as they move forward in their lives and she hopes that students come back to visit.

Regent Bitsie recognized that this class and next class are students who started as freshmen at the beginning of the pandemic. It shows their hard work and tenacity for sticking with it. Congratulations to them.

Regent Saucedo stated that graduation is one of the most exciting times on campus because it's recognition of accomplishment for people and their families. Regent Saucedo expressed his appreciation to their efforts on campus and thankfulness.

Regent Romero stated that this university has made an impact on his life over the past 30 years. Regent Romero's message to graduating students is, "Go off into the world, be amazing, and always make sure that you remember this place, and we would love to have you back. It's a great place to be. I hope I get to continue to be part of this university for decades to come, and I hope that all of you will also be part of this university for decades to come. Thank you."

Regent Chacón-Reitzel reminisced about her own graduating days and how it was a proud moment. Regent

Chacón-Reitzel wants it to be that way for all students graduating. Regent Chacón-Reitzel also congratulated their families for all of their support for them.

Chairwoman motioned to approve the authorization for conferral of degrees and certificates. Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

I. **Informational Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

1. **Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period November 25, 2021 – November 30, 2022, Senior Administrator for Strategic System Services and Operational Policy Administrator Ermelinda Quintela**

Operational Policy Administrator Ermelinda Quintela presented the summary of revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period November 25, 2021 – November 30, 2022. The revision being presented is in ARP 16.75 Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The revision was made to shift the responsibility from our Physical Science Lab to our NMSU Environmental Health and Safety and Risk Management group to streamline processes and to centralize our efforts.

Regent Bitsie asked for an explanation of restrictions on drones on campus.

Operational Policy Administrator Quintela stated that her understanding is that when this policy was established, the Physical Science Lab was the area of expertise for drones. That has expanded and Environmental Health and Safety have the employees that can oversee that process. There are different tiers and they look at it from a risk assessment standpoint and making sure that the proper documents are filled and that they are properly insured.

2. **NMSU Revenue Bonds Series 2022 Sale Certificate, Associate Vice President D'Anne Stuart**

Associate Vice President D'Anne Stuart introduced Erik Harrigan, municipal advisor and Katherine McKinney, bond counsel. This is a report on the successful sale of the bonds and final terms.

Katherine McKinney reported that this is a process to close out the delegation. A process that started with the authorizing resolution that the Board adopted on August 24, 2022 authorizing the bonds. The bonds are for campus improvements and were priced with the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) on November 3, 2022. The parameters for the pricing were laid out in the authorizing resolution. All of the final terms fell within those parameters. Included in the final terms were a final par amount of \$28,065,000. The interest payments, beginning April of 2023, payable from some capitalized interest, set aside, and the redemption of the bonds can begin after 10 years. The Finance Authority contributed \$232,000 to the capitalized interest fund and that does not need to be repaid.

Eric Harrigan reported that the TIC [True Interest Costs] on the bonds was 4.083. Because of the rising interest rate market, they worked with NMFA to price the bonds about 3 weeks earlier. This saved the university approximately \$675,000 in interest cost over the life of the bonds. The transaction will provide \$28 million in projects to the university. Those bonds are being paid from the student fee. The bonds were structured in a way, so that, beginning in 2032, the debt service will fall by about \$800,000 a year, which will allow the university to issue additional bonds from student fee revenues to make critical capital projects.

There were no questions from the regents.

J. **Report from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to the Regents of New Mexico State University (Board**

of Agriculture), Cabinet Secretary & Director Jeff Witte

Director Jeff Witte reported that he met with the Department of Homeland Security, Cyber Security, Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a feedlot operator, representative from dairy, small agricultural business representatives, and chili and onion processors that morning regarding a supply chain resilience plan for the sector. The NMDA will receive \$10.5 million from the recent bond election, which will go toward their new building. They're going to the legislature for another \$10.9 million. They will start the demolition of their existing building around July 1, 2023. The department employs students as they have one graduate this semester and having interactions with students is a good opportunity for the department. The department is doing inbound and outbound trade missions. They have several buyers from Mexico looking at seed stock. There were 3,500 people who attended their Homegrown event.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel commended Director Witte on their commercials about their value-added products as well as their commitment to staff to marketing New Mexico beef. The Department of Agriculture is quite involved with supply chain issues. Regent Chacón-Reitzel thanked him for all of the work they do.

K. NMSU System Report, Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu reported that as a consequence of multiple meetings between the Council of University Presidents, New Mexico Independent community colleges, the New Mexico State associated community colleges, and HERC, the Higher Education Regents Coalition have consolidated their priorities so that they could provide a consolidated list to the legislature executive branch. Top priority is to ask for a 10% increase for compensation as well as fully funding the mandates for 1% employer increases in ERB for 2023 and 2024. NMSU's faculty average salary is 40% of R2 institutions and 25% of R1 institutions. That is also a top priority for leaders of LFC. They are also asking for a 5% I&G increase. The other items that the leadership at LFC consider priority is cybersecurity and physical infrastructure. Non-recurring costs that all higher education institutions are requesting is \$25 million for the Research Technology Enhancement fund, \$10 million for Higher Education Endowment fund, \$25 million for BR&R at facilities and IT infrastructure, \$8 million for cyber security, \$15 million for dual credit, \$3 million for wrap-around service, \$8 million for campus safety, \$6 million for mental health services, \$15 million targeted statewide enrollment marketing, \$10 million for high skilled contract training and fund endowment, and continuing support for the lottery and the opportunity scholarships. Among NMSU's top priorities for requested funding are for online learning and for graduate assistant endowment. Part of the I&G money could be used for supplementing the investment that they want to make with graduate students. They will be asking for critical infrastructure for water, electricity, agriculture, and PSL. They are also asking for Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP). Among their highest priorities is the nurse expansion programs, nurse anesthesiology program, mental health nurse practitioner program, and autism program. The administration met with the Chase Foundation in Artesia, NM. They are looking at enhancing their relationship with NMSU. On December 26, 2022 NMSU will play in their 5th Bowl. The Bowl Alliance is between the Mid-American Conference (MAC) and the Big 10 Conference and NMSU is filing a Big 10 spot. The game will be broadcast on ESPN. We have been in a Bowl game in the years 1917, 1936, 1959, 1960, and 2022. In 2022 there are 133 FBS schools. Out of 133 schools, only 9 have appeared in an NCAA tournament in basketball, baseball, women's soccer, and football. Among those schools are Arkansas, Louisiana State, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Texas Christian, Tennessee, Texas, and UCLA.

L. Announcements and Comments, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

1. Good News for NMSU!

Regent Saucedo congratulated all of the graduates.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel congratulated the graduates and the football team for going to the bowl game.

Regent Bitsie recognized two players who are going to the Bowl. JJ, #87 and Mr. Pete, #71 are the first 2 players from the Navajo nation to ever play in an FBS Bowl game. Congratulations to those players. Also, there was a pilot program of a peer mental health training program in which some student volunteers were trained about how to be an ambassador for mental health to their fellow Aggies. Regent Bitsie thanked them for all that they have done. Also, congratulations to the Women's soccer team for making it to the NCAA tournament as well as a thank you to their coach, Rob Baarts, for signing a 3-year extension contract. Congratulations to the Model UN Team. Over Thanksgiving break, they went to Japan and competed at the International Model UN Convention. They brought back the top award for Outstanding Delegation. The football team players hold themselves to a high standard and Regent Bitsie stated that it was a privilege to travel with them. Also, the average student athlete has a higher GPA than the average student.

Regent Romero stated that there is an opportunity coming with the Legislative Session. There is an opportunity for people affiliated with NMSU, particularly faculty, staff, and graduate students about improving programs and opportunity across campus and all NMSU related campuses, health care, social and emotional support, capital projects, and science research centers. Regent Romero expressed that he was glad that the graduate students came to speak and they are heard. Regent Romero encouraged people to go to Santa Fe and talk to legislators. We all have a voice. It is an opportunity to benefit the university. When the university benefits, the state benefits.

Chairwoman Devasthali stated to keep pushing ahead, be kind and considerate of each other. Aggies are resilient.

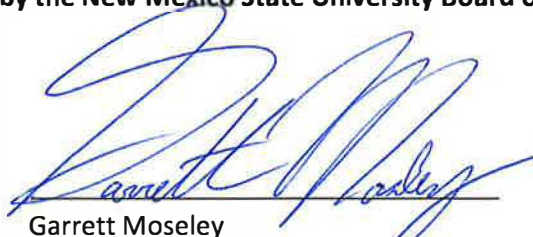
M. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Chacón-Reitzel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Regent Saucedo seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.

Meeting Minutes Approved on March 10, 2023 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer