



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 28, 2022 at 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

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.

A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Chairwoman Devasthali read a brief statement, “On behalf of the entire board, I would like to congratulate our Aggie Football team on this spectacular Bowl win. Good job Coach Kill and the team. Also, MVP Diego Pavia. Congratulations also, to the athletic director, Mario Moccia.”

1. Confirmation of Quorum and Roll Call

The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote. Regent Saucedo, Regent Chacón-Reitzel, Regent Bitsie, Regent Romero, and Chairwoman Devasthali were present virtually via Zoom. General Counsel Roy Collins, Director of Employee and Labor Relations Maura Gonsior, and Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Justin Bannister were also present virtually via Zoom.

B. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session on December 20, 2022, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

The Chief of Staff read the following statement, “The Board met in an online Executive Session at 8:00am on December 20, 2022. The closed executive meeting was called to discuss limited personnel matters concerning individual NMSU employees as permitted in the New Mexico Open Meetings Act NMSA section 10-15-1 subsection (H)(2). Those matters included a discussion concerning purchases in the amount exceeding \$2,500 that can be made only from one source pursuant to the procurement code is permitted under the Open Meetings Act NMSA section 10-15-1 subsection (H)(6). Those board members who were present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Chairwoman Devasthali – Yes

The confirmation of prior executive session was certified.

C. Action Items

1. Consideration of whether to ratify the collective bargaining agreement tentatively entered into between the Regents of New Mexico State University and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Dina Holcomb presented the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Regents of New Mexico State University and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. The Collective Bargaining Agreement was a result of the initial negotiation between the university and United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), representing the graduate assistants of the university. Negotiations began in July and ended in early December. The Collective Bargaining Agreement has gone to the bargaining unit membership for the ratification vote and was overwhelmingly approved. Management rights, unit rights, mandatory grievance procedure they are required to negotiate by law, dues and deductions are included. Graduate Assistants holding the position other than Research Assistant will receive a 6.8% increase the second full pay period after approval by the Board and Chancellor. They are encouraging departments to do the same for their Research Assistants, but that is up to whether the funding is available through the specific grant and the department for those increases. A scholarship award to assist in tuition coverage is included. It is \$650 for 2 credit hours of tuition as well as any differential tuition. In the Collective Bargaining Agreement, it states that if the Legislature, in this upcoming Legislative Session, provides money and coverage for tuition coverage then the parties will come back to negotiations in the spring to negotiate additional coverage. A one time \$100 payment was provided to international students holding assistantships to off set the increased costs of the health insurance premiums. They have been working with the state to try to get them covered under the Be Well NM Plan, the New Mexico Health Marketplace. The contract will run through January 1, 2025 and allow for re-opening in September 2024 for compensation increases.

Regent Romero asked Dina Holcomb to describe what the bargaining cycle will look like in September 2024 when it may be re-opened.

Dina Holcomb responded that if the Legislature appropriates money for tuition coverage, then they will open negotiations in the spring to address that specifically. If there is no specific appropriation for that, then the contract will simply continue. Between September and November either party may request for negotiations in 2023 regarding only compensation. Between September and November of 2024 either party may request negotiations on any part of the contract.

Chairwoman Devasthali motioned to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Regents of New Mexico State University and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

Chairwoman Devasthali congratulated all parties in negotiations that produced the collective bargaining agreement. It gives something for both parties to work on and improve. The Board of Regents is appointed by the governor of the state to serve as volunteer board members. Board

members give their time, talent, and treasure to the university because they are alums and are invested in the success of the Land Grant Institution. They care deeply and are passionate about all students and those who work as graduate assistants.

Regent Romero thanked the Graduate Student Union for their efforts and advocating for the rights and needs of graduate students. The hard work and efforts of the Graduate Student Union to build a supportive and inclusive university environment is greatly appreciated.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel stated that she is pleased that they have taken the first step. It is imperative work hard to attract additional research dollars to make this investment pay off by making NMSU more competitive with peer institutions.

Regent Saucedo stated that he is pleased with the initial agreement and looks forward to its implementation to see what benefits it brings to the graduate students and the university. Regent Saucedo encouraged everyone to work hard together during this legislative session.

Regent Bitsie acknowledged the efforts made by the graduate students and extended his understanding as a graduate student himself. Regent Bitsie is pleased that they came to this agreement and looks forward to providing continued resources to workers.

The Chief of Staff took a roll call vote.

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Bitsie – Abstains

Regent Romero – Yes

Chairwoman Devasthali – Yes

2. Executive Search Process Authorization, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

The Chancellor's employment agreement ends on June 30, 2023. Chairwoman Devasthali moved that the Board authorize and instruct the administration to begin formal preparation to engage in an executive search process for the University Chancellor position.

Regent Bitsie seconded the motion.

Regent Romero stated that this process is important and lengthy. It is timely to do this right now to make sure there is time and input from faculty, staff, and entire community, which includes Doña Ana county and the state of New Mexico, to be part of the process.

Regent Bitsie stated that this will be a transparent process and they will engage all stakeholders, especially students as well. Regent Bitsie extended an open-door policy. The chancellor position works for the entire system. Everyone's input will be considered.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel reiterated that it will be a transparent process and stated that they are giving themselves time to find someone to lead the university for a long time in a progressive and advanced way.

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The Chief of Staff took a roll call vote.

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

The motion passed.

D. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali motioned to adjourn. Regent Bitsie seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 10:23am.

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