



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
November 5, 2021 at 11:00am**

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

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

**Non-Voting Advisory Members** - ASNMSU President Mathew Madrid, Faculty Senate Chair Julia Parra, Employee Council Chair Joseph Almaguer

**University Officials** - Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu, Ph.D., President John D. Floros, Ph.D., Provost Carol Parker, J.D., Vice Chancellor Ruth A. Johnston, Ph.D., Senior Vice President Andrew Burke, Ed.D., General Counsel Roy Collins III, J.D.

**A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

The Board of Regents met in virtually via Zoom on November 5, 2021. Chairwoman Devasthali called the meeting to order at 11:02am. To ensure compliance with the public health order, Chairwoman Devasthali reminded everyone that in person attendees should wear their mask the entire time they are meeting, except for a brief moment taking a drink or having something to eat.

**1. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali, Regent Chacón-Reitzel, Regent Saucedo, Regent Bitsie, Chancellor Arvizu, and President Floros were present in the Board Room in the Educational Services Building. Regent Romero, Vice Chancellor Johnston, Senior Vice President Burke, and General Counsel Collins joined virtually. Provost Parker were not present.

**2. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

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

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

Associate Vice President Bannister reported that no one had signed up for public comment.

**B. Action Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

**1. Consideration of a proposal for an athletic conference change, Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu, Athletic Director Mario Moccia**

Chancellor Arvizu introduced a proposal for NMSU to join Conference USA for all athletic sports, including FBS football. Chancellor Arvizu stated that joining the conference provides financial

stability over time and fits well in their strategic plan as well as emphasizes their strong support for student athletes and their academic performance. It also is important that the operating philosophy is that each of the chief executives of each of the institutions will be fully engaged to lead the conference from a strategic perspective further additions and directions approach of the conference will be driven by the collective core institutions. To ensure that they remain consistent and aligned with NMSU's overall strategic direction mission and the nation and direction of each of the participating universities and instruction and institutions.

Athletic Director Moccia stated that they are seeking to become a contributing all sports member of prestigious conference USA starting in July 1, 2023. NMSU has six men's sports and ten women's sports, totaling 270 student male athletes and 254 student female athletes, which is well in excess of 450 in total. Over the past 16 years, which is 32 consecutive semesters, the average cumulative GPA of all sports exceeds a 3.0 GPA. NMSU's football budget is in the middle with other university football teams at \$9.2 million as it relates to the current conference USA membership. In 2019, their average attendance was 17,905. NMSU's basketball team has been in five of the last six NCAA tournaments. Their basketball budget is in the #3 slot at \$3.3 million. During the 2019-2020 season, they averaged 6,503 in attendance and 80<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Their average RPI between 2017-2020 was 60, which would put NMSU first in this list in Conference USA. The current total athletic budget is \$27.7 million, which puts NMSU in the middle. CUSA is one of the ten conferences that make up the college football playoff. Currently, NMSU receives a CFP distribution for the football teams NCAA APR score. CUSA also qualifies for an additional distribution from CFP since they are a founding member.

Chairwoman Devasthali moves to authorize Chancellor Arvizu to sign all necessary documents and fulfill all other necessary requirements on behalf of the Regents that will allow NMSU to change conference membership to conference USA.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion. The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

**C. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Romero made a motion to adjourn. Regent Saucedo seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned 11:15am.



Ammu Devasthali  
Board of Regents Chair



Arsenio Romero  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer