



NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, August 24th, 2022 1:00 PM

Thursday, August 25th, 2022 9:00 AM

La Posta De Mesilla
Fiesta Room
2410 Calle De San Albino
Mesilla, NM 88046

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 24th, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Regent Ammu Devasthali at 1:00 PM. Regents Devasthali, Romero, Bitsie and Chacón-Reitzel were present in-person. Regent Saucedo joined the meeting online via Zoom. Regent Devasthali reminded the regents that this work session is provided for information only and no actions will be taken by the board during the work session.

1. **Strategic Budget Discussion**, *Ruth Johnston, Dave Maddox, Kim Rumford*

Presenters provided a PowerPoint presentation (incorporated for reference) to regents regarding the current status of NMSU enrollment and potential for one-time funding from state appropriations. Community college enrollment was up from this time last year (fall enrollment) and the main campus enrollment was flat year-over-year. NMSU Online (NMSU-O) was up sharply for undergraduate enrollments and there was mention of the 8-week semester cycle, which should be considered when attempting to compare traditional and online enrollment.

Major university needs were discussed, including a continued investment in NMSU-O, competitive and equitable faculty salaries, and support for Graduate Assistantships. In general, competitive salaries and enhanced services in the support staff/functions were areas needed for future investment as well as increases in utility costs, addressing deferred maintenance for physical and IT infrastructure, and student basic needs.

Presenters discussed some previous and upcoming planning activities, such as the LEADS 2025 strategic planning retreat held on May 18, 2022, the Chancellor's cabinet retreat to be held June 30, followed by in-depth discussions with deans about the budget and proposed Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) requests. In August, a Financial Strategy Retreat will take place to include a broad set of stakeholders, including regents, faculty senate, and ASNMSU.

Presenters discussed feedback received from some initial strategic planning meetings, including the critical role of NMSU-O and the need to diversity revenue streams. In addition, there was

discussion about the importance of putting resources back in academic programs, student support, and support systems. The importance of culture and climate of the workplace and academic settings was mentioned and resources were critical to attracting and maintaining the quality of faculty, staff and student experiences. This includes investment in competitive salaries, research infrastructure, and improving administrative processes and functions. Marketing, corporate and community engagement, and fundraising support were specifically mentioned. All of this need for investment spurred many conversations among the leadership group and the presenters provided some graphs and charts as well as worksheets that contributed to discussions about tuition policy. This included current tuition and fee information and historical data about tuition and fees paid per credit. In addition, there were charts and graphs presented showing the different type of tuition waivers, student aid, including preliminary data about the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship, as well as tuition projections.

This information was used as the basis of budget modeling exercises which utilized a spreadsheet to model variations in different inputs, such as tuition rate and enrollment.

The meeting was recessed by Regent Devasthali at 3:45 PM to reconvene the next morning at 9:00 AM.

Thursday, August 25th, 2022 9:00 AM

The meeting was called to order by Regent Ammu Devasthali at 9:00 AM. Regents Devasthali, Romero, Bitsie and Chacón-Reitzel were present in-person. Regent Saucedo joined the meeting online via Zoom.

Regent Devasthali reminded the regents that this work session is provided for information only and no actions will be taken by the board during the work session.

1. **AES/CES Program Updates and Facilities Conditions**, *Rolando Flores Galarza, Leslie Edgar and Jon Boren*

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) Dean and Chief Administrative Officer Rolando Flores Galarza provided an introduction to the regents regarding the mission and vision of the college and he highlighted how the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and Cooperative Extension Service (CES) embody the mission and vision of the college throughout the State of New Mexico.

ACES Associate Dean & AES Director Leslie Edgar provided a PowerPoint presentation (incorporated for reference) which detailed the history, funding, and alignment of AES with the ACES Pillars of Economic and Community Development. Dr. Edgar highlighted the impacts for AES from 2017 – 2021, including categories of projects in Food & Fiber Production and Marketing, Water Use and Conservation, Family Development and Health of New Mexicans, and

Environmental Stewardship.

Dr. Edgar reviewed the AES funding, which included \$8.9 in research funding awarded in FY 21. Dr. Edgar reviewed the FY 24 Legislative request which included a Forest Tree Ecophysiology Professor, Climate Smart Agricultural Professor, Hydrology and Water Resources Professor, and an Integrated Renewable Energy and Agricultural Natural Resources Professor. Dr. Edgar continued by discussing the various needs to address deferred maintenance at the science centers and provided a separate handout detailing some of the needs.

ACES Associate Dean & CES Director Jon Boren continued the presentation which detailed the history and funding of CES. Dr. Boren highlighted the split of funding from state, federal, and county sources, as well as grants and contracts. Dr. Boren noted that CES has 296 permanent faculty and staff who are housed in offices in all 33 counties, which includes different 54 office locations. Dr. Boren noted that "Extension faculty on average reach over 550,000 New Mexicans annually. That's about 1/4 of the state's population". It was also noted that many citizens volunteer with CES and give in-kind contributions.

Dr. Boren highlighted several programs, including 4-H Youth Education and the Aggie Next Step Program which are associated with academic improvement and better preparing school-aged children to attend college. Dr. Boren further discussed the role of CES in providing information to farmers and ranchers as well as many New Mexicans through various programs, resources, and services that focus on agriculture. This includes working collaboratively with other state agencies such as the New Mexico Department of Agriculture on emergencies such as droughts, wildfires, and environmental contamination.

In particular, Dr. Boren noted that CES participated in Emergency Support Function (ESF) No. 11 Agriculture and Natural Resource calls on a daily basis and provided updates on community needs and issues that need to be addressed in the counties with current wildfires. This included: coordination of pet evacuation shelters, assisting in distributing livestock feed to producers, providing evacuation education information, and disseminated CES publications related to wildfire and recovery.

Dr. Boren also noted that CES provides workshops on nutrition, parenting, and physical fitness and has partnered with UNM on cancer research pilots around Albuquerque.

2. **NMSU Online Update**, *Sherry Kollmann*

Associate Vice Chancellor for Digital Learning Sherry Kollmann presented information about the goals and objectives of NMSU Online (NMSU-O) and discussed enrollment and recruitment. Dr. Kollmann described efforts to increase website conversions and improve search quality rank. Dr. Kollmann provided data showing that NMSU-O has increased admitted undergraduate students

from 181 to 571 in two years as well as an increase in admitted graduate students from 285 to 348 in the same period of time.

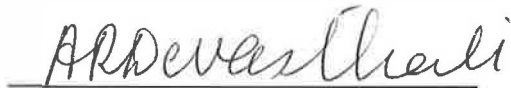
Dr. Kollmann also discussed NMSU On-Demand, which are “100% online certificate and micro-credential courses, designed to build new skill sets, refresh your resume, and upgrade your career”.

Finally, Dr. Kollmann highlighted the services of Academic Technology and Instructional Media Services that report to her and provide support for both traditional and online instruction.

3. Legislative Session Primer, Ricardo Rel

Assistant Vice President for Government and Community Relations Ricardo Rel provided a presentation (incorporated for reference) that included a recap of the 2022 Legislative session for the NMSU system, revenue estimates for the upcoming year, and NMSU and Council of University Presidents (CUP) legislative priorities.

Meeting Minutes Approved on December 8, 2022 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Neal Bitsie
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer