

MINUTES

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2015

Regents Room, Educational Services
Center

NMSU Main Campus

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1:00 pm

Regents of New Mexico State University

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

Ex officio Members of the Board of Regents:

The Honorable Susana Martinez, Governor
Stuart Munson-Mcgee, Ph. D., Faculty Senate
Mr. Wesley Jackson, President ASNMSU

Officers of the University:

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

AGENDA

1:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**-Chairman Mike Cheney (2 minutes)
Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Cheney at 1:01pm.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
 - a. Introduction of Press, Elected Officials, and Others by NMSU Associate VP Maureen Howard (2 minutes)
Damien Willis from the Las Cruces Sun News was introduced.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**-Chairman Mike Cheney (3 minutes)
It was moved by Regent Kari Mitchell and seconded by Regent Debra Hicks to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** NMSU Associate VP Maureen Howard/Special Assistant to the President Ben Woods (20 minutes)

Mr. Jay Gaspar of Las Cruces spoke to the issue of the potential closing on the on-campus Post Office in Corbett Center, President Carruthers explained that NMSU is in discussions with the USPS to keep services open by closing a different location and shifting its services to the NMSU location.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-**Chairman Mike Cheney (3 minutes)

Minutes of March 9, 2015

It was moved by Regent Debra Hicks and Seconded by Regent Jerean Hutchinson that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

1:30 PM

6. **ADOPTION AND PRESENTATIONS OF RESOLUTIONS-**Chairman Mike Cheney (5 minutes)

Resolutions were presented to the Women's and Men's Basketball Teams for winning the Western Athletic Conference Championships.

7. **REGENTS' ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD-**NMSU President Garrey Carruthers (5 minutes)

President Carruthers presented the award to Patrick Kennedy, NMSU Ticket Office Manager who was surprised to receive the honor.

8. **FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS-**Chairman Mike Cheney (2 minutes)

Friday, May 8, 2015, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Tuesday, July 21, 2015, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Regent Cheney noted the upcoming meetings.

9. **CONFIRMATION OF PRIOR EXECUTIVE SESSIONS-**Chairman Mike Cheney (3 minutes)

No executive sessions have been held since the last meeting on March 9th, 2015.

1:45 PM

10. **CONSENT CALENDAR-**Chairman Mike Cheney

a. Policy-none

b. Administrative-

1. None

2. Approval of Revised Third Amendment to Ground Lease (Ben Woods) (5 minutes)

It was moved by Regent Debra Hicks and seconded by Regent Jerean Hutchinson that the Consent Calendar be approved. Motion passed.

1:50 PM

11. ACTION ITEMS-Chairman Mike Cheney (1 hour, 5 minutes)

Report from Regents' Budget Committee Chairman Adolpho Telles on Budget
Budget Committee Chairman Telles discussed that two meeting were held prior to the presentation of the budget proposals today.

Report from NMSU Chancellor and President Garrey Carruthers on Budget
Chancellor & President Garrey Carruthers covered the Vision 2020 Goals and specifically, KPI 28 on faculty to student ratio, KPI 28B on student to staff ratio, and KPI 30 on the Instruction and General (I & G) cost of degree production.

- a. Approval of Tuition and Fee Charges and Budget Guidelines for FY2015-2016-(Ms. Angela Throneberry, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance)

Regent Cheney asked with the plans in place (to address enrollment and retention) were these incorporated into the budget projections. SVP Throneberry said not yet. Regent Mitchell spoke to the issue of the "6 year graduation rate". She recommends getting students through quicker and getting them into the marketplace quicker. She also pointed to January of 2014 as the start of the discussion of "too much staff". She applauds the President and SVP Throneberry for the moratorium on hiring. Regent Mitchell sited how critical tuition increase determination would be based on how well the university is investing the revenue towards student success. Student Outcomes, fiscal outcomes, and leadership were noted as the critical internal factors for this success. With respect to student outcomes Regent Mitchell noted that based on data from the *Chronicles of Higher Ed*, NMSU only completes 15-16% of its students in 4 years versus 33.3% of national averages, and even more disappointing is the that only 12.6% of Hispanic students complete versus 24% of national averages. Regent Mitchell noted that we did not create an accurate picture of the true cost of a degree when we show our tuition rates being so much lower than peers like ASU or CSU as justification to increase tuition. An example is that students attending CSU would only spend a few thousand dollars more in tuition but would be in the market a minimum of 2 years earlier and at a conservative wage earning of \$40,000/year. The student would actually be \$70,000 better off attending one of these universities. Regent Mitchell noted that we often cite our poverty issues as reasons for lower performance. If we would put students into the market sooner, we would help improve the economics of our citizens. With respect to the financial outcomes, Regent Mitchell noted that in January of 2014, it was evident that our salary expenses were not being reduced proportionally to our enrollment drops. Assessment of this was requested. Analysis was not provided until end of March 2015, and showed that revenue through reduced enrollment in the last 5 years dropped \$13 million; however, salary expense only dropped \$5million and that this was not an adequate response time to our changing market place. Regent Mitchell noted that Chancellor Carruthers and Provost Howard had only been in their positions

for 18 months and that their leadership is driving improvements. However, emphasis was placed on correlating future tuition increases to whether or not the needed improved outcomes and ownership of student success was achieved.

ASNMSU President Wes Jackson asked about the 0% tuition increase plan. SVP Throneberry explained that it restricts NMSU's ability to do any strategic initiatives beyond the 2.2 million dollars for the Salary Enhancement Plan.

Regent Hutchinson stated she is concerned with Higher education's declining enrollment and retention, and increased costs. Regent Hutchinson also expressed concern with the somewhat slow "timing" of righting our university, although applauding President Carruthers and Angela Throneberry and her staff for tackling this issue this past year. Regent Hutchinson expressed concern that the norm of a 4 year education has morphed into a 6-8 year "status quo" education – saddling our students with more debt than needed and delaying their entry into the marketplace – which is one of the key reasons to get a degree at NMSU – hopefully finding that better job! Regent Hutchinson voiced her concern with NMSU's graduation rates – even when compared against peers and equally concerned with not knowing placement rates for graduates. Regent Hutchinson strongly advocates for the Success of Each NMSU student to learn at a bar that is not lowered for numerous reasons but is raised to help them achieve their goals. Regent Hutchinson expressed confidence in President Carruthers and his faculty and staff to "lead" New Mexico in re-tooling, re-thinking and reforming higher education in New Mexico.

Faculty Senate Chairman Stuart Munson-McGee commented that in the 2.4% tuition increase plan, he sees things that will enhance NMSU. Regent Hicks concurred and said she has a problem with cutting the things that will enhance our programs. She asked what has happened before our first Goal in Vision 2020? Chairman Cheney responded "rightsizing" and we asked for help from the students.

Regent Mitchell moved approval of the 2.4% tuition increase plan with a directive to look at a guaranteed 4 year tuition plan, focus on converting some positions to student employee positions, benchmark against a 4year graduation rate, and adjust Vision 2020 KPIs accordingly. Regent Hicks offered an amendment of a proposed guaranteed tuition plan. Regent Cheney restated the motion as amended and asked for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote:

Regent Mitchell-yes
Regent Hutchinson-yes
Regent López Askin-yes
Regent Hicks-yes
Regent Cheney-No

B .Approval of Housing Rates for 2015-2016 Academic Year--(Ms. Angela Throneberry, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance)

Housing rate increases were presented by AVP D'Anne Stuart and Ermelinda Quintela. Recommendations were made to get rid of landlines in the dorms and to align housing with retention goals in Vision 2020. Regent Mitchell moved that housing plans cost remain flat, Motion seconded, motion passed.

c. Approval of Meal Plan Rates for 2015-2016 Academic Year--(Ms. Angela Throneberry, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance)

Regents discussed the increase in labor costs to the campus purveyor, Sodexo As well as a marketing plan to get faculty and staff interested in eating on campus. Regent Mitchell moved and Regent López Askin seconded the motion to increase the cost of student meal plans. Motion passed.

d. Approval of Parking Permit Rates for 2015-2016 Academic Year--(Ms. Angela Throneberry, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance)

The proposed changes to increasing parking rates for NMSU permits was discussed with D'Anne Stuart pointing out that the "black" sticker used primarily by administrators will be receive the highest increase. Regent Mitchell questioned whether she has supported (in the budget committee) a raise to student rates. Chairman Cheney asked the presenters what would be the reduction in funding to not raise student rates. The team responded they thought it would be approximately 50K. Regent Mitchell moved and Regent Hicks seconded the motion to raise parking permits fees to the proposed levels with the exception of student permits which would not increase. Chairman Cheney called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Approval of an administrative rule (NMAC) for the Creation of 19.15.112 (NMAC) establishing the Retail Natural gas (CNG/LNG) Regulations to set forth minimum standards for the operation of retail/wholesale gas fueling facilities, including mobile re-fueling vehicles and equipment, as defined by the Petroleum Products Standards Act, Chapter 57, Article 19, Sections 23 through 38, new Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 Compilation. (Jeff Witte, New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture) (5 minutes)

Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte present a rule change to the NMAC on setting the standard for liquefied natural gas. States have been waiting for a national standard but New Mexico decided to move ahead. Regent Mitchell asked if by employing this rule change we would limit our competitive environment with "our neighbors". Secretary Witte, said "absolutely not." Regent Hicks moved, and Regent Mitchell seconded the rule change. Motion passed unanimously.

3:00 PM

12. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO REGENTS' COMMITTEES-Chairman Mike Cheney (5 minutes)

- a. Two Representatives to the Audit Committee (Regent Hicks, Regent López Askin)
- b. Two Representatives to the Budget Committee (Regent Mitchell, Regent Hutchinson)
- c. Two Representatives to the Real Estate Committee (Regent Cheney, Regent Hicks)
- d. One Representative to the NMSU Foundation Board of Directors (Regent Hutchinson)

Chairman Cheney announced the appointments to Regents' Committees for the ensuing year. He also appointed Regent López Askin to the Arrowhead Center Board.

3:05 PM

13. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS-Chairman Mike Cheney

- a. Audit Committee Update-Dr. Jim Bullock, Chair (5 minutes)

The Regents' Audit Committee met 3/24/2015. They discussed the selection of an external auditor, non-routine audits, the 2015 Audit Plan to include a Risk Assessment Methodology which is critical. They also were shown new auditing software, "Auto Audit" and a review of staffing in the Office of Audit Services was discussed. Chairman Bullock stated the audit committee can improve and be proactive.

- b. Real Estate Committee Update-Chairman Mike Cheney (5 minutes)

Chairman Cheney gave an update on the NMSU Hotel project, the Aggie Development, Inc. (ADI) projects to include: east campus lands, bond ratings, lands north of University Avenue, defunct greenhouses, former State Police building, Rosemont lease for the Albuquerque Center, and the status of the USPS lease in Corbett Center.

3:15 PM

14. RECURRING REPORTS –Chairman Mike Cheney

- a. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate, Dr. Stuart Munson-Mcgee (5 minutes)

Faculty Senate Chairman Munson-Mcgee reported on several pieces of legislation:

Reducing the number of credits need for a baccalaureate Degree from 128 to 120, a policy on retroactive course withdrawal, requirement for 100-200 level course inform students of mid-term grades, a Memorial passed supporting the “Freedom of Expression” policy, the restructuring of Academic Affairs at Dona Ana Community College and a change to the number of representatives allocated the NMSU System for the community colleges.

- b. Report from the President, Associated Students of NMSU, Mr. Wesley Jackson (5 minutes)

ASNMSU President Wes Jackson reported on the “Big Event”, his focus to create a walk-only zone on the NMSU International Mall. He thanked Dr. Tammie Campos for her work on the ASNMSU scholarship.

- c. Report from the Chair, NMSU Employee Council, Mr. Greg Block (5 minutes)

Chair Greg Block reported there will be an upcoming forum on the NMSU Budget on April 15th. NMSU’s first Founder’s Day will be held April 10th will a lunch in the Trader’s Plaza in front of the College of Business.

3:30 PM

15. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**-Chairman Mike Cheney (5 minutes)

Regent Mitchell nominated and Regent Hutchinson seconded Regent López Askin for Secretary Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously

Regent Mitchell nominated and Regent Hutchinson seconded Regent Hicks for Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously

Regent Mitchell nominated and Regent Hicks seconded Regent Mike Cheney for Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

3:35 pm

16. **ADJOURNMENT**-Chairman Mike Cheney

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mike Cheney at 3:53pm.