

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of New Mexico State University met in the Regents Room, Educational Services Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico on Monday, March 12, 2012.

Chair Conniff called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Regents Present	Laura M. Conniff, Chair Isaac J. Pino, Vice Chair Christopher Dulany, Secretary / Treasurer Mike Cheney, Member Javier M. Gonzales, Member
Ex-officio Regents Present	Dr. Stu Munson-McGee, Faculty Senate Chair Austin Graham, President ASNMSU
Officers of the University Present	Dr. Barbara Couture, President Dr. Wendy K. Wilkins, Executive Vice President / Provost
Chair NMSU Employee Council	Dr. Fred Lillibridge
Other Presenters	Ms. Bernadette Montoya, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Mr. Ricardo Rel, Assistant Vice President of Government Relations Dr. Michelle Schuster, Assistant Professor, Biology Dr. Ken Martin, Professor, Finance

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

- a. Introduction of Press, Elected Officials, and Others by Maureen Howard, Associate Vice President for University Communications and Marketing Services

**Associate Vice President Maureen Howard announced that no members of the media were present.**

- b. Introduction of Mr. Anthony Parra, Deputy Director/Secretary of New Mexico Department of Agriculture by Jeff Witte, Director/Secretary of New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

**Mr. Jeff Witte introduced Mr. Anthony Parra, Deputy Director/Secretary of New Mexico Department of Agriculture.**

Anthony J. Parra grew up in southern New Mexico with family roots in farming and ranching.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Economics and Business and a master's degree in Agriculture Extension Education, both from New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Anthony has worked for NMSU for the past 19 years in various capacities. Most recently, he was the director of Business Operations and Financial Services for Information and Communication Technologies.

Anthony and his wife Jennifer have two daughters Emilee age 13 and Kailee age 10.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Regent Cheney moved and Regent Pino seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regent Pino moved and Regent Cheney seconded the approval of the minutes of January 30, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. REGENTS "ABOVE AND BEYOND" AWARD**

President Barbara Couture introduced Greg Vogel, Hazardous Waste Specialist, as the March 2012 recipient of the Regents Above and Beyond Award.

**7. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Approved Meeting Dates

- Thursday, April 5, 2012, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Friday, May 11, 2012, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Thursday, June 21, 2012, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Monday, August 20, 2012, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Monday, October 15, 2012, Carlsbad, New Mexico

- Friday, December 14, 2012, Las Cruces, New Mexico

## **8. CONFIRMATION OF PRIOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Regents of New Mexico State University met in executive session at 12:00 p.m. on Monday January 30, 2012 in the Zuni Ballroom in the Inn at Loretto Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico to discuss personnel, legal and real estate matters in accordance with Section 10-15-1H, paragraphs (2), (7), and (8) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Those board members who were present hereby certify by roll call vote that only matters of that nature were discussed in closed meeting.

The motion to adopt this statement, upon being put to a vote, was passed and adopted on the following recorded vote: Chair Conniff, Vice Chair Pino, Secretary/Treasurer Dulany, Regent Gonzales, and Regent Cheney. Five Regents present having voted in favor of said motion, said motion carried, and said statement was adopted.

## **9. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Policy
  1. Intentionally Left Blank
- b. Administrative
  1. Approval of the naming of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Room (room 130) in the Chemistry and biochemistry building the "Professor Walter Lwowski NMR Facility" – (Dr. Dennis Prescott, Vice President for University Advancement)
  2. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement between New Mexico State University and AFSCME Local 2393 NMSU – (Bruce Kite, General Counsel)
  3. Approval of Disposition/Deletion of Property. University property being recommended for disposition/deletion – (Ms. Angela Throneberry, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance)
- c. Real Estate
  1. Approve revisions to Policy 9.20 Real Estate Policy, to clarify intent regarding delegation of authority by the Board, and to formally recognize the Regents' Real Estate Committee – (Bruce Kite, General Counsel)

Regent Cheney moved and Regent Pino seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## 10. **ACTION ITEMS**

### a. Policy

1. Approval of fractional grading policy. (Dr. Wendy K. Wilkins, Provost and Executive Vice President)

Provost Wilkins provided a brief history of the consideration of fraction grading (+/-) at New Mexico State University. NMSU Faculty Senate has been considering the matter either informally or formally since the 2006-2007 academic year. Concerns about the +/- proposal included the impact of a new grading system on financial aide eligibility. In the of Fall 2010 an ad hoc committee developed a new proposal on fractional grading. That ad hoc committee involved faculty, associate deans, other administrators and three students, Travis Dulany, ASNMSU President at the time, Matt Moberly, a representative for the graduate students and Joey Baldonado, an undergraduate student. The work of that ad hoc committee resulted in a proposition that involved fractional grades between A and F. The associate deans academic council approved the proposal on December 6, 2010. Next, the proposal was presented to the academic deans council and was approved by that body on January 18, 2011. The faculty senate approved the proposal on March 3, 2011.

Following approval of the fractional grading system the faculty realized that there could be a negative impact of the new policy on basic skills courses (required grade for passing the basic skill is a C). To address potential impact a proposition was approved such that students receiving a C- could be considered to have met their basic skills requirement. Following passage of both of those propositions through faculty senate, additional concerns surfaced from faculty, members of the administration and also by some of you (members of the board of regents) regarding the impact fractional grading might have on financial aide eligibility, particularly related to maintenance of the minimum GPA for Pell eligibility and NM lottery scholarships. To address those particular concerns the provost convened a working group that working group that involved participants from Faculty Senate, ASNMU leadership, graduate student council leadership, advisors from athletics, president of the Hispanic caucus, and also a liaison member to the board of regents, Regent Pino. That working group considered various different fractional grading scenarios that might be predict the impact on students GPA to ascertain whether students would be disadvantaged with regard to financial aide eligibility.

Following the work of this group, members of the faculty developed a new faculty senate proposition which restricted the award of the +/- grades to only grades between A and C+. Importantly that means that a C- counts in the GPA calculation in the same way that a C counts and there is no D+ or D-, just the whole letter grade D. The faculty senate supported this alternative grading scenario on a robust voice vote. The alternative +/- grading scenario was also supported by the Academic Associate Deans

Council and the Academic Deans Council and it was officially supported at the Faculty Senate on February 9, 2012.

On February 23, 2012 the ASNMSU defeated a resolution to support the revised proposition. The defeat was surprising given the amount of interaction with ASNMSU and graduate student council leadership.

With regard to the advantages of fractional grading, the Provost noted that a more finely tuned grading scale gives more accurate feedback to students, particularly to students on the margins who will likely receive better feedback when there is a +/- grading scale. She also noted that nationally, universities are trending toward fractional grading. By contract, there is no evidence of institutions moving back to whole letter grading.

Regent Gonzales wondered why an academic matter required BOR action. He asked for clarification on that matter from the General Counsel or President.

President Couture noted that academic matters such as this would not have required BOR action. NMSU policies require the Board of Regents to act on anything that is "university policy." The policy also incorporates other documents including the course catalog and the student handbook.

While some ambiguity does exist regarding the question of BOR approval our general counsel recommended that since this a change to the course catalog and since the catalog is referred to in university policy, board action was required.

Regent Gonzales asked whether the Board of Regents approve the course catalog on an annual basis.

Mr. Kite responded that at some point between 2002 and today the BOR indicated that an annual presentation of the catalog was necessary; however this request appears to have been more of an informal matter and the policy was never changed. Mr. Kite noted although the grading process is an academic matter within the purview of the faculty, changing the academic structure from straight letter grades to fractional grading systems is a major change in policy for this institution. We felt that this proposal policy is a hybrid between purely administrative and purely academic. To be consistent with prior decisions that have been made in the past on hybrid situations, we recommended presentation to the BOR.

Regent Gonzales asked why the Board of Regents doesn't see tenure decisions.

Mr. Kite responded that the final decision to grant a faculty member tenure is an academic recommendation to the president, but added that if a faculty member is denied tenure, it is possible an appeal of the denial could come before this board.

Regent Gonzales stated that his point in asking these questions is to point out the inconsistent message sent to the university on when an academic matter requires board

action. He feels the Board should make it clear that authority over any academic policy should reside with the president and through an appeals process allow issues to be presented to the board. Regent Gonzales expressed hope that direction either by the chair or the incoming chair will give the president authority to address these issues but still allow an appeal to the BOR.

Regent Conniff agreed that issue of Board authority should be considered.

Regent Gonzales wondered about the circumstances that occurred between the time there was some concurrence by ASNMSU leadership and the senate rejection.

ASNMSU President Graham explained that when the vote came before the student senate there was lobbying of supporters by those that were opposed that resulted in a change of heart by supporters. He also pointed out some unique circumstances that may have influenced many senators votes.

President Graham concluded that he had no indications prior to that meeting that the resolution was going to fail.

Regent Gonzales asked ASNMSU President Graham's thoughts on going forward and if he thought a consensus could be reached.

President Graham acknowledged the effort that had been expended on the issue and his disappointment in the senate vote. He noted, however, his responsibility to represent all 18,000 students – whose senators had unanimously rejected the resolution.

Regent Gonzales asked whether there would be any willingness to continue to try to find a consensus.

President Graham expressed uncertainty and described the amount of effort he had exerted to convince the senators of the value of the proposal.

Regent Pino thanked Mr. Kite for clarification on the policy question. He emphasized the importance of abiding by policy until changed. He noted how personally challenging this issue had been for him. For him, it is clear that the board has authority in this matter, particularly because it crosses constituent lines. He expressed the need to look for compromise especially given the possibility that the proposal could have an effect on revenue.

Regent Pino acknowledged the work of the ad hoc group and of his belief that consensus had been reached. He wondered whether the senators had received all the information from the working group and the compromises reached as a result of that process.

Regent Dulany pointed out the apparent lack of a standard grading policy across the higher education spectrum. He wondered about using a numerical formula that is accurate down to the number.

Provost Wilkins noted that some faculty members likely do give exact number grades so that that individual faculty/student level, a precise amount of feedback is present. However, she pointed out that what is being recommended here is the way that institution GPA is calculated.

Regent Dulany asked about a situation where a student holds a scholarship that requires a 3.0. Through fractional grading, he would fall below a 3.0 (2.) and lose the scholarship.

Provost Wilkins responded that although she didn't know the precise scenarios considered by the Faculty Senate, she expressed her chief concern as being the financial aid implications for the largest group of students. She also mentioned that the new grading policy would not go into effect until the Summer of 2013. She also mentioned that there would not be a recalculation of grades that it will only be prospective.

With respect to graduate students in particular, she has talked to graduate student council representatives and individual faculty members about the impact on graduate students. She expects graduate students will have time to adjust their expectations in performance such that no assistantships/financial aid would be jeopardized.

Dr. Stu Munson-McGee emphasized the Provosts point that the +/- system serves as a motivation for students not just the ones that are at the high end of the grading scale but also the ones in the middle and the ones that are maybe at the B- or A- end of the scale. He believes that one of the advantages of fractional grading is that it gives to the graduate and undergraduate students an incentive to work a little harder, do a little better, perform a little better and that will be recognized and rewarded and he thinks that is a legitimate reason to approve a policy like this.

Regent Dulany asked whether there would be uniformity by the faculty in the application of +/-.

Dr. Stu Munson-McGee responded that he expects faculty members to decide whether to use a fractional grading scheme then to reflect that decision in the syllabus so that student will know and can conform heir enrollment accordingly. He expressed his personal belief that a fractional grading scheme will be much more equitable and much more representative of the performance of the student.

He reminded the group about the things the Faculty Senate has done to look at the unintended negative consequences of going to this kind of a grading system. The Senate has thought about what would happen to eligibility for various scholarships and so the scheme was adjusted to account for that. You heard about the potential negative consequence of not passing general education classes if you got a C- when before that was considered acceptable performance, and so that has been adjusted as well. He thinks over the last two years or so, the concern of the faculty has been to fine-tune the proposal to prevent unintended negative consequences prior to asking for the BOR's approval.

Regent Dulany asked again whether there was an intent to streamline the grading system such that there is consistency from section to section.

Provost Wilkins responded that the Faculty Senate legislation was not intended to direct faculty members to grade in any particular way.

Regent Gonzales expressed concern that a grading system where one professor can choose to do fractional grading and another professor can choose to not participate seems unfair to the students.

Provost Wilkins acknowledged the concern, but added that such a result is possible under the grading system currently in place. A faculty member decides that you need a 95 out of 100 to receive an A, while another faculty member who requires a 90 out of 100 to receive an A.

Regent Gonzales asked whether the Board should adopt, of the way it is currently run, a policy that requires all faculty to use.

The Provost responded that such a policy would like be unprecedented.

Regent Cheney asked Mr. Kite to clarify that the policy does require Board action.

Mr. Kite confirmed that his office felt the proposed policy did require BOR approval. He added that nothing would prohibit the Board from modifying the policy to allow delegation of authority to the president.

Regent Pino asked whether the delegation could occur on any issue.

Mr. Kite clarified the circumstances under which the BOR could delegate its authority.

Regent Cheney acknowledged the climate under which the Student Senate vote was taken and of his ultimate support of the faculty.

Regent Conniff asked whether the C-, the D+, the D- would appear on the transcript.

Vice President Montoya confirmed that the C-, D+, D- would actually appear on the transcript and would be calculated into the GPA but as a whole letter grade.

Regent Conniff also asked for confirmation that other universities in the state use a fractional grading system. She then stated her desire after commending all of those involved in this work, to move forward on this issue and asked whether the Board was ready to make a motion.

Regent Pino moved to table this issue until the May meeting and ask the President and the Provost to conduct student forums to discuss the proposal and then have the President report back to us in May on the result of the additional discussion.

Regent Gonzales seconded the motion.



Regent Pino clarified that he wanted the President and the Provost to host student forums and then return the matter to the Board for final ratification. He described his motion as "purely from a process," that he doesn't expect any additional presentations about +/- merely a review of the process that occurred so that all the constituent groups can feel they were heard.

Regent Gonzales seconded the motion and also thanked the faculty for their work on the proposal and their patience as the process has played out. He also stated his desire to vote this up or down in May.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regent Pino moved and Regent Gonzales seconded to table and decide at May 2012 meeting of the Action Item. The motion passed unanimously.

## **11. NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Faculty presentation

Dr. Michele Shuster, Assistant Professor, Biology

Dr. Kenneth J. Martin, Professor, Finance Department

President Couture introduced Michelle Schuster from the Biology Department and Kenneth Martin a Regents Professor in the Finance Department as examples of the outstanding teaching of the NMSU faculty.

Dr. Michelle Schuster and Dr. Ken Martin made presentations related to their respective classroom activities.

## **12. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Presentation on Building the Vision – (Dr. Wendy K. Wilkins, Executive Vice President and Provost)

Provost Wilkins presented an overview of Building the Vision, a strategic plan largely focused on the academic mission of the university. The power point will be posted on the Provost office website. This plan has been developed under a charge from President Couture.

This plan attempts to honor past strategic commitments even as we define a new path for the university. We were asked to work with the deans and with the faculty to find ways to accurately measure the progress of the plan. The objective goals and strategies of this five year plan are intended to be quite general. We will recommend that the Board of Regents adopt the plan at its May meeting, but over the life of the plan, annual update on progress will be provided to the Board.

The provost pointed out that each goal has associated objectives, strategies, and a time associated with each of the actions. The first action will be ongoing as early as Summer of 2012. Key performance indicators are listed with each goal.

The Provost highlighted the benchmark key performance indicators and noted that it is on these measures that we would hope to make annual progress. She also mentioned the need to carefully define the key indicators and to be very clear with everyone about exactly what we mean by these measures. The provost emphasized the collaborations of various groups across campus with the BTV committee and noted the consistency of recommendations across the spectrum of those respective groups.

Regent Gonzales asked about the need for a goal that states a desire to increase first time freshmen.

The provost acknowledged the possibility of such a goal but noted the need to be realistic in setting these key performance indicators so that we have some control about actually reaching them and that the KPI's take into consideration external factors such as demographics.

Regent Gonzales discussed his strong belief that the institution needs to establish a baseline for growth to make certain that resource allocation and effort are aligned with our enrollment numbers.

Provost Wilkins agreed with Regent Gonzales' concern and also suggested that a goal for transfer students might need to be developed.

President Couture mentioned that the new state formula will motivate us in certain ways, particularly toward graduation, course completion, and retention. She mentioned that with any good plan there can always be some modification.

President Couture believes that we need to consider what the future size of this university should be with respect to each of the campuses. This involves the academic qualifications of students coming to the university as well as demographic realities.

Provost Wilkins recommends, through the BTV process, to consider a revision of the mission and to consider the adoption of a vision statement for our university. She also pointed out that there is no goal focused specifically on research; however, President Couture has asked that we consider modifying the statement of one or another of the goals to specifically highlight our research mission and our desire to grow our research portfolio.

The BTV committee will work with the colleges and the Division of Student Affairs on the strategic planning during academic year 2012 with drafts due to the BTV committee in February 2013. There would then be feedback in March 2013 with final drafts completed by April of 2013. These will be reviewed by the Office of the Provost and President Couture if she chooses to. She has talked with Senior Vice President

Throneberry about how the work of the BTV committee fits into the budget process and expects to have a plan to address that issue.

Regent Conniff commented on the great presentation by Provost Wilkins. She expressed appreciation to the entire committee.

Regent Dulany applauded the work that has been done. He would like to make sure that we are developing a culture where students understand their roles as alumni, especially in regard to their respect to give back. He would also like to see something about alumni donating be more prominently featured on the website.

Regent Gonzales would like to see some outreach between now and May to alumni and other constituents to allow input of Building the Vision plan.

President Couture mentioned that Building the Vision was designed as an academic strategic plan and that we put academic in front for a reason. But it does have an outreach component. The vice presidents who have contributed to separate areas of the plan that have specific outreach commissions have worked with their constituencies on those issues. She feels that it is a great suggestion and will work with Alumni Director, Tammy Campos. We now have a way of connecting to our university alumni through the website and can send out notices indicating if alumni are interested in interacting on the strategic plan where they can go to give their input. There is also a collection box for university personnel and others all across our campus communities and beyond to interact with the plan by email comment that we will make more broadly known to our alumni.

b. Update on the 2012 Legislative Session – (Mr. Ricardo Rel, Assistant Vice President for Governmental Relations)

Vice President Ricardo Rel welcomed Vicente Vargas who came to help with part of the presentation. He thanked Jeff Witte, NMDA, and Liz Holmes for their help during the session. He also thanked ASNMSU, particularly the student advocacy board that went up to Santa Fe and worked with them and helped get NMSU's messages out.

### **Goals**

#### Compensation

- \* Eliminate ERB Switch and/or compensation increase

#### Instruction and General

- \* New funding for the modified I & G formula
- \* Base plus approach for I & G
- \* No tuition credit
- \* Degree data correction

Research & Public Service Projects

- \* ~5% increase in funding for Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station and New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

Capital Outlay

- \* GOB Funding for requested projects
- \* STB Funding for requested projects

Legislative

- \* HB 23 – Special Events Tax Deduction
- \* Legislative Support for Air Force ROTC
- \* ASNMSU Lottery Scholarship Memorial

**Compensation**

- \* The Final Bill includes the LFC and Executive recommendation to eliminate the 1.75% ERB Switch
- \* Employees will have an increase to their take home pay starting July 1, 2012
- \* The final bill did not include compensation increases

**Percent Change for Higher Education Appropriations for FY 13**

- \* Higher Education saw an increase of 5.7%
- \* 4 year and 2 year schools saw an increase of 6.1%
- \* Special Schools saw an increase of 15.9%
- \* Higher Education Department saw a decrease of 3.5%

**NMSU System Budget**

- \* Instruction and General saw an increase of 4.7% without the ERB change and 6.6% with the ERB change.
- \* Non – Instruction and General saw an increase of 3.1% without the ERB change and 5.2% with the ERB change.
- \* Total increase of 4.3% without the ERB change and 6.3% with the ERB change.

**Instruction and General**

- \* Final Bill adopted the formula modifications proposed by the Higher Education Department and the Legislative Finance Committee
- \* The adopted formula provides:
  - Funding for completed student hours (big change)
  - three outcome measures, including:
    - \* Total Awards (Degrees and Certificates)
    - \* Science, Technology, Engineering Math and Health Degrees

- \* Financially at Risk (Students eligible for Pell Grant in graduation year)

**Non – Instruction and General**

- \* \$500,000 Increase for Cooperative Extension Service
- \* \$300,000 Increase for Aggie Experiment Station
- \* \$600,000 Increase for New Mexico Department of Agriculture
  - \$200,000 Base Adjustment
  - \$400,000 Soil and Water Conservation Districts(Pass-Through)
- \* Restore \$72,000 funding for Alliance for Teaching and Learning Advancement
- \* 24% Decrease for Indian Resources Development
- \* Elimination of International Relations

Regent Gonzales wanted to know if the monies in the non-instruction and general are non recurring monies or if they will be recurring until the legislation determines otherwise.

Vice President Rel responded that it is all recurring funding.

**Capital Outlay**

**General Obligation Bond (GOB)**

- \* Pre-session: \$312.5 million (mill levy increase)
- \* Pre-session: \$180 million (flat mill levy)
- \* Post-session: \$139.4 million (flat mill levy)

**Severance Tax Bond (STB)**

- \* \$130.4 million authorized
- \* \$22.9 million vetoed

**Capital Outlay for NMSU System (House Bill 191 STB)**

- \* NMSU system \$5.945 million legislatively authorized
- \* \$210,000 was vetoed
- \* Largest single higher education appropriation \$5 million

**Capital Outlay for NMSU System (Senate Bill 66 GOB)**

- \* NMSU System \$24 million
- \* Largest single GOB appropriation \$19 million

**Legislation**

Passed/Enacted legislation Requested by NMSU

- \* HB 23 – Special Events Tax Deduction
- \* HJM 14 – Lottery Scholarship (ASNMSU Request)
- \* HM 68 & SM 82 – Support NMSU Air Force ROTC
- \* HJM 6 – Support for Center of Excellence for PSL Unmanned Aerial Systems.

## Unresolved Legislation

- \* ERB Solvency Bills

**Summary**

- \* Elimination of the 1.75% ERB Switch
- \* \$7.6 million in new general operating funds for the system
- \* \$29.7 million in capital outlay funding for NMSU
- \* All NMSU requested legislation passed

Regent Pino acknowledged Ricardo and Vicente and the whole team effort on the representation of the university at the session. He mentioned that there were lots of comments that NMSU had the place covered for the entire session. He congratulated everyone, especially President Couture, on how she always seemed to be at two places at one time.

He asked how we would utilize \$110,000 we received for athletics.

President Couture stated that as it became clear there was not going to be funding for large athletic projects, NMSU made it clear that the public policy institute was our STB funding priority.

Regent Gonzales congratulated President Couture on the amazing efforts in Santa Fe and thanked Ricardo and Vicente for doing a phenomenal job. He feels it has made a positive difference having a full time person in Santa Fe and that Vicente has earned the respect among legislators. Regent Gonzales also complimented Secretary Witte and efforts in obtaining the money for the Ag program. He congratulated the NMSU students for their presence during the session.

President Couture expressed her appreciation to the Regents for their role in the efforts during the session.

- c. Enrollment Update – (Bernadette Montoya, Vice President Student Affairs and Enrollment Management)

Vice President Bernadette Montoya reported on Spring 2012 Enrollment figures as of the spring census date.

- \* Headcount down 3.3%; SCH down 1.8% (system wide)
- \* Headcount down 3.3%; SCH down 1.5% (Las Cruces campus)
- \* Headcount down 5.9%; SCH down 6% (graduate Level)
- \* International Graduate Enrollments down 54 students
- \* Alamogordo Campus Enrollment down 12.1%; SCH down 4.3%
- \* Carlsbad Campus Enrollment down 2.5%; SCH down 5.3%
- \* Dona Ana Campus Enrollment down 1.0%; SCH up 1.2%
- \* Grants Campus Enrollment down 29.3%; SCH down 19.3%

There has been a decrease in NMSU-Las Cruces students enrolling in other campuses. Want to make sure students see a benefit to be enrolled fulltime at their campus of primary admission.

### **Future for State of NM**

- \* Demographics are going to be a challenge.
- \* High school draw has dropped since 2009 based on the data from the National Center for Educational Statistics. NMSU's high school draw has been between 10.3% – 9.2% from 2009 – 2011.
- \* The number of NM Public High School Graduates will decrease significantly in 2013 and then gradually rise through 2019 to over 18,500 students.

### **Initiatives**

- \* Started to offer high achieving scholarships much earlier.
- \* Invested more scholarship dollars to assist students with tuition.
- \* Transfer center is opened and Phi Beta Kappa will be offered scholarships to attend NMSU as transfer students.
- \* Working in conjunction with Arts and Sciences College who has taken on the challenge of offering appropriate courses for the mini semester so students can add more hours to their load.
- \* Marketing campaign with UCOMM to make us known in the northern part of the state.
- \* Working with NM high school graduates to make sure they know about the nuances and requirements for the NM Lottery Scholarships.
- \* Mid semester check program to ensure student success at the end of the semester. Student Success Center is located in Zuhl library.

Regent Cheney asked about the percentage of students that are New Mexico high school graduates attending NMSU. Although VP Montoya could not recall the precise percentage she mentioned that the majority of undergraduates are from the state of New Mexico with the largest number from Dona Ana County.

Regent Gonzales mentioned that he would like to have a fuller discussion regarding our enrollment efforts. He wants to know where we have been, where we are, and where we will be to get an understanding of all the departments involved in the outreach and enrollment efforts.

President Couture described the various efforts underway on campus designed to better understand all aspects of enrollment management.

## **13. RECURRING REPORTS**

- a. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate by Dr. Stu Munson-McGee

Dr McGee reported to the board that Faculty Senate has been involved in several pieces of legislation recently the most recent one was they passed the proposal on fractional grading. They have also passed proposals asking the Educational

Retirement Board to modify its rule to allow summer income to count towards retirement income for faculty. They are working on trying to align the two English tests for our international students so that the performance levels on those two tests are comparable.

The Faculty Senate is also working on legislation to change the burden of proof for grievances against faculty. They have also been requested to recommend the creation of a Department of Public Health Sciences.

Faculty Senate elections are underway.

- b. Report from the President, Associated Students of New Mexico State University by Mr. Austin Graham

ASNMSU had the Big Event with 1,200 student participants, 800 students participated in the Aggie Festival promoting Ag Awareness and approximately 2,000 students attended the Aaron Watson concert. The election ends on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. ASNMSU has lifted several regulations to allow funding for travel in and out of the country. The student memorial design has been chosen and the location is east of Corbett Center near the outdoor stage. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony on May 1, 2012 as well as the first official memorial ceremony for all students. Spring Fling has begun and Spring Break safety tips are being distributed.

- c. Report from the Chair, NMSU Employee Council by Dr. Fred Lillibridge

The Employee Council has continued to reorganize itself during the past five weeks.

They have appointed employees to key university committees that are working on many university issues.

They elected new officers (Dave Brockmeyer, as chair-elect and Cherri Lambeth as secretary-treasurer).

Last Thursday they held a productive planning meeting. They also have appealed directly to employees to get their input about future plans.

They have committees analyzing a range of proposals including

- the creation of an Employee Emergency Fund for all employees
- financial wellness programs and
- improved employee recognition programs
- Creation of a golf league

Not all of these ideas were the Council's – many have been presented to the council by concerned and engaged NMSU employees.



They hope to provide President Couture with concrete suggestions and recommendations in the next few months.

**14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

- a. Chair of the Board

Regent Isaac Pino moved, seconded by Regent Javier Gonzales, to nominate Mike Cheney as Chair of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Vice Chair of the Board

Regent Christopher Dulany moved, seconded by Regent Javier Gonzales, to nominate Isaac Pino as Vice Chair of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Secretary/Treasurer of the Board

Regent Javier Gonzales moved, seconded by Regent Isaac Pino, to nominate Christopher Dulany as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

**15. OTHER / COMMENTS**

Regents Conniff thanked everyone as she concluded her third and final term as president of the NMSU Board of Regents. She expressed to the board, the members of the administration, faculty, staff and the students for their work on behalf of NMSU.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion, Regent Pino moved.

There being no more business the Board of Regents adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carolyn Aragon.

  
Laura M. Conniff, Chair  
Board of regents

  
Christopher Dulany, Secretary / Treasurer  
Board of Regents

