



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING  
June 12, 2017  
3:00pm**

Regents Room  
Educational Services Building  
NMSU Las Cruces Campus  
1780 East University Avenue  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

Debra Hicks, Chair	Hobbs, New Mexico
Mike Cheney, Vice Chair	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Jerean Camúñez-Hutchinson, Secretary/Treasurer	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Amanda López Askin, Ph.D., Member	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Kari Mitchell, Member	Las Cruces, New Mexico

**Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Regents**

Christopher Brown, Ph.D.	Faculty Senate Chair
Adam Cavotta	Employee Council Chair
Kevin Prieto	ASNMSU President

**University Officials**

Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.	Chancellor and President
Daniel Howard, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President and Provost
Angela Throneberry	Senior Vice President
Liz Ellis, J.D.	General Counsel

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved by the Board of Regents on June 16, 2017**

The Board of Regents meeting will be available by webcast through the link at <http://panopto.nmsu.edu/bor/>

A. **Call to Order** - Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

1. **Introductions**

**Introduction of the Media**, *Director of News and Media Relations Minerva Baumann*

Director Baumann introduced members of the media from KVIA TV, KFOX, the Las Cruces Bulletin, and the Las Cruces Sun-News.

Chancellor Carruthers introduced Lydia Duran. Ms. Duran will be taking over the executive administrative duties of the Chancellor's office. Chief of Staff Sharon Jones will be retiring at the end of June.

2. **Confirmation of Quorum**, *Chair Debra Hicks*

All Board members were seated and present. Quorum confirmed.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**, *Chair Debra Hicks*

Regent Hutchinson made a motion to approve the agenda, motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**, *Director of News and Media Relations Minerva Baumann*

The following individuals provided public comment: Ross Marks, Dr. Lakshmi Reddi, Dr. Miriam Chaiken, Dr. Lou Sisbarro, Joseph Cairns, Dr. Jim Peach, Dr. Michèle Shuster, Mike Hoskins, Dr. Katrina Doolittle, Dr. Tara Gray, Dino Cervantes, and Dr. Tom Dormody.

B. **Approval of the Minutes**, *Chair Debra Hicks*

1. Special Meeting – May 26, 2017

Chair Hicks called for consideration of the meeting minutes of May 26, 2017. Regent Hutchinson moved approval of the minutes, motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. **Action Items**, *Chair Debra Hicks*

1. **Tuition and Fee Rates and Budget Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

*Senior Vice President Angela Throneberry*

Senior Vice President Throneberry summarized budget reductions over the last few years. She shared reductions in staffing, student enrollment and student credit hours delivered. SVP Throneberry proposed blended tuition and fee increases for each campus: Las Cruces 6%, Alamogordo 4.9%, Carlsbad 15.2%, Dona Ana 5.9% and Grants 8.9%. She discussed tuition and fee rates of Vision 2020 peer and New Mexico four-year institutions. SVP Throneberry highlighted changes in sources and uses of instruction and general related funds. The guidelines included permanent budget reductions for each campus: Las Cruces \$7.93 million; Alamogordo \$977,501; Carlsbad \$45,016; Dona Ana \$1.48 million and Grants \$238,200.

Chief Budget Officer Paula Pierson discussed the ASNMSU criteria for consideration of expenditure reductions including the number of students served, the potential for alternate funding and the perceived value to the function.

SVP Throneberry stressed the critical nature of the proposed tuition and fee increase to maintaining the stability on NMSU's financial operation. She shared a recent downgrade of New Mexico State University's debt to A1 outlook stable by Moody's Investors Service. SVP Thronberry stated Moody's cited cumulative pressures on revenue streams including net tuition, state funding, and research, against a backdrop of weak cash flow and liquidity as reasons for the downgrade.

Revenue losses resulting from a decline in enrollment, coupled with reductions in state appropriations and declining investments in federal research, have posed significant financial challenges. ASNMSU, Faculty Senate, Employee Council each expressed support for the proposed blended tuition and fee increases. A tuition increase will not be a huge detriment to students attending college, nor will an increase solve NMSU's underlying financial challenges. The quality and value of an NMSU degree was emphasized.

Some believe it is important NMSU define who we are and who we want to be. Others stressed the difference in the lives of students, state residents and the regional economy made by NMSU. Investments in centralized advising, enhanced orientation and a stronger focus on academics were highlighted. A heightened focus on marketing was mentioned as a precursor to promising interest being shown from the El Paso area. Opportunities exist in online education and summer school.

Discussion included progress on the Transforming NMSU project. A summary of cost savings realized will be provided in July 2017. The planning and strategy for the required permanent budget reductions necessary to achieve the budget guidelines is underway. The implementation plan will be shared with the university community during the summer of 2017.

Regent López Askin made a motion to approve the blended increase in tuition and fees proposed. Motion seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Informational Items, Chair Debra Hicks**

- 1. Chancellor's Report, Chancellor Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.**  
No report.
- 2. Other Informational Items**  
None.

**E. Announcements, Chair Debra Hicks**

**1. "Gun's Up" – Good News for NMSU!**

Comments recognized the good work of Chief of Staff Jones, the investment in nursing faculty at the Dona Ana campus, the success of Athletics in the conference Commissioner's Cup, academic summer outreach activities, Descubre program interest, the accomplishments of Senior Vice President Angela Throneberry, congratulations to Dean Enrico Pontelli, and attractive improvements to physical campus. This year's Domenici Conference will focus on foreign policy, equity in education, and the workforce of the future.

**2. Upcoming Board of Regents Meetings**

June 16, 2017 @ 9:00am

July 31 - August 1, 2017 – Strategic Planning Meeting (TBD)

September 9, 2017 – Joint Meeting with UNM Board of Regents (TBD)

Friday, October 13, 2017 @ 9:00am

Friday, December 8, 2017 @ 9:00am

**Adjournment** - Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:12pm.