MINUTES

1. Introductions and opening statements (All board members)
   The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM.

   Members of the Board of Regents, NMSU Grants Advisory Board, NMSU Grants President, and Grants/Cibola Superintendent introduced themselves.

   Board of Regents Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel express her pleasure at being invited to attend the meeting and talked about her beginning of her education in Northern New Mexico where she went to school.

   Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer Luke Sanchez how he was excited to hear about Grants and how we can serve the university system.

   Superintendent Perez noted that he worked for UNM Gallup previously and he is been in position at the school district since March. Mr. Perez indicated that he is looking at strategic plan for the district and the workforce development initiatives. He noted that communication with NMSU on programs, such as culinary arts, is important for the school district.

   Board of Regents Member Debra Hicks discussed the alignment of MOUs with all of the various community colleges that took place a couple of years ago and the development of workforce in the regions that the community colleges serve.

2. Discussion of NMSU Grants Priorities (NMSU Grants Advisory Board members)
   It was noted that the dual credit program is helpful as it helps students to get ahead and saves the student
money. Recruitment of more rural community members is important. Having students come back and teach or stay past graduation.

President Best discussed partnership with Native American chapters and NMSU Grants. Some partnerships ended September 2017. NMSU Grants drafted an MOU with Pueblo of Acoma, To'Hajiilee Community School, Zuni Pueblo, and they are inquiring with others on agreements going forward. HLC accreditation discussed as Grants is independent accredited.

Regent Hicks thanked President Best for the update on the outreach to communities.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel discussed new tools and techniques to track students after graduation that NMSU hopes to implement in the near future. Regent Chacón-Reitzel went on to discuss the importance she places on rural communities and recalled a history of NMSU working with rural communities in the past.

It was noted that members of the Grants Advisory board have children at New Mexico State and noted a cultural difference in coming to the campus. Talked about strong support for NMSU in the community.

Grants Advisory Board members further noted the strong support for Native American students to make them feel part of the community is important. Cost is an important consideration. Highlighted the pathway between Grants Community college and a 4-year degree as a more attainable option. Talk to students about the need for education beyond high school and start talking to students before their senior year. Noted the importance and parental support and communicating with parents is key to encouraging students to pursue a post-secondary education. The MOA should have a two-way commitment to encourage members of their community to pursue education.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel emphasized that it takes everyone coming together. Perhaps there needs to be more communication. NMSU is enhancing student support and advising with both technology and better methods to keep students engaged.

Regent Sanchez noted that what are the types of students we are getting and where we are serving them is the focus of the institutional interventions and efforts to improve. Regent Sanchez asked about how Grants is reaching out to high schools.

President Best discussed early college high school, not just with classes, but with clubs that help build the relationship with the college. Navigate tracking system (which is a new technology that NMSU is adopting) is going to help students plan their academic journey.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel pointed to programs available through Arrowhead Center, 4-H, and Extension Service that also help connect students to a bigger campus and a bigger world.

Education of teachers discussed and how important it is to train teachers locally. The teacher shortages and declining student populations are challenges. Teacher raises have been given recently and that is part of the solution, but not the entire solution.

Education program at Grants Early Childhood Education and other education programs articulate with NMSU Las Cruces for a 4-year degree. The district is considering tuition reimbursement to encourage enrollment.

Charter school and home school numbers for prospective students were requested.
It was noted that NMSU Grants works with the home school association at the Gallup Home school recruiting event.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel noted that often it’s just inviting students to participate in events and making them feel welcome.

Regent Sanchez said that seeing current students that come to the school to share what they are doing is college is a good role model and that seeing diverse and non-academic life experiences having value in college will help.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel suggested that having College Ambassadors take on some of this outreach might be a good strategy.

3. Discussion of the operating agreement between NMSU Grants and NMSU Board of Regents (All board members)

President Best was asked by the NMSU Grants Advisory Board to focus on how to make some of these conversations more complete to advance the relationship in the agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes Approved on December 5, 2019 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.

Dina Chacón-Reitzel  
Board of Regents Chair

Luke Sanchez  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer