



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2024, at 2:00 PM**

Educational Services Building, Regents Room
1780 East University Avenue, Las Cruces, NM

Webcast at the following address: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/81547872302>

Regents of New Mexico State University

Chair Ammu Devasthali, Vice Chair Christopher T. Saucedo, Secretary/Treasurer Garrett Moseley, Dina Chacón-Reitzel, Deborah Romero

Non-Voting Advisory Members - ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez, Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fasenko, Ph.D., Employee Council Chair Susanne Berger

University Officials - Interim President Jay Gogue, Ph.D., Provost Alan Shoho, Ed.D., General Counsel Lisa Henderson, J.D.

Minutes

A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Devasthali called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Doña Ana County 4-Her's performed the Pledge of Allegiance (Reina Ivey), The New Mexico Pledge (Lacy Knight), and the 4-H Pledge (Paisley Knight).

1. Introduction of the Media and Elected Officials, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

There were no members of the media or elected officials present.

2. Introductions

a) Introduction of General Counsel Lisa Henderson, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Devasthali introduced General Counsel Lisa Henderson, "Lisa Henderson is New Mexico State University's new General Counsel and Chief Legal Affairs Officer. In this position Lisa will serve as NMSU's primary attorney providing legal guidance and services. Lisa previously served as associate general counsel at Oklahoma City Community College. She began her new position at NMSU on Friday, December 15, 2023. Lisa brings to NMSU a wealth of knowledge about the legal issues facing higher education and a track record as a highly effective public attorney. NMSU Interim President Jay Gogue said, 'We are excited to have her on board'. Lisa also served as general counsel for the Commissioners of the Land Office in Oklahoma City prior to her role at Oklahoma City Community College and as deputy general counsel for the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, a State agency in Oklahoma. Henderson earned her law degree with honors and her Master of Laws in healthcare from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in Norman. She also holds a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in biology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. NMSU General Counsel provides legal advice to the Board of Regents and senior executive leadership

and represents NMSU in administrative action and court proceedings. The office also supports the legal needs of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and provides oversight to NMSU's Office of Institutional Equity and the Athletics Compliance Department."

Everyone then welcomed Lisa Henderson

b) **Introduction of Graduate School Dean/Associate Provost for International Affairs Ranjit Koodali, Provost Alan Shoho**

Provost Alan Shoho, "It is my pleasure to introduce to you Dr. Ranjit Koodali. Dr. Koodali joined us about two months ago. He comes from Western Kentucky University. He got his degrees in India in particular, from Indian Institute of Technology–Madras. Within his two months he has already hit the ground running and has brought our graduate school into the twenty-first century. So, we are very pleased to have him here. He is doing a lot of great things and I think the other thing I would like to mention to him is that he is actually understanding what our graduate student experience full time in particular because he is living in our cinder block homes, so he knows what they are experiencing first hand. So, thank you very much Dr. Koodali. Would you like to say a few words?"

Graduate School Dean/Associate Provost for International Affairs Ranjit Koodali, "Good afternoon, Madam Chair Devasthali, Distinguished members of the Board and distinguished colleagues and guest. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for International Affairs. I am truly honored by this opportunity to serve our students, faculty and staff. I am hoping to elevate graduate education and ensure excellence of innovation. So, thank you Provost Shoho."

3. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the quorum and listed off the names of the regents attending as well as the members of administration, faculty senate and employee council as well as those joining on-line.

4. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

For the agenda, Regent Devasthali requested to postpone Items G.11, G.12, and G.13 on the Consent Agenda to be brought to the board at the next regular meeting in May or sooner at a special meeting.

Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to approve the amended agenda.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

B. 4-H Program Overview, Interim Department Head Laura Bittner

Interim Department Head Laura Bittner, "It is an honor to share with you some information about the New Mexico State 4-H program. As you may or may not be aware the 4-H program is the largest youth development organization in the world, with 6 million members. The New Mexico 4-H program boasts 5,500 members at present with an additional 30,000 youth that participate in school enrichment, after-school and special interest programs. If you consider the population of New Mexico, we know that at least 21% of the youth in this state are age eligible for the 4-H program. This is a number right around 444,000 youth. So, we are very aware that there is tremendous opportunity for the 4-H program to reach larger audiences, and every effort is being made in the state to extend the benefits of the 4-H program to a larger population of youth. I would like to add, the 4-H program is overseen by New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service. This is our Youth

Development Program as part of New Mexico State University, and we are always very proud to say that the '4-H program provides youth with their first class at NMSU'. One of the outreach outfits that I do want to share with you is having tremendous accomplishments in providing youth with opportunities throughout the state is a new program that was developed or started to be in development in April of 2020, and that is our Aggie Next-Step Program, which is a post-secondary success program for youth in eighth through twelfth grades. You may have had opportunity to see large groups of students or school busses from all around the state visiting the New Mexico State Campus as they participated in one of our college experiences. My colleague, Newt McCarty is the leader of the Aggie Next Step Program, and I would like to turn the time over to him to share some of the accomplishments of his program."

4-H Pathways & Youth Development Agent Newt McCarty, "I oversee the Youth Next Step Program post-secondary success program. Its program focused on eight through twelfth grade youth. Helping them to develop the skills personal, academic, and career skills that higher education institutions and our employers seek in their students and their employees. We work on critical thinking, problem solving, personal responsibility. With a lot of focus on career exploration because I believe that is the first step in helping them to find what that path is for them when they leave high school. The capstone for the curriculum is as Dr. Bitner mentioned, is our college experience, which is a 2-day campus visit. We did our first one in 2021, in 2023 we had four visits. I had 261 youth participate in forty-four different activities provided by twenty-four different departments on campus, including both our branch campuses and also the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine."

"The students are welcomed off the bus with our band and our cheer, which is a great experience for them. They are split into small groups and start their rotations around the different workshops. The key is for the workshops and activities to be career related especially for the eighth-grade students, which has been the majority of our students coming to campus and we try to expose them to as many career experiences as possible since they really do not know what exists out there for them. We have been very fortunate to have lots of support from Dr. Renay Scott who has been instrumental from the beginning and continues to support it. The program focuses on helping them find what path is for after high school. I am open for any questions you may have."

Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fasenko commented on how great Dr. Bitner and Newt are, and she is happy to be their colleague.

Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel complemented the presenters and the 4-Hers before she asked the question of "Can you please talk to us about a few more to her experiences where the students are able to come on to campus? I know that you do other events, right?"

4-H Pathways & Youth Development Agent Newt McCarty, "In 2023 we had four of those separate college experiences. In addition to that we've done some career exploration academies which are one day drop off-pickup events, where students, when they are out of school here in Las Cruces, have an opportunity to do some career exploration. The curriculum is currently in 8 counties and in 8 high schools."

Interim Department Head Laura Bittner, "I will just add to that in addition to the Aggie Next Step Program, we do host the 4-H State Conference every year in July, here on campus. So, our senior aged division youth; they are between ages of 13 to 18, come to campus, live in the dorms for a week, and participate in a number of contests and activities that are hosted here on campus. Then in January, we hosted what is called Senior

Leadership Retreat, another event for senior age division 4-H youth, and they are here on campus, and they had the opportunity to learn about scholarships and financial aid. They learned about some of the academic department’s degrees that are offered, so again, another opportunity to prepare young people for the next step after high school.”

Regent Romero, “I have a couple of questions, you mentioned eight counties, I am hoping there are some Northern New Mexico counties participating? Because during our listening tours, one thing that was mentioned is that they do not see a lot of NMSU especially when it gets north of Socorro. So, I would be interested in knowing what counties.”

4-H Pathways & Youth Development Agent Newt McCarty, “San Juan County, Rio Arriba County, Dulce Middle School has been here three times, and then we have been to Newcombe High School twice to work with their students, and I am in the process of working with Taos as one of our next focus areas.”

Regent Romero, “When do you have these events, during the school year or are they in summertime?”

4-H Pathways & Youth Development Agent Newt McCarty, “With Aggie Next Step, our college experience is during the school year because we want them to experience what it is to be on a college campus with students, so they’ll have lunch and dinner in Taos with all the other students on campus and they are walking from building to building so they get to get a good look at the whole campus, because as I mentioned we are in 24 different departments, we have been in every college on campus doing activities, so they get a good look at campus and the student life.”

Regent Romero, “I am asking because my daughter is an eighth-grade science teacher, and I would love to share this information with her. Aggie Next Step is the perfect name for the program because I do believe the kids do not know what the next step is.”

Regent Devasthali complimented and thanked the presenters and 4-Hers prior to moving on to the next agenda item. “On behalf of the board of regents, I would like to thank Dr. Bittner and the 4-H students for being here today. I had the pleasure of meeting some of the 4-H students when I was in D.C. last week and heard nothing but good about the work that these 4-H students were doing. So, keep up the good work!”

C. Confirmation of Prior Closed Sessions

1. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session February 12, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting at 10:00am at the Santa Fe County Extension Office, 3229 Rodeo Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was called to discuss limited personnel matters regarding the hiring of the New Mexico State University President and attendant matters concerning promotion, demotions, dismissal, assignment, and reassignment of personnel pursuant to NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali -Yes

2. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session February 26, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting at 2:30 pm to 5:00pm, on Monday, February 26, 2023, in Hadley Hall, on the NMSU Las Cruces campus, 2850 Weddell St. Las Cruces, New Mexico. The meeting was called to interview finalist for the President of New Mexico State University, and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

3. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session February 27, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at Hadley Hall on the NMSU Las Cruces Campus, 2850 Weddell St. Las Cruces, New Mexico. The meeting was called to interview finalist for the President of New Mexico State University, and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

4. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session February 28, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at Hadley Hall on the NMSU Las Cruces Campus, 2850 Weddell St. Las Cruces, New Mexico. The meeting was called to interview finalist for the President of New Mexico State University, and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

5. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session February 29, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at Hadley Hall on the NMSU Las Cruces Campus, 2850 Weddell St. Las Cruces, New Mexico. The meeting was called to interview finalist for the President of New Mexico State University, and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

6. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session March 1, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Friday, March 1, 2024, at Hadley Hall on the NMSU Las Cruces Campus, 2850 Weddell St. Las Cruces, New Mexico. The meeting was called to interview finalist for the President of New Mexico State University, and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

7. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session March 2, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting from 8:00 am on Saturday, March 2, 2024, in Hadley Hall on the NMSU Las Cruces Campus, 2850 Weddell St. Las Cruces, New Mexico. The meeting was called to discuss the finalist for the President of New Mexico State University, this discussion of candidates was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

8. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session March 6, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“Our last, closed executive session was held on March 6, 2024. The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held an online closed meeting at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The meeting was called to discuss the finalist for the President of New Mexico State University. This discussion of the candidates was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

D. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

Associate Vice President Justin Bannister stated there were no signups for public comment.

E. Regent Committee Reports

Regent Devasthali,” Next, we have regent committee reports. Regent Chacón-Reitzel, will you please proceed with the report for the Real Estate committee?”

1. Real Estate Committee Report, Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel, “Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the Board. The Regents real Estate Committee met once since the last Board of Regents meeting. The committee met on February 20, 2024, and heard several items that you will see on today's Consent Agenda included in that list are the Hillsborough Communications Lease, the NMSU Grants small Business Development Center Purchase Agreement and the Aggie Memorial Stadium Scoreboard Replacement Project.”

“Those are items G. 4, G. 5, and G. 6 respectively. In addition, Aggie Development Incorporated Board met immediately following the Real Estate Committee, and that Board has put forward a slate of officers for consideration by the board on the consent agenda for today. That's item G. 6.”

“That concludes my report and I’ll stand for any questions Madam Chair.”

There were no questions.

2. Audit and Risk Committee Report, Regent Ammu Devasthali

Regent Ammu Devasthali, “Next, we have the Audit and Risk Committee report, and I will provide that update. The Regents Audit and Risk Committee met once since the last Board of Regents regular meeting. On February 22, the committee was provided with an update about the quality assurance peer review of our internal audit office, an update from the Office of Institutional equity, and an update from Information and Communications Technologies. We are anticipating that our next scheduled meeting will be on May 31 and our primary business will be the entrance conference for our annual financial statement audit.”

There were no questions.

3. Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee Report, Regent Deborah Romero

Regent Deborah Romero, “Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the Board. The regents Financial Strategies Performance and Budget Committee met once since the last Board of Regents meeting. The committee met on March 3, 2024, and we heard a variety of actions. Action items that you will see on today’s agenda included are three items placed on the Consent Agenda for today’s meeting including the New Mexico Higher Education Department quarterly financial certification report. Approval authority delegation, the quarterly financial certification report, and the Aggie Memorial Stadium Scoreboard replacement project. In addition, the committee heard presentations about the tuition and fee rates and budget guidelines for 2024 – 2025, as well as parking, housing, and meal rates for 2024-2025. We will discuss these items during our meeting today as action items. The committee also heard an informational report on the temporary investments for the quarters ending 9/30/2023 and 12/31/2023. We had a highly active discussion about student fees, and I look forward to continuing that discussion later in today’s agenda. I will stand for questions.”

There were no questions.

4. Student Success Committee Report, Regent Christopher Saucedo

Regent Christopher Saucedo, “The Regent Student Success Committee, met once since the last Board of Regents meeting. The committee met on February 28, 2024, and we were honored to have two guest speakers, including HED Deputy Secretary Patricia Trujillo and UNM Associate Professor Sarita Cargas who presented concerning student faculty and staff basic needs across our New Mexico Higher Education Institutions. This is not the first time that regents have heard from Dr. Cargas, as she also presented on the same topic to the Higher Education Regent Coalitions, back in April 2023. I look forward to working with the administration and the regents on any future work in this area. We also heard an update from Dr. Sherry Kollmann, Seth Miner, and Beth Apodaca on NMSU Global and had an opportunity to not only see the progress that they have made, but also see a preview of their new television commercial. There is a lot of optimism and enthusiasm about NMSU Global. I would like to thank Dr. Kollmann and her team for leading NMSU forward in this area. One final note, thank you to Amy Himelright, the Co-Chair of our Committee and Director of Mental Health and Academic Counseling for Las Cruces Public Schools who hosted us at the Arrowhead Early College High School, where we heard testimonials about the program from students that attend the school. The committee did not have any items on the agenda for consideration by the Board of Regents at this time. That concludes my report, and I will stand for questions.”

There were no questions.

F. Advisory Member Reports

1. Associated Students of NMSU Report, *President Citlalli Benitez*

ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez, "I am very excited to give you a run down as to what has been happening with ASNMSU. We have been very busy this semester from organizing events to attending the New Mexico Legislative Session. Our judicial branch is happy to report on the relaunch of our attorney referral program which has strengthened partnerships with attorneys across the Las Cruces community, which provides enhanced legal guidance and support to our students. We have also created a digitally accessible renters handbook to empower tenants with information on best practice and rights, aiming to alleviate financial burdens and to ensure fair treatment. Currently under this administration we have handled approximately 114 parking appeals with the parking and ID department to address concerns and to find equitable solutions. We have also had significant progress with peer mediation, with half of our court now trained to provide support and conflict resolution skills both in and out of the association. We are excited to launch our 'It's On Us' campaign for the spring semester which is continuing to educate sexual assault prevention and to focus on safe intervention methods for campus safety. Our legislative branch has allocated approximately \$174,000.00 directly benefiting approximately 230 students this year so far. Honorable Mentions to some of our most recent appropriations, which was \$10,000 to New Mexico State E-sports, \$1,500 to the physics graduate organization for physics, funding and \$4,500 to the Future Speech Language Pathologists graduate clinician organization. Our executive branch and some of the our departments and what they have been up to, our activities department is excited to report that they have impacted 5,000 students on campus with a multitude of events ranging from our popular build a bear, tabling events, homecoming festivities, our spring fling which just ended last Thursday and going forward they intend on hosting events for Earth Day and by popular demand another build a bear as well as events aimed at relieving stress and collaborating with my talent once again for another very successful blood drive initiative. Our community outreach department is currently planning the big event, a citywide community service opportunity with an anticipated attendance of 1,250 students and community members. Our governmental Affairs Department attended the New Mexico Legislative session earlier this year for the purpose of lobbying for a multi-purpose field which is intended to provide our New Mexico Pride Marching Band with an optimal location to practice and our many intramural sports such as Women's Rugby, a safer place to practice. Our Governmental Affairs Team is happy to report that they were able to bring back 5 million dollars for this project which established an entirely new record and ASNMSU with our first all women lead team. Our services department had a temporary shutdown of our extremely important airport shuttle service due to lack of funding and issues with the PO that was attached to it, but we are happy to share that it is backup and running. The service impacts around 700 students and while we are aware of how important this service was and honored to be able to provide this service to our students. This temporary shutdown really showed us how vital this service is for our fellow students. That concludes my report."

2. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, Chair Gaylene Fasenko

Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Galene Fasenko, "Acknowledgement of Mr. Adam Cavotta, Chief of staff for the Board of Regents. For all his professionalism, and his massive organizational skills throughout the NMSU President's search, and his continuation to lead the way in how professional people should work at this university. Acknowledgement, thanks, and welcome to General Counsel Lisa Henderson, who has been working quite closely with Dr. Fasenko over the past few months on policy revision and is extremely collegial and very inclusive of the faculty voice.

Election for Faculty Senate Chair concluded, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya is going to assume the role after graduation this spring for the 2024 -25 academic year. Dr. Chaitanya is a professor in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department in the College of Engineering, and he joined NMSU in 2006.

The six standing committees on Faculty Senate elect the next vice chair, and that will occur in the fall, but we are trying to push it up to sometime at the end of the spring before the summer break.

Elections for Faculty Senators usually after spring break; discussion of adding a seventh standing committee called Government Relations was discussed with Clayton Abbey numerous times on a higher-level involvement, so there can be a more formal role in the legislative process.

An article in the March eighth edition of the Las Cruces Bulletin, reported that NMSU faculty filed a petition for union recognition with the State's Public Employee Labor Relations Board and Faculty will be unionizing as a local branch under the National Education Association of New Mexico. They have already submitted authorization cards so; it is under advisement at the Public Employee Labor and Relations Board. Faculty Senate did send a memo to the Provost and President regarding and NMSU administration role with respect to faculty rights under the Public Employees Bargaining Act and are awaiting a response.

Thanks to the New Mexico State legislator's faculty and staff will be receiving 3% across the board. There is an increase that we are seeing in premiums for medical benefits. Investigation on this, the premiums, as of July or January 2024, are listed at the top of the table with three different salary tiers. Depending on those tiers, determines how much the employee contributes. An example of Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico, PPO to show what each salary tier pays, per salary, per pay period. Since it is per pay period, it was multiplied by twenty-four pay periods, and those are the costs per year as a need to bring this to the attention of the Board of Regents, and our leadership, particularly in the Budget office. We have many faculty on tenure track, which are still at a salary of approximately \$45,000 per year. The average salary for professors is about \$90,000, and this was used for the final number. The averaged salary of NMSU leadership that report to the Provost and the President, was used. A salary over \$44,000 pays the same premium amount as the President and Provost, that disproportionately affects colleagues & employees that are on the low end of the salary. In addition to that, while the 3% increase is appreciated, this also affects the employees that are making a lower salary, their increase is not going to be the same as some of colleagues that make a lot more. Attention to this, to revisit and make some adjustments to the salary tiers based on this. Again, across the board salary increases, disproportionately disadvantage employees that have lower salaries. One final thing there was an article written by the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee titled, 'Despite Benefits, Poverty Persists.' This is not a category that we want to be in or be proud of at all. In 2022, The State of New Mexico had the highest

poverty rate in the nation at 17.6%. Our legislators are working on this. One of the things mentioned in the article was that we can shift the needle on poverty through education, and that is what we do at NMSU. It is hard when we tell students that their Ph.D. or an MA will really benefit them. When some of our colleagues who have earned Ph.D.'s, are earning \$45,000 or less. This concludes my report.”

3. NMSU Employee Council Report, Chair Susanne Berger

Employee Council Chair Susanne Berger, “February 29, we voted in our new officers and the new Employee Council Chair is Donna Johnson. Donna is also from facilities and is the HR Manager. She would like to say a few words.”

New Employee Council Chair Donna Johnson, “My name is Donna Johnson, it is an honor and a pleasure to be here, and I would just like to say that I will do my utmost to represent all NMSU employees. Thank you.”

Employee Council Chair Susanne Berger, “Employee Council held elections in January and February for members with their term ending in February of 2024. Our new members were welcomed during the meeting held on Feb 29, and voted on the Executive Committee which now consists of the following members: Chair Donna Johnson, past chair Susanne Berger, new Vice-Chair Sonia White, Recording Secretary Sean Kardar, Secretary Treasurer Joseph Almaguer and the Website Coordinator K.T. Manis and President’s rep Leslie Cervantes.

The employee council is currently preparing for the Eighth Annual Founders Day, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24 from 11am to 1 pm at the Traders Plaza which is in front of the College of Business. Under normal circumstances this would have been our Tenth Annual Founder’s Day celebration, unfortunately we missed this event in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Founders Day established in 2015 by then President Carruthers, to celebrate our heritage and strengthen pride in our university and when I found that following quote from Ben Woods, I had to include it, ‘We recognize that we owe a debt to those who preceded us. Our institution reflects the faces that passed through its doors, whether for a few short years or a lifetime.’ So, Founders Day is when we recognize those faces that passed through all the doors at NMSU and there are quite a few.

There will be two recognitions during Founders Day. First, we will announce the 2024 Aggie Legend Award, which pays tribute to alumni employees and friends of NMSU, who have achieved great success in their lives and have supported NMSU in multiple ways. This year’s Aggie Legend is the late Herb Wimberley, NMSU’s own golf legend who was head coach of men’s golf for 31 years. He brought the PGA Golf Management Program to NMSU’s College of Business and over the course of his career has been awarded 5 Hall of Fame awards. Most recently he was inducted into the PGA of America Hall of Fame in 2023.

The second recognition will be the A Mountain Award for spring 2024 which is awarded to an NMSU employee who represents the NMSU core values of leadership, excellence, access, diversity, inclusion, and student centered. The nomination period for this award is currently open and will close on Friday March 29, 2024, at 5pm. Please consider nominating an NMSU employee who you think represents our core values. Employee Council hopes that everyone here and our distinguished Board of Regents, Provost, President will be there. The employee council, along with all employees, are appreciative of the 3% raise that we expect to go into effect on July 1, 2024. However, employees have expressed concern regarding the 10% increase to medical and dental premiums that went into effect on January 1, 2024 as well as another possible second 10% increase effective July 1, 2024. I was unable to confirm the second. Taking into account the most recent core CPI inflation rate in New Mexico of 3.9%, the net effect of the raise will be that disposable income and purchasing power will decrease, especially for NMSU employees in the lower income brackets. The Employee Council is

asking the Board of Regents as well as our Executive Leadership to continue to advocate for NNSU staff and faculty salaries with our legislature. Departments across the campus are still losing talent and staff and faculty members due to low pay for certain staff positions. We have a very strong, competitive, local, and regional labor market which makes it hard to retain employees at NMSU. We would therefore welcome an independent review of staff salaries to determine how they compare to local and regional competitors.

Finally, since this is my last official report as chair, I would like to thank the Board of Regents leadership and all my colleagues for the support that I received over the 2 years. Time when by very quickly and it was an honor and privilege to serve, thank you.

G. Consent Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali, "Next, we have our consent agenda items for consideration. I will entertain a motion on the consent agenda items as amended. Do I have a second for that motion?"

Regent Saucedo seconded the motion; all were in favor. Motion passed and the consent agenda is approved.

- 1. NM Higher Education Department Quarterly Financial Certification Report Approval Authority Delegation, Interim Vice President D'Anne Stuart**
- 2. Quarterly Financial Certification Report, Chief Budget Officer Kim Rumford, Associate Controller Ross Justus**
- 3. Aggie Memorial Stadium Scoreboard Replacement Project, Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan**
- 4. Hillsboro Communication Lease, Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 5. NMSU Grants – Small Business Development Center Purchase Agreement, Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 6. Aggie Development Inc. Board of Directors Officer Appointments, Aggie Development Inc. President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 7. 2024 Annual Open Meetings Notice Resolution, University General Counsel Lisa Henderson**
- 8. Posthumous Honorary Degree, Provost Alan Shoho**
- 9. Doña Ana Community College Honorary Degree Recipient Nominee, Chancellor Mónica F. Torres**
- 10. NMSU Honorary Degree Recipient Nominee, Interim President Jay Gogue**
- ~~**11. Operating Agreement between the Regents of New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College, Chancellor Mónica F. Torres**~~
- ~~**12. Operating Agreement between the Regents of New Mexico State University and NMSU Alamogordo Community College, Chancellor Mónica F. Torres**~~
- ~~**13. Operating Agreement between the Regents of New Mexico State University and NMSU Grants Community College, Chancellor Mónica F. Torres**~~
- 14. Philanthropic naming of the Gallery Space 409A in the Branson Library the "John R. McFie Gallery of NMSU History", NMSU Foundation Chief of Staff Matty Burns**
- 15. Philanthropic naming of an office space on the 2nd floor of the Thomas and Brown building "The Gregory &**

Denise Benedict (1980 Electrical Engineering) Office", NMSU Foundation Chief of Staff Matty Burns

16. Philanthropic naming of a conference room on the 1st floor of the Thomas and Brown building "Grant W. Gray Conference Room", NMSU Foundation Chief of Staff Matty Burns

H. Action Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

1. Executive Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

- a) The Regents will convene in executive session to discuss the finalists for President of New Mexico State University. This discussion of finalists will be closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1.H(2) (2013).**

Chairwoman Devasthali said, "I move that the regents convene in executive session to discuss the finalists for President of New Mexico State University as permitted under the personnel matters exemption the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA Section 10-15-1, subsection (H)(2).

Do I have a second for this motion?"

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took a roll call vote on the motion:

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

All 5 regents in favor, motion passed, at 2:55 pm the regents convened in closed session.

2. Reconvene in Open Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

The board reconvened at 3:53pm.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta proceeded with the confirmation that only matters on the executive session agenda were discussed in the closed session.

"Regents met in an executive session today, Monday, March 11, 2024, at 2:55 pm in room 2 of Educational Services Center, to discuss finalist for the President of New Mexico State University as permitted under the Personnel Matters exemption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed."

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Moseley -Yes
Regent Saucedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

The prior executive session is confirmed."

3. Final Action on Presidential Finalists Discussed in Executive Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali
Regent Moseley made a motion to begin a new search for the selection of the next New Mexico State University president and hire an interim President.

Regent Romero seconded the motion.

Regent Devasthali made the following statement:

“The presidential search committee has worked extremely hard to bring forward the best candidates from the pool, and we appreciate their efforts. The motion today does not reflect the committee’s valuable contributions. The regents have also diligently evaluated the finalists in the past weeks, setting ambitious schedules to complete reviews. After careful consideration, I do not believe that any of the current finalists fully meet the needs of New Mexico State University at this critical juncture.

Finding the right leader is paramount. While the presented candidates possess impressive qualifications and are assets to their respective institutions, we have yet to see the next leader for our university. Therefore, I support the motion to begin a new search without selecting any current finalists and to select an interim president.”

Regent Devasthali asked for a roll call vote.

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

All five regents voted yes, and the motion was carried.

Regent Devasthali made a motion for regent authorization to search for an interim president and enter into final recommended contract terms, to be approved by a full vote of the regents in open session.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

Regent Devasthali asked Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta to take a roll call vote.

Regent Romero – Yes Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

All five regents were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Tuition and Fee Rates & Budget Guidelines for 2024-2025, Chief Budget Officer Kim Rumford

Chief Budget Officer Kim Rumford and Associate Vice President for Finance and Business Services presented to the Board.

Associate Vice President for Finance and Business Services D’Anne Stuart made a statement before the presentation about seeking approval from the board regarding the FY25 tuition and fee rates which will set the

foundation for the development of the operating budget for instruction and general which is made up of the state appropriations which will then move on to the next stage of the completed budget that will be presented to HED for the board's approval.

Chief Budget Officer Kim Rumford, "Today we are asking for a fee increase not a tuition increase for the main campus, and the Student Fee Review Board Committee has come forward with a recommendation for a 3% increase and we took that to the executive team who approved to move forward to the Regents Finance Committee. There it was discussed that 3% and some alternatives and discussed that we thought would be appropriate. There were concerns about going for the whole 3% increase with the pressures from the state. We put together a 2% scenario to see how the different components would be funded with the two different scenarios.

The state has done a 3% across the board which means that we are required to provide a 3% increase for all of our regular faculty and staff and the student fee group that is their primary source of revenue and so the money we get from the State to cover compensation does not cover the fee generating areas. Some areas have other sources of revenue, but most rely solely on the fee itself. The Student Fee Review Board feels that paying for the increase in compensation is necessary, so they can continue to enjoy the same level of service that they receive from those fee generating areas as they are currently.

In addition to that, our benefits fringe rate went up from 36% to 38.75%, primarily for the insurance increases and the large payout for the insurance deficit that the State required us to pay this year. With the combination of the two, it led to the need for additional funding in the student fees. At 2% the majority of the increase is covered. The Student Fee Review Board, which is made up of 8 members, 5 students and 3 faculty or staff. They wanted to pay for some additional items as well and that is where they came up with the 3%. One of those items is for ASNMSU operations. ASNMSU has been working through their reserve balance and cannot continue the operations with the remaining balance as it is restricted for specific purposes. They had requested \$174,000 but the group approved \$50,000 for operation as that amount could fit the 3% easier and justified in what it was to be used for.

The next item is Transit Operations which had a fund balance of \$120,00 which they will have depleted at the end of this fiscal year, and they have shortfall of about \$180,000 on their routes. Students decided they should fund \$69,000 or \$70,000 of that with recurring funds, and we would help back fill while they evaluate the routes.

The next item is the library which has an increase in cost due to inflation and is asking for \$16,000. The library does not have evening hours currently and has requests for evening hours. They will be opening one evening a week for now and this fund request should be enough to cover the increased staffing costs.

Next is Student Involvement in Leadership Program and that is \$15,000 for the Crimson Connect contributions which is a new contribution from that group. It was previously paid for from ASNMSU reserves but since those funds are depleted other groups were contributing to those funds and needed additional funds to do that. Leadership and Engagement wanted \$24,000 for a new outdoor leadership program to strengthen leadership and team building skills for our students. And that is a summary of what leads to the 3% and the board can

make your considerations based on that.”

Associate Vice President for Finance and Business Services D’Anne Stuart, “You have two recommendations before you, one is the 3% that was presented by the Student Fee Review Board that includes the compensation plus this list of items that Kim just reviewed or a 2% which would cover only the compensation. The Regent Finance Committee asked if those additional items could be covered with one-time funding, which they can but the question is what if they are ongoing needs have, we compounded the need. So, you have the 3% recommendation that come from the Student Fee Review Board approved by the Executive Administration, and then from the Finance committee, we are also providing a 2%.”

Regent Romero questioned why NMSU is not covering the library cost rather than the student fees since NMSU receives General Obligation Bonds which should cover those costs. She also wanted to know where they are in using the General Obligation Bonds to cover those costs and why these are being covered by students and not by the university?

Associate Vice President for Finance and Business Services D’Anne Stuart stated that those are very good points, and they were acknowledged in the Regents Finance Committee and that was the reason for recommending the 2% and that they are exactly right and should be funded by the I&G budget and they need to do their due diligence on the financing side and look for a different source of funding to be used to support these areas.

Chairwoman Devasthali asked to hear from ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez asking for a brief summary on why they made this recommendation.

ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez, “There have been a lot of discussion with our fiscal advisors initially going into these discussions they had recommended that the association would be almost perfect standing if we had been working with a budget of around \$800,000 right now, we are working \$600,000 so that is where that initial \$174,000 ask came from. We obviously cut it back to \$50,000 and that would be ideally going towards our executive departments to expand their budgets to be able to provide more services to students. But in full transparency, as I relayed to the committee, that may not be the case. We have a very bureaucratic system. The money that goes to ASNMSU is divided up and decided by our Senators in a General Appropriations Act that we pass every year. So, it is intended for our executive departments but it may not manifest as so if the senators choose not to.

Regent Moseley posed a question to President Benitez regarding the general appropriations act asking if in order to make up the difference are they pulling from the Senate reimbursement fund or surplus fund and that is what is affecting their ability to reimburse students and if that is where they are making up the difference?

President Benitez responded that they are not looking into the senate accounts to make up the difference.

Regent Moseley asked President Benitez to expand on what would be the consequences, specifically to ASNMSU and their ability to operate or ability to different position of the executive branch within the budget without the \$50,000.

President Benitez responded that if they did not get the \$50,000 increase, services would essentially remain the same, but they would not be able to expand services for the increase in student coming toward them.

Regent Romero made a motion to approve an increase in student fees not to exceed 3% with \$50,000 going to ASNMSU for the executive branch and staff will follow-up and investigate alternative funding sources for the line items mentioned earlier.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. Parking, Housing, and Meal Rates for FY2024-2025, Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins begins by introducing Director of Auxiliary Business Support Philip Robles who is there to assist her with any questions that come up that she does not have the answers to. She goes on to give her presentation.

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, "We are here to talk about the rated for parking, housing, and meal plans. We are not bringing forward a request for an increase in parking rates. We are pending a master plan going forward for the overall university that would include parking outlook going forward in terms of the number and locations of parking lots. So, we feel it would be prudent to wait until that is done and then we will likely come back with some information that may result in a request for an increase at another time. The same for housing, except there is not a master plan in process for housing. We previously had a multiple-year rate structure and agreement with the Board of Regents that has ended, and we requested a 10% increase last year which we were granted and this year we feel as if we do not need to request additional revenue. We were able to invest in some of the small cinder block houses and were able to bring ten additional housed online, which resulted in a bit of additional revenue, so there is not a need for an increase. Next year we may find ourselves in a different spot, so we are trying, every year to being on additional little housed because the demand for those is high. Are there any questions on parking or housing so far?"

Regent Chacón-Reitzel posed a question about veteran housing and if it is still being done and what is the occupation level for the veterans?

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, "Yes, there is a street called Standley Street and it is set aside for military and veterans. Currently there are 26 houses on the street and less than 15 are occupied. But they are available to military and veterans. We do try to hold them but if there is a demand we work with the Military and Veterans group and allow other students to reside in them so as not to have empty housing."

Regent Chacón-Reitzel posed another question as to who wants to live in those houses and why do they like them?

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, "The market is interesting, they were built for non-traditional students with families after World War II, and that was primarily who occupied the little housed for a number of years they were set aside for families but over time the number of families decreased as well as some other changes that resulted in a decrease in the population for the little houses. Cole Village as you know is vacant.

The non-traditional students were not coming back in the numbers that they had initially been. So, about 3-4 years ago opened them up to single students. WE allowed one student to live there with no roommates and they needed to be upper division students and maybe graduate students with the intent that the environment would still be quite enough for their families and not disrupt what they were used to. We opened 25 the first year and then were full within three days, so we have increased the number available every year. We have about 290 little houses, and we have about 80 that are not yet online since we are restoring them. As soon as they come back online, they are filled. So, the demand is very high but costly due to the deterioration over the years.”

Regent Chacón-Reitzel posed another question on the cost to restore the houses and what the current rate is to rent them.

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, “The current rate is \$738.00 per month. The restoration cost varies depending on the degree of deterioration. The cost is between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for just repairs not improvements to the house. If improvements are made by replacing the flooring or appliances or bathroom fixtures, then the cost is between \$15,000 and \$25,000. Abatement is one of the higher costs for the restoration.”

Regent Devasthali asked about Cole Village and wasn’t it scheduled for demolition.

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, “Yes, I was just expressing that they were built for the same reason, but they are scheduled for demolition, and we have received the full funding for the demolition, and I believe we will have the funds in July. So, the intent is to begin the demolition process which facilities project and engineering will manage.”

Regent Chacón-Reitzel posed another question about the demographic cliff and how we may be losing student enrollment and how they are looking at the next five years?

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, “We are also hoping as part of the larger university master plan to have an updated master plan for housing across campus that will help inform us about what we might need to do with the demographic cliff coming. One thing that may be beneficial for students is if we are able to bring more upper division housing online it will likely be less expensive than living in the city. One of our priorities is retention and if we can retain upper division levels and keep them in campus housing, students want to live on campus due to the convenience and price in comparison to in the city. If we can keep our retention numbers moving up housing will be filled.”

Regent Romero commented that NMSU housing rates need to be less than the community rates in order to entice the students to remain on campus.

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, “Yes Regent Romero, we compare ourselves locally and to our peers in the region.”

Regent Moseley asked a question about the process for international students to apply for a summer

extension if they cannot go back home and what they need to do to get it approved.

Auxiliary Operations Officer Ophelia Watkins, "So they would need to be applying now if they are with us now. They would be applying for the Returner Process for summer or fall, depending on which they wanted to stay. Also, I believe we have tried to reach out individually to the international students because the process is a little confusing, so we have been reaching out to make sure they understand what the process is. If there are no more questions, we will discuss the meal plans.

We have a contract for food service, and it includes an increase based on the consumer price index for food away from home for the west region and the current inflationary factor is 5.3%. CPI does not apply so the effective rate is more like 4.6% for the voluntary it is a straight 5.3%."

She goes on to list the different meal plans and their cost and how Aggie Dining Dollars and how they factor into the costs of the different plans and how groceries have gone up, but the dining service group works hard to budget a good quality variety of food choices for the students and stops for any questions. Since there were none, she goes on to discuss the Peer Institution Rate Comparison and shows that NMSU is in the middle of the pack with the rates and pauses for questions again. She was asked who their vendor is at UNM, and she informed them that currently it is Chartwell but transitioning to Aramark. The three dining vendors are Compass Group that owns Chartwells, Aramark, and Sodexo." This concluded the presentation, and no questions were asked.

Regent Romero made a motion to approve the meal rate increase and 0% increase for parking and housing. Regent Moseley seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion passed.

Regent Romero and Regent Devasthali asked to put on the record that there was a 0% tuition increase.

6. Election of Officers, *Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali*

Regent Devasthali stated as provided by the State Statute and Board of Regents Bylaws, in March the board is to elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. She opened nominations for Chair first.

Regent Moseley nominated Regent Ammu Devasthali as Chair. There were no other nominations and Regent Ammu Devasthali was elected as Chair by acclamation.

The next nomination was for Vice Chair and Regent Romero nominated Regent Chris Saucedo as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations and Regent Saucedo was elected to Vice Chair by acclamation.

The next nomination was for Secretary/Treasurer and Regent Saucedo nominated Regent Garrett Moseley as Secretary Treasurer. There were no other nominations and Regent Mosley was elected to Secretary Treasurer by acclamation.

I. **Informational Items, Chair**

1. Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period November 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023, University Policy Administrator Ermelinda Quintela

University Policy Administrator Ermelinda Quintela made her presentation with only two items pursuant to ARP 110 part 5.5B, the two that are amended are ARP 9.01 which is Staff Probational Period and ARP 9.05 which is Staff Performance Evaluation. Both are in the packet and unless there are any questions she will not read them out. There were no questions.

2. Legislative Session Report, Assistant Vice President Clayton Abbey

Assistant Vice President Clayton Abbey, “March 6 was the conclusion of the signing period for 2024 legislative session. Sixty-nine bills were signed by the Governor. There are three funding bills that are most impactful to the university. The Budget Bill \$10.19 billion and the two Capital Outlay Bills. The General Obligation Bond Bill was signed by the Governor but needs to go to the voters in November. Another major item to highlight is a new Higher Education Trust Fund that was created by the legislature and signed off by the Governor. Then there is a bill related to post-secondary affirmative consent that will impact the university and if you need, I can go into some level of detail on that. Then there are some positive changes to the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarship offering more flexibility to our students in terms of on taking summer courses so that they are not pressured to take all their credits during fall and spring but spreading those over three semesters as long as they complete thirty. Moving on, highlighted are the different dollar amounts, we have the Higher Education Trust Fund, which is a significant investment made by the state, \$959 million dollar transfer from the Severance Tax Permanent fund and currently that is effective earmarked for the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarship and any additional costs incurred by increases in enrollment will first be addressed using this fund. \$23.8 million in Instruction and General funding increases for all Higher Education and some additional funding and some is faculty compensation to the tune of \$7 million. I wanted to highlight these two that we have continued to push for, Graduate Assistant support and faculty compensation so there is progress in these two areas. \$33 million or 3% increase across the board for compensation funding. \$32.5 million for building renewal and replacement and demolition of that \$32.5 million, there is about \$5 million earmarked for NMSU Alamogordo so that is a significant investment at that campus thanks to the work of one legislator in particular. \$5 million for equipment renewal and replacement which is similar to building renewal and replacement. This is for infrastructure needs. There is some investment in cyber security which is an ongoing concern. There is great interest in funding cyber security but there is a belief that this should be funded at a statewide level and not necessarily specific to Higher Ed. Institutions. Some of the things that will benefit our community college system, dual credit funding that is ongoing support. There is some discussion in terms of how we best fund dual credit, either through the K through 12 or the Higher Ed. \$10 million for graduate scholarships. This is the second year that we have received this funding specific to New Mexico graduated in STEM fields. \$10 million for Social Work Endowed faculty positions. There is an effort to bolster the workforce and can only be done by investment to produce more Social Workers. There was an investment of \$10 million in new funding and \$15 million through a transfer to the technology enhancement fund which allows our university and other research institutions to secure Federal Grants through a matching model and absent this fund we have had a difficult time providing the match were it necessary to secure Federal Funding, so this is

critical. Now for the last two, \$60 million for workforce training in particular to be spent over three years. This is a huge investment in workforce training specifically at the community colleges and our comprehensive universities, that would be your Western and Eastern New Mexico and Highlands University. Now let's get to the specifics of New Mexico State University. The University will see an increase of \$10.8 million to its recurring funding to our main campus, the branches and to our research and public service projects. \$18 million in one-time funding. Initially it was slated for \$22,000,001 for the university but the Creative Media Institute received 4 million for planning and design and that was vetoed but Global was funded for the second time.

We received \$6.8 million of what we call earmarked or Junior Bill or now called Government Responsibility and Opportunity funding where legislators identify ways to support the university as they see fit or as we ask. The significant number is the \$90 million in funding for Capital Outlay projects, and I will go over the details briefly."

Assistant Vice President Clayton Abbey proceeds to review the information with the board with the breakouts for the Capital Outlay projects and other projects and funding tied to them as well as funding for programs and what next steps need to happen if any as well as explained some of the bills as well as changes in the State legislature House and Senate, and then concluded and asked if any questions.

Regent Romero did not have a question, what she did mention was a note of caution about the General Funds and to be sure to spend them because they could be clawed back.

Assistant Vice President Clayton Abbey stated that he did make note of the reversion dates for any sort of one-time appropriations to be aware what the spending period is and agreed with Regent Romero that it is a sore spot with the legislature of money sitting idle and not being spent down. It is critical that we spend wisely and being transparent in the process.

Regent Devasthali posed a question to Clayton about the \$10 million that was requested for creative media and the Governor removing Creative Media from the language and if NMSU can still spend the funds for any Capital project.

Assistant Vice President Clayton Abbey responded that a conversation needs to be had on the expectation from the State legislature and governor before any decision on spending is made.

Regent Saucedo thanked Clayton and all those that went up to Santa Fe on behalf of the university and acknowledged how difficult it is. His question to Mr. Abbey was about all the students that were up in Santa Fe and what does that do for the university and how was that received in Sant Fe?

Assistant Vice President Clayton Abbey responded by stating that our students are our best advocate because they know what the university needs since they live it day to day. They are a reminder of why we are all here and that includes our legislators. Their presence in Santa Fe and the amount of funding they received this year is a testament to that.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel and Regent Moseley thanked Assistant VP Clayton Abbey for what he does in Santa Fe and have heard good things about him and recognize it is a frenzy there and he handles himself very well. Regent Devasthali also thanked him and stated that his department needs to get staffed to help him as the department is critical.

J. Report from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to the Regents of New Mexico State University (Board of Agriculture), Cabinet Secretary & Director Jeff Witte

Cabinet Secretary & Director Jeff Witt started off by complimenting Asst. VP Clayton Abbey on a job well done but also reminded them that it is a year-round thing not just 30 days or 60 days but year-round and we need to keep reminding them and that next year is going to be a headache educating the new legislators going into the house and senate. He continues with his report stating that they have two programs associated with NMSU, the 4-H program and the FFA program and that he takes the leadership team and the state officers from both programs to Washington, DC to introduce them all to the delegation and staff committee industry people. During these visits they go to USDA and EPA, and it is an amazing week for the students but also for NMSU. He goes on to thank the President, Chairwoman and Mr. Abbey for going by and meeting the students. He goes on to state that the legislative session was a good one for NMDA and touched on some highlights for the board. He started with the Governor's food initiative and moving it out of DFA and breaking it up into the respective agencies and the staff money that was housed at DFA was transferred over and now part of NMDA base budget. NMDA also received an increase of \$986,000 to the base operating funds and discussions will be had on how to spend those funds. The legislature and the Governor signed the Land of Enchantment Legacy Bill which is an endowment of \$350 million and NMDA will receive \$2.815 million a year for programs relating to healthy soil, noxious weeds, and soil and water conservation district programs. It is a permanent fund that will fund those three areas from now on. He goes on to mention that the soil and water conservation districts are going to receive a \$2.5 million increase for this year in their operating. NMDA has received a \$1.5 million for Lifestyle Mitigation Program that will be working with three counties on the west side of the state. The last thing he touched on was they received \$7 million to finish their building headquarters. He refers to the AgStat Bulletin for everyone and it featured the 4-H program on the front page. With that he took any questions.

Regent Chacón-Retzel did not have a question just a comment appreciating NMDA working with the Beef Council and NMSU on lending their staff to help with the booth and showed the importance of outreach.

Secretary Witte ended his presentation with a thanks to the five regents with having the best interest for NMSU.

K. Announcements and Comments, Chair

1. Good News for NMSU!

Regent Moseley took a moment to recognize ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez, Director Sanchez, Assistant Government Relations Director Alicia Hicks, ASNMSU Vice President Eddie Gallegos, ASNMSU Chief of Staff Savier Dominguez, and Justice Lorea, for lobbying for a multi-purpose field the 2024 State Legislative Session. This group of students were able to secure and appropriate \$2.05 million for their project. They exemplified what it meant to be a student leader at this university.

Regent Chacón- Reitzel took a moment to recognize Dr. John Wenzel who was honored at the National Cattleman’s Beef Association as the Beef Quality Assurance Educator of the year, it is one of the highest honors anyone could achieve. He is the NMSU Extension Veterinarian.

Regent Saucedo took a moment to recognize one of his friends who passed away at the age of 33 and was proudly part of the NMSU PGM Program. He also graduated from NMSU and took great pride in that. Regent Saucedo stated that at his funeral he had his golf bag with NMSU logo prominently displayed and the PGM program was there in force. His name is Eric Gannon, and he has an endowment, think about him. Guns up!

Regent Romero took a moment to talk about attending the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction. She was touched by the athletes and mentioned where they are from and how three young athletes impressed her by giving a heartfelt and eloquent speech about what NMSU did for them and the impact it has had on them. They did well academically and through their speeches you could see that academics is a priority in athletics.

Regent Devasthali took a moment to thank everyone who attended the legislative session and for their hard work advocating for NMSU. \$118 million in new money for NMSU is good news. She goes on to mention that the Men’s and Women’s basketball teams are in the quarter finals without playing a game.

L. Adjournment, Chair

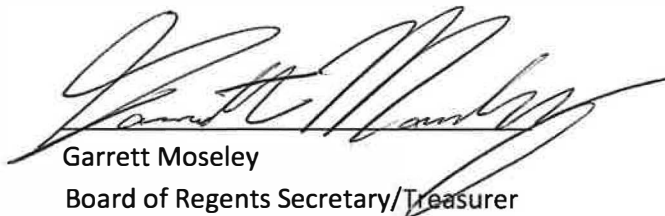
Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried meeting is adjourned at 4:38pm.

Meeting Minutes Approved on May 9, 2024 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer