



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2023, at 9:00 AM**

The meeting will be held in Room 001, Educational Services Center, 1780 East University Avenue, Las Cruces, NM and Webcast at the following address:
<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/93914730638>

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., Interim General Counsel Scott Field, J.D.

Minutes

A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali call the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 9:00am

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Mr. Ben Woods

1. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the quorum with Regents Ammu Devasthali and Garrett Moseley present in the board room and Regents Christopher Saucedo, Dina Chacón-Reitzel and Deborah Romero joining via Zoom.

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta also recognized university officials in the boardroom. Interim President Jay Gogue; Provost Alan Shoho and Interim General Counsel Scott Field.

Advisory members; ASNMSU President Citlali Benitez; Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fasenko; and Employee Council Chair Susanne Berger were recognized.

2. Introductions, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

Associate Vice President Justin Banister stated that there was no one in need of introduction.

3. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Moseley moved to approve the agenda as presented; Regent Romero seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

B. Awards and Recognitions

1. Athletic Recognitions, Athletics Director Mario Moccia

Presenting for Athletic Director Mario Moccia was Sr. Associate Athletic Director and Chief Diversity Officer

Mr. James Hall who introduced the women's soccer program for winning the WAC championship tournament last year and women's outdoor track and field team for winning the Outdoor Conference championship.

Sr. Associate Athletic Director and Chief Diversity Officer James Hall also introduced soccer Head Coach Rob Barts so he could introduce the student athletes from the championship teams.

Head Coach, Rob Barts thanked the Board for the opportunity to be there and proceeded to call up the athletes to receive their certificates of recognition from women's' soccer Bianca Chacon, Hannah Draper, Blakely Edgar, Maya Gonzales, Valerie Guha, Mya Hammack, Lisimani Helu, Jena Johannes, Sydnee Johnson, Lauren Machuca, Loma McNeese, Megan Ormson, Brooke Shultz, Gia Valenti and Bella Garcia. From the All - Tournament team, Xitlaly Hernandez, and Tati Jerman.

Coaching staff were also brought in: Miguel Guante and D'Angelo Garcia to be part of the photo with the Board of Regents.

Sr. Associate Athletic Director and Chief Diversity Officer, James Hall announced that since the start of women's soccer in 2009, this is the first WAC championship in their history, and they now join the Conference USA.

Head Coach, Rob Barts stated, "I just wanted to add one more, we had a player suddenly pass away this fall, Thalia Chavarria. I just wanted to make sure that she was recognized as well at this moment, so thank you."

Sr. Associate Athletic Director and Chief Diversity Officer, James Hall stated that the team also posted a 3.52 GPA average.

Sr. Associate Athletic Director and Chief Diversity Office, James Hall introduces Head Coach, Joseph Rath so he can recognize and call on the women's track and field who won the WAC Outdoor Championship, the first in possibly the last 20 years.

Head Coach, Joseph Rath called up each player to receive their certificate of recognition: Thobile Amon, Thulisile Amon, T'Erica Boyd, Jhana Downie, Maggie Gibbs, Jahnya Hill, Cameron Hodges, Breanna Moss, Kayla O'Connell, Grace Pendarvis, Terice Steen, Emily Stutesman, and Associate Head Coach, Tony Davis.

While they posed for a photo with the Board, Sr. Associate Athletic Director and Chief Diversity Officer, James Hall announced that the team also boasts an average GPA of 3.0 and that for 18 years all 16 sports have a cumulative combined GPA of 3.0 and the graduation rate is at 90% and will continue to strive for excellence.

C. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

No public comment at this meeting

D. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session on August 14, 2023, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta went on to state that the Board of Regents did meet on August 14, 2023 in a closed executive session at 10:48 am in room two in the Ed. Services building on the NMSU Las Cruces campus at 1780 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, NM. And that the closed meeting was called to discuss pending litigation as permitted under the closed meeting under the exception of the New Mexico Meetings Act, NMSA Section 10-15-1 subsection H (7) and discussion of limited personnel matters concerning individual NMSU employees as permitted under the New Mexico Meetings Act, NMSA Section 10-15-1 subsection H (2).

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta asked the members that were present to certify that only matters of that nature were discussed and called on them individually for confirmation.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta stated that the prior executive session was confirmed.

Regent Committee Reports

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

Regent Chacón-Reitzel reported that the Real Estate Committee, she stated that the committee met on July 11, 2023, to review several pending matters and the committee approved an easement for ground lease as well as a repatriation of Native American sacred objects at the Chihuahua and Desert Rangeland Research Center, both were approved by the full board at the July 14, 2023, special meeting. Her report continues with the committee also considering several campus improvements on August 7, 2023, during an email vote which was listed on the consent agenda for this meeting. It included a list of capital projects for campus improvements that were also reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee and were listed on the consent agenda as items 1-2 and 1-9 for today's meeting.

2. Audit and Risk Committee Report, *Regent Ammu Devasthali*

Chairwoman Devasthali reported that the Audit and Risk Committee, On May 31, the committee met with Moss Adams, our contracted outside audit firm, for the external audit entrance conference which begins the annual process of financial statement audits required as part of the State of New Mexico audit rules.

The committee also received a report on email security and several other internal audit matters, including a proposed change to RPM 16.46 (the policy on internal auditors and audit services) which was brought to the full board for consideration on May 31 and passed unanimously.

On August 30, the committee met again and heard presentations about the Clery Act, Gramm Leach Bliley Act compliance update, and an update on email security. At the conclusion of the meeting, members of the committee were provided a tour of the newly established NMSU Security Operations Center.

That concludes my report and I will stand for any questions.

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

Regent Romero reported that the Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee met once since the last board meeting which was on August 24, 2023, where they considered the transition and departures of some high-level finance personnel. Several planning meetings occurred with staff ahead of the committee meeting to discuss upcoming matters related to budget, capital projects and research and public service projects.

The committee reviewed several requests, some which are on the consent agenda for today's meeting. This includes a list of capital projects for campus improvements previously reviewed and approved by the BOR by the Regent Real Estate Committee and are listed on the consent agenda as items i2 through i9. In addition, research and public service projects and non-instructional and general requests for FY25 and requests for special supplementals and deficiencies were reviewed by the committee and approved.

The approved requests appear on the consent agenda for today's meetings and are listed as i12 through i13. The committee also heard informational items related to NMSU completion agenda, the role of technology distribution presented by Vice President, Renee Scott and NMSU Community College Chancellor, Monica Torres. The budget office also provided a budget update and investment report.

That concludes my report, and I will stand for any questions.

4. Student Success Committee Report, Regent Christopher Saucedo

Regent Saucedo reported that the Student Success Committee met once since the last BOR regular meeting on August 30, 2023, to review and consider several matters pending full board consideration. The committee heard a proposal to create an applied associate degree in nursing at NMSU Alamogordo. That is on the consent agenda for today's meeting as item i10.

The committee unanimously agreed to forward this proposal to the full board for consideration today. The committee also considered a proposal to extend in-state tuition to contracted ROTC cadets, and this proposal also received unanimous support to be put forward to the full board's consideration on today's agenda. There were several informational items as well including some preliminary enrollment reports. President Gogue may be discussing some of our enrollment numbers in his report so I will hold off on mentioning anything until that time.

The enrollment outlook looks good particularly for our community colleges and NMSU Global. We also heard from Vice President Rene Scott and NMSU Community College Chancellor Monica Torres about NMSU's completion agenda and the role of technology distribution.

Finally, there was a discussion about the Texas 135 tuition waiver and other possible opportunities that NMSU may have to help navigate some of the headwinds associated with what is generally known as the Enrollment Cliff, where it is anticipated that our pool of available direct from high school students, will decrease as result of falling birth rates. I am excited to see the proposal develop as a result of that effort and look forward to a formal proposal coming forward soon to the regents.

That concludes my report, and I will stand for any questions.

E. Advisory Member Reports

1. Associated Students of NMSU Report, President Citlalli Benitez

ASNMSU President, Citlalli Benitez announced that they welcomed the fall semester with a multitude of fun events and new ways to serve the students. Some of the things that they are working on, in a forward-thinking aspect, is the burning of the Lobo.

Last year they were able to bring in four hundred students and are anticipating a larger turnout this year and are excited to keep up the tradition. The welcome back concert will now be moved to October, to a Halloween theme. Keep State Great is planned for October 28, 2023, when a thousand students and many of the student organizations come together for the beautification of our campus.

This department, as well as working on our roadrunner interns are super excited to see these freshmen and sophomores be involved in the amazing association and how we are able to serve the student body. Our service department is getting a lot of new collaborations across the community of Las Cruces to see how we can better serve our students in the form of discounts. Our governmental affairs team is currently in the process of discussing a multipurpose field to propose to the State Legislator during the State Legislative session.

Our legislative branch is in full swing, this last Senate meeting we were able appropriate to two graduate student organizations. We are currently in the process of pushing out our ASNMSU Scholarships to our student body and our Professional Development Fund.

Our judicial branch is beginning its fall activities with educating the NMSU community on sexual assault and hearing student, faculty, and staff parking appeals.

That concludes my report, and I will stand for any questions.

2. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, Chair Gaylene Fasenko

Faculty Senate Chair, Gaylene Fasenko reports that the Faculty Senate does not meet during the summer months and today will be their first full senate meeting. One of the primary items they will be doing is election of six chairs for the following faculty senate standing committees, budget and resources, student success, research and creative activity, faculty success, curriculum and programming and diversity, equity and inclusion.

She asked that the administration continue to try and attend the meetings when offered and believes the chairs will be reaching out to them to keep the communication going. One of their goals was to try and restore calm and professional communication between all the units at NMSU and believes that has been accomplished to a certain degree.

She goes on to state that there have been some changes in leadership, and they have been pleased with the new Provost and Interim President and recognizes that Interim President, Gogue was gracious enough to do an ad hoc mentoring session for some faculty which they are going to continue. Finally, she recognizes Regent Devasthali for advocating for faculty and staff raises last year and kindly asked that she does so again. Still behind but it is progress getting our salaries back up to what our peers at other R2 institutions are used to.

She goes on to recognize Gloria Podruchny, who is the admin assistant for Faculty Senate and will be retiring in October and Senior Associate Provost, James McAteer who has been a pleasure to work with. She states, "We don't always agree, but I never leave meetings with him feeling like I haven't been heard."

She finally mentions that she will be collaborating with colleagues on the BOR Citlalli Benitez and Suzanne Berger as well as Dr Cynthia Wise, so that the leadership from staff, student and grad students can continue to work together and move the university forward in a positive way.

That concludes my report, and I will stand for any questions.

3. NMSU Employee Council Report, Chair Susanne Berger

Employee Council Chair, Susanne Berger reports that Employee Council resumed their monthly meeting on August 10, 2023, after breaking for the summer during June and July which is to accommodate the 9-month faculty members not available during the summer months.

The annual employee picnic is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, and will be Halloween themed with a pumpkin contest and a costume contest.

The Employee Council is also inviting nominations of exemplary NMSU employees for the A Mountain Staff Award. Nominees should represent the NMSU core values of leadership, excellence, access, diversity and inclusion and student centered. The award will be presented during the employee picnic, Oct. 31, 2023. The

link to nominations is on the Employee Council website.

The Employee Council thanks the leadership team and are very thankful for their advocacy for the 6% raise and hope there will be continued advocacy for the future compensation.

The Committee for Compensation, Position and Grade Review continues to discuss the new pay scale and new grade mapping of positions. An update on the topic will be provided towards the end of the semester.

The Employee Council thanks the leadership for including them on various search committees. Currently, three employee council members are serving on the search committees for the New President, for the New Controller and for the new Chief Procurement officer.

The Employee Council resumed meeting monthly since it is the beginning of the new semester. This concludes my report, and I will stand for any questions.

F. Affiliated Entity Reports

1. NMSU Foundation Report, *NMSU Foundation Chief of Talent & Culture Kendall Sorenson-Clark*

NMSU Foundation Chief of Talent & Culture, Kendall Sorenson-Clark provided an update on behalf of the Foundation Search Committee chair, Lewis A. Vega, regarding the NMSU Foundations search for the next CEO.

The committee has been working with an executive search firm, Aspen Leadership Group. The Search committee was able to select three finalists from a large pool of highly qualified candidates. The finalist visited campus the week of August 28th and met with the Foundation, the University and community stakeholders to add their input on the candidates.

Finally, the search committee convened on September 5th to hear their final presentation on how the candidates will deliver upon our state goals. The Foundation anticipates having a new CEO in place in time for the fall board meeting on November 2nd. They look forward to welcoming them on campus and working together with the University, the Alumni, and the community of Las Cruces.

Thank you, this concludes the report and I stand for any questions.

2. Arrowhead Center Inc. Report (Written Report), *Director & CEO Kathryn Hansen*

Director and CEO, Kathryn Hansen provides a summarized report that things are happening at the park, the DACC building is in process, and for the Arrowhead Innovation Fund, which is a venture capital fund were fully subscribed there, and we will probably be active another 2 to 4 years, waiting on exits from there. The highlight there was that one of our portfolio companies got an investment for the National Shark Tank program 400,000 for 5% equity investment. So that was a highlight. I have it recorded. If anybody did not get to see it, I'd be glad to share that with you and then just other highlights of funding and for university research, commercialization, for technology, commercialization, for the clean energy sector, and then a lot of efforts in business creation and growth across the State.

That is it. Thank you so much, that concludes my report.

G. Informational Presentations

1. The Office of Research, Creativity and Economic Development (RCED), *Luis Cifuentes Kathryn Hansen, Patricia Sullivan, Alisha Giron*

Vice President for Research, Creativity and Economic Development, Luis Cifuentes begins the presentation, stating, "Thank you for the opportunity to introduce you to the Office of Research, Creativity and Economic Development, which we are going to call RCED."

"This new office is part of the transitional administrative and organizational changes you ratified last summer. We are excited to be part of academic affairs, and to report to Provost Alan Shoho. Academic Affairs is the heart of our university, student success is connected to research success and graduating students is the major way, New Mexico, State University impacts economic development. I point you to this logo that is on the screen. It was created by staff at Arrowhead, which now reports to us."

"RCED has 5 focal areas and function: Research Administration, Workforce and Strategic Engagement, Infrastructure and Partnerships, Data and Service Operations, Economic Development."

"Arrowhead, Director Kathy Hansen will address Economic Development. Director Patricia Sullivan will discuss Workforce and Strategic Engagement, and Associate, VP For Research Administration. Alisha Giron will address the 3 remaining areas."

"Nineteenth century philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard said, life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

"The three women at the table, have 104 years of service at New Mexico State University. That is 104 years. Dr. Tanner Schaub and Ms. Courtney Chavez, the other members of my leadership team who are in the audience, add another 20 years of service experience matters, expertise matters, institutional memory is invaluable."

"Do not be tempted to conclude that because we appear to be long in the tooth, that we will not be agile and effective."

"We will be innovative. We will be service oriented, and we will be committed to continuous improvement. RCED understands how to function in changing environments. We also recognize that our role is to be an example to our university which aspires to be our one. When I arrived in 2018 to the office of the Vice President for Research, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute and Space Grant were the primary units receiving awards."

"In 2021, we added the research course program in 2022, we became The Office of Research, Creativity and Strategic Initiatives and inherited The Office of Strategic Initiatives, which resided in the Chancellor's office. As RCED, we now oversee Arrowhead Center and the new Stem Plus Education Research Institute."

"We forecast that units under RCED, will bring in close to twenty-five million in awards this fiscal year. The impact is going to be major, contributing significantly to NMSU research expenditures, supporting staff salaries, postdocs, graduate students, undergraduate students, gaining statewide recognition for community engaged research and workforce development and knowledge spillover, which you will hear from Dr. Hansen next."

Director, Arrowhead Center, Kathy Hansen, "Madam, chair board members. My unit, as you heard, is dedicated to economic development."

“NMSU contributes, as you know, in many ways, to economic development, including its faculty staff students, alums, construction and purchases, education and training for workforce development, innovations transferred to the private sector, creation and growth of new businesses and attraction of businesses and people to the university community and the larger regions. Some key priorities we have identified are job creation for our graduates, both recent grads and those who have moved away to start careers but are interested in returning to the area.”

“Another priority, pilot programs that utilize the expertise of NMSU to grow a key industry or build infrastructure for economic growth, an example of what's called university knowledge spillover.”

“Another priority is an emphasis on our communities and regions and economic development in the initiatives, or what we would call place based economic development and finally increasing the transfer of NMSU innovation for economic and societal benefits is another key priority for us.”

“Our unit's primary role is to enhance economic development with a focus on communities and diversification of the economic base. Workforce development is a significant part of economic development. And thus, we will be collaborating closely with that unit in our office. Sample metrics include creation of jobs and innovation-based businesses, keeping more of our graduates in the State and the impact of pilot projects utilizing NMSU expertise.

The KPIs shown here at the bottom are from NMSU Leads 2025, and we will be revisiting those KPIs as we go forward, and at this point I'd like to introduce Patricia Sullivan.”

Associate Dean, Engineering, Patricia Sullivan, “Madam Chair, members of the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. The office of workforce and strategic engagement is unique at New Mexico State. Our focus is to build partnerships with employers across the State to make sure that our engineering and all other students across, mostly in the stem fields that is a growing area, are provided an opportunity to work in the State. There is a focus on economic development. But there is also a great need for alignment with the workforce. So, our big goal in the workforce accelerator is looking to shorten the onboarding time in the workplace post-graduation, and how we do that is really partnerships. So, right now we have about seventy-six faculty that are collaborating with us in this area, and 74 employer partners. That was just this last year.”

“Our goal is to elevate career ready graduates, making sure they know about careers in the State of New Mexico. If you watch the news any given day, there is an announcement of a new company coming to town. They are looking at workforce opportunities. We are working with state agencies, Economic Development Environment Department, Workforce Solutions and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources to make sure that they know the resources at New Mexico State are here, and what our students are graduating in. We are also co-creating experiential learning opportunities. So, if you go to the career fair in a couple of weeks, we are sold out. Day 2 has 120 employers coming to New Mexico State. They are actively looking for partnerships beyond just a career fair engagement. So, our office is building those relationships to make sure that we can get them involved in capstones. They can offer experiential learning through internships and co-ops, residencies for some of our other students in in the professions.”

“One of the growing areas we are looking at right now with the Navajo nation is pre-health or health care. They are looking for rural healthcare and nursing. They are looking for dietary assistance out of Cooperative Extension Service, and they are looking for assistance in our Vet. Med program, which is the pre-vet program with the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Ed.”

“Our other partner is the Global campus, we are really collaborating with our partners to make sure we

understand what those gaps are for post-graduation, for professional development. So, we are working on the micro credential opportunity with the Global campus. So, when we talk about strategic engagement, we cannot really do the workforce without making good partners. Right now, this last year we had sixty-seven partnerships that we were tracking in our portfolio, fifteen of those are in the emerging stage that are pending, seven we transitioned to the college, and they are owning those partnerships right now. Completed are eight projects that we have finalized, and we have thirty-seven that are active in the portfolio. When I talk about alignment, I am really looking at alignment with Leads 2025, and then also with the state target industries. So, we are looking to make sure that we are not only aligning our goals internally, but that we are meeting the goals of the State.”

“So, if you look at the slide on the right, you can see that there is a strong alignment in sustainable and green energy, which is a major focus of the administration in Santa Fe, and it is a growing area. It is a direct alignment with what we are doing at New Mexico State. So, as we look at our metrics and our function. As I mentioned, we are really looking to reimagine the role of higher education through partnerships, really focusing NMSU as the lead in high demand, high wage, high skilled jobs, which is known as H3 jobs. And our key goals are to make sure that we have alignment, we have collaboration, and that we develop an ecosystem that spans the K through sixteen and beyond in engaging what we are doing. Our focus in terms of metrics is again looking at faculty and staff engagement. This is not a one-person shop, it is an institutional mission, looking at alignment with economic development and Leads 2025, looking at an increase in graduate retainment in the State. So, we are effectively collaborating with Workforce Solutions and Economic Development, to make sure, as these new companies are coming on board, NMSU is at the table. Last week we had two companies come in from Mavita, the Masia Valley Economic development, and we were at the table. They wanted to know what kind of students we graduated. How many? How can we, partner? How can they get engaged? And how can they invest in our programs? So, when we talk about relationships, we are really looking at partnerships where they invest in what we are doing, and we do it together. So, it is not a parallel path, but it is a collaborative effort.”

“Kathy mentioned our KPIs, and we are looking to revisit those. But we are unique in what we do as a higher education institution in this field, and we are at the table everywhere in the State. I did want to mention today, we have a new ten million dollars reward with EPA, and as part of our strategic partnerships. We will be leading the environmental and energy Justice Technical Assistance Center for EPA. Region 6, which is New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. And so, with that we are going to be partnering directly with DOE and EPA, and already we have about seventy-five community partners that have reached out to us to engage in our efforts. So that will be focusing on grant writing and leadership development, and we will be leveraging the EDGE program in Cooperative Extension Service, and with that, I’d like to turn it over to my colleague, Alisha Giron.”

Associate Vice President, Research Administration, Alisha Giron, “Thank you, Chair Devasthali, members of the board. I am happy to be here with you today. To the students. I am a native of Las Cruces and a two-time Aggie. So, I have 18 years of work experience at this great institution.”

“I also have the distinct pleasure of leading research administration on our campus. This group of professionals collaborates with our researchers on various areas to include central proposal development and submission of externally funded efforts, review and acceptance of grants and contracts, coordination of human subjects and animal research and biosafety and export control considerations.”

“All of this results in thousands of administrative actions each year, many of which bear the signatory of the regents of New Mexico State University. Among the metrics this group uses to support our set KPIs, are strategic interactions with faculty, intentional proposal submissions, graduate school collaborations and synergistic coordination with college and unit leaders. This component is led by Dr. Tanner Schaub, Assistant Vice President for research. This function provides systemic institutional research and infrastructure support.

This included moving these core facilities, laboratories, research units and equipment toward well-established leverageable resources. The research Course program or RCP, is 2 ½ years old and is the management unit for 5 key labs and 2 new groups, as mentioned by VPR Cifuentes. The Stem Plus Education Research Institute and the Biomed Informatics and Data Science Core are both in their formative stage. Through RCP and the infrastructure and partnerships unit RCED provides management, tools, structures, and leadership to move these resources from ad hoc groups to highly visible and stable institutional resources that are valuable in serving research, providing student opportunities, developing technology that supports economic development and winning external grant funding.”

“Again, the infrastructure and partnerships unit move existing research, infrastructure up the maturity pathway and guides the development of new resources and capabilities and collaboration with colleges and faculty. Among the metrics of this group uses to support the RCED KPIs are the numbers and value of funded research projects that include central research infrastructure support, supported student research projects, workshops, trainings and outreach events, partnerships established for existing or emerging areas of research strength. This component is led by Miss Courtney Castle-Chavez, Operations Officer. This function collects and analyzes data sets specific to our research and economic development efforts. This unit is also comprised of administrative support staff that manage the daily operational needs of RCED. Among the metrics this group uses are internal operational efficiency, resource, allocation and service improvement, capacity, planning and data, innovation, and alignment with Leads 2025. None of this would be possible without the investments RCED has made into state-of-the-art tools, software, and platforms to support these vast endeavors. Streamline, electronic research administration or ERA, is cloud software with a modular architecture. We are about one year into full implementation of 7 modules that support the research enterprise. This was the largest system undertaking the NMSU research administration will ever take as this ERA replaced several discrete applications. Lab Archives is utilized by the research course program to manage and schedule laboratory use. Dryad was acquired, to assist with meeting grant and contract data compliance requirements and provides a data repository for research data. And finally, Otter A.I. is a tool our operations utilize for speech to text transcription for our numerous meetings, both internally and externally. Thank you.”

Vice President for Research, Creativity and Economic Development, Luis Cifuentes, “Thank you, everybody. So, the next slide, I think you'll recognize this, perhaps. Interim, President Googe, one of the conversations we had. You talked about the need for this institution to make stuff happen. Stop spending time strategizing, spend time doing, our next steps are essentially to do what you just heard. We stand for questions.”

Chairwoman Devasthali asked, “What kind of cross campus collaborations are happening now?”

Associate Dean, Engineering, Patricia Sullivan, “There was a project we had with the Art Department looking at water. The project was a phenomenal project that was a capstone project. Looking at the headwaters to the border, and then the art students came in and developed artists books, and an actual exhibit at the museum. It was an impressive partnership! We have used that to kind of look at other things that we are doing, they are not as visual as that event was, but they do exist. Some of the things we have been working on or looking at are the Creative Media Institute, and how they can engage in things. So, even with the Arrowhead group, some of these startups are looking for resources out of there. They need almost like an infomercial or trailer type thing. They need small videos to tell some of their stories. The National Science Foundation is asking for a lot of visual type things for grants, and they are funded. So, the Creative Media students are working in those areas, providing that work. We are also working with several faculty, in sociology and psychology. They provide a lot of information on the human factor aspect of things. Also, if you look at the environmental justice area that we are working on, I am engaging with a lot of people there in political science and also in sociology, because that is community-based activities. You will have to not just understand why the water and air quality are an issue, but what is the societal impact as well. So, some of them are more behind the scenes. Things happening on the

research efforts. But we are seeing a lot more engagement with the arts and sciences, specifically in sociology, psychology, and the creative media aspect.”

Regent Moseley, “On the workforce accelerator portion of the presentation. You mentioned that we have 8 completed strategic engagements with New Mexico employers. Can you walk us through what the quintessential partnership with the New Mexico employer looks like at New Mexico State?”

Associate Dean, Engineering, Patricia Sullivan, “What we are really looking at with them is understanding what their needs are. So, we are having direct interactions with them. So, like I said, there are about 120 companies coming for the career fair, a lot of those are out of state companies. New Mexico companies do not often come to the career fair because they may have smaller hiring needs, so they may only need five employees this year and next year they will not need anyone. So, the constant engagement in career fair is not necessarily the pattern that New Mexico employers take. But we do collaborate with them very strategically, because a lot of them are run by our alums or our alums work there. So, when we reach out to them, we are trying to understand; Do you have a growth in a particular area? What are your needs right now? We had a company come to us that told us they could hire five civil engineers tomorrow. Where I asked, are you talking about seasoned engineers? Are you talking about new graduates? Or are you talking about a mixture of the two? So, the conversation evolves to the skill level, because I recall several years ago there was an article in the Albuquerque Journal, the headline was that a particular company that received an industrial revenue bond had not met their employment demands and their response was that the universities are not meeting our needs in terms of graduates. I picked up the phone and called the company, I said you have not been to a career fair in 3 years, and you have not been on campus for 3 years. And it came down to a discussion about, they did not really expect it to blow up that way, but I believe at the time every regent received phone calls, deans received phone calls, everyone wanted to know why NMSU was not at the table with the company. Fast forward to where we are now, the Governor has an economic development plan and if you at the first couple of pages of the executive summary there is a clear statement in there that says there is a misalignment between higher education and employment needs in the state. We take that very seriously, and we are looking at having these engagements with a company. So, we are trying to understand, what does that alignment look like? We are really finding that it is the onboarding time of when a person graduates from our programs, whatever the program is, and when they get into the workforce. So, if a company is having to spend 3 years investing and onboarding you, not just in the culture of the company, but in specific skills, have we done our job effectively? If we can shorten that onboarding time, where they are focusing specifically on the culture of the company and less on the technical, then we feel like we have been successful. So, we are trying to engage companies, understanding what their needs are, and what level. And then we have developed a matrix of all the levels of engagement they could have from judging our competitions, getting involved in our capstar, coming in and doing resume reviews, and coming and doing mock interviews. There is a level of ways they can get involved. So, we have asked “how you want to start getting involved?” and some are saying we will do everything, and others are saying I want to start with this, then I want to grow into that. As we build relationships, they start getting to know our students, they start knowing what we are doing and suddenly, our students are going into internships. They are getting that skill set and we are bringing that back into a capstone and then when they graduate, they are going straight into the workforce. So, they have shortened that onboarding time as much as from 3 years, down to 6 months. And, if you utilize the Crew Program at PSL, they have already received security clearance and that is already taking 2 years off, just from the security. I had one individual tell me that they had a son-in-law who took 9 months to get security clearance and if they had just gone through crew they would have moved right into their workforce. So, that is how we are doing it.

Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Gaylene Fasenko,” Is there a mechanism for faculty, who teach courses that are experiential learning, service learning or Internships, to connect, or is there a need for that and how would one go about that?

Associate Dean, Engineering, Patricia Sullivan, “The main thing we are trying to do is work with the Office of Experiential Learning to understand where students are getting placed and then working with faculty that are teaching that type of program. So, we have had some discussions with HRTM as an example. That was one of the areas that the Navajo Nation President mentioned was an area they would like to see grow. And I know some of the Pueblo groups are interested in that as well. So, the main thing we need to do is work with faculty, or they go to the career fair, and they understand that they want to do an internship, in our world, internships are summer jobs. If they do a co-op, which is through the academic period, they need to register through The Office of Experiential Learning. We have several students that take a co-op, and they think, because they went to the career fair, and got a co-op with a company and they leave, that it is sanctioned and they don’t bother to do register, well, what happens with those students is they are treated as dropouts, and it affects their financial aid. So, they don’t register because they went to a company for a fall semester and they think they are enrolled, but they get disenrolled and must start paying back on student loans and what not. So, what we need to do is out of our office, is work closely with The Office of Experiential Learning, work with faculty, and make sure students understand not just the opportunity, but the process of getting involved in co-ops and internships and even study abroad. Study Abroad is another opportunity that I know the Honors College is promoting.

Regent Romero, “What are you doing to partner with the Workforce Solutions department? Do we have any kind of relationship with them? And if so, what does that look like?

Associate Dean, Engineering, Patricia Sullivan, “We do work closely with them in several areas. The one we probably have the strongest relationship with is their youth programs. We are trying to get some of the high school students involved, more strategically, with some of the youth funding that comes through workforce solutions. We have a representative actively on one of our workforce boards in the College of Engineering, but we also have been engaging with the leadership there, in terms of other opportunities as companies come in. They work specifically or very closely with the community colleges because they do a lot of training, and they work in partnership with economic development on the job training g program. Where the community colleges fit in, we work closely with DACC, Grants, and Alamogordo. As it relates to other workforce needs. We are collaborating with them one-on-one as the companies reach out to us and let us know a company is coming on board and how we can collaborate with them. So, we have developed enough of a relationship, where they are picking up the phone and calling us and we are part of the conversation now.”

Regent Romero went on to talk about her experience with the private industry and how different areas are hurting for employees such as accountants and human resources and how they are high paying jobs but just not finding the people to fill the jobs was a struggle. She also suggests that she would like for them to provide the data on how many jobs we are placing in positions and how we are affecting the economy of the State of New Mexico. She then goes on to ask another question of, “When you say that it’s ready, the streamline what does that mean?”

Associate Vice President, Research Administration, Alisha Giron, “So, implementing a system like Streamline and Electronic Research Administration Software took a few years. It was something that included integrating various systems that were already in use. So, for example, when I mentioned things like proposal submissions, human subject use, animal use. Each of those are different components within streamline and they are different components with the work that we do, and so within streamline, because it has a modular architecture, each module represents the work of those different areas. And so, previously we had a homegrown system for human subject’s work. For example, we had a separate system outside of the University of Central Florida for proposals and awards. And so, when we talk about being a year into full implementation, it started several years ago, but the full implementation was in place in July. But we are technically still in a stability sort of phase, ensuring that all of the information that we brought from the other systems, legacy, projections, etc., are clear and can help us do the kind of work that we want to do with regard to seeing what

our trends are, seeing where we can increase certain areas and enhancing other projects. So, something like that was an ocean change for this kind of work, there are not a lot of institutions to do this. We did get together with UNM and New Mexico tech to work out a state procurement that would allow us to have the most cost-efficient selection. UNM and NMSU were the two institutions that moved forward with Streamline. There was an independent body that made that decision and NMSU is far ahead of UNM in terms of implementation, and it took a lot of work between the office of the VPR and our IT operations.”

Regent Romero stated that she has a better understanding of the systems and posed another question to the group of “When will the public or the university staff have access to see what information or what data can be provided by all of these technologies?”

Associate Vice President, Research Administration, Alisha Giron, “Our plan is to start consolidating the information that those various platforms and software provide us. As I work with my colleagues across the country that do the kind of work that I do, I see that they are very sophisticated in the ability to analyze the kind of research that is done, the kind of technical work that we can be proud of, the areas that we can hopefully dive further into. But additionally, there is a lot out there in terms of administrative support, something that you can recognize. We have grants and contracts that vary, we have so many that come from the USDA and others that come from DOD, but they are vastly different in terms of the kinds of terms and conditions that are included. And what does that mean for staffing? How do we need to staff up? How do we need to look at the kind of workload or volume that staff has? So, across the board, we hope that each of these will integrate with one another in a way that gives a clear picture of what our research portfolio is from the technical and scientific to the administrative day to day.”

Regent Chacón-Reitzel posed a question regarding another research project that her daughter was involved in during her time with NMSU with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for her senior research project and how intensive the program for undergraduate research. The funding was reduced, and she felt it was unfortunate. Her question was, “Can anyone update me on that project, and if maybe it is somewhere else in the university?”

Vice President for Research, Creativity and Economic Development, Luis Cifuentes, “A lot of these programs are federally funded and as such they come, and they go and that is one of the conversations that we’re having with the Honors College because they are essentially the ones that are managing and overseeing the opportunities for undergraduate students. So, we partner by ensuring that we can support them in going after all opportunities that are out there to support undergraduate research. It must be a continuous on-going process because external funding eventually stops. So, you have got to figure out how to go and try to get something that is similar to what you just described with your daughter, but perhaps by another funding source.”

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

Regent Devasthali thanked the group for their presentation and seeing there are no other questions moved on to the next item on the agenda which was the recurring information report from University Policy Administrator, Ermelinda Quintela regarding revisions to the ARP. She goes on to state that the report was submitted and is the packages and that Ermelinda was not present, but Scott Field was there to answer any questions if there were any. Not seeing any, the board moved on to the next item on the agenda. Regent Devasthali welcomed Ben Woods, the NMSU Presidential Search Committee Chair to provide an update on search.

3. Presidential Search Update, *Presidential Search Committee Chair Benjamin Woods*

NMSU Presidential Search Committee Chair, Ben Woods, “On the fourteenth of July, you established the Presidential Search Committee in order that the search for the next president might proceed with an effective, collaborative, and inclusive manner. Joining me today in the room are several members of that search committee and I would like to recognize them at this time, we have President Benitez, Chair Fassenko, Chair Berger and Dean Enrico Pontelli.”

“On September 1, 2023, the committee met to begin its efforts. The purpose of that meeting was to receive the charge to the committee, establish the search timeline and to conduct training in university search procedures, as well as equity, inclusion, and diversity topics.”

“We are pleased to provide this report to the Board of Regents on the steps we are taking on behalf of the students, the faculty, and the staff of New Mexico State University, and the citizenry of New Mexico, who’s ongoing support enable the good work being accomplished each day by New Mexico State University. We want to express our collective thanks to this board for your confidence and your willingness to allow us to represent this collective group of Aggies in conducting the initial search and screening functions in this effort as members of the search committee, we share a mutual respect for those we have been selected to serve with.”

“Our efforts are guided by the charge presented to the committee on September first by Regent Ammu Devasthali. That document expands upon the presidential leadership profile which is nearing finalization. Taken together, those two documents will describe the skills, the capabilities, the commitment, and the traits desired as well as the opportunities that await the next President of New Mexico State University.”

“The recently completed Board of Regents Listening Sessions, which were ably conducted by Adam Cavotta; they enabled the opportunity to hear from our fellow citizens on the direction they wish to see the University proceed. In addition, they reinforced for each of us who participated, the amazing contributions that New Mexico State University makes to New Mexico each and every day. From teaching to research to Cooperative Extension and outreach, the contributions are worthy of mention, for the span of this university as New Mexico’s land-grant institution is unique.”

“The inclusion of community colleges within our university system enables New Mexico State University the privilege and the opportunity of even closer presence and support to those communities we serve. The growing NMSU Global campus extends the impact to not only every corner of our state but across the globe. We challenge any other university to demonstrate that span of impact for the community it serves.”

“Even as the search effort formally commences, the committee and Board of Regents continue to seek feedback and comment from students, faculty, staff, and citizens regarding both the search and the challenges and opportunities for New Mexico State University, and that is to be accomplished through an online survey. The survey instruments are being developed and will flow to randomly selected members of our students, our faculty, and our staff Anyone not selected for those survey instruments, but who wishes to provide feedback is urged to so by completing the public survey. That survey instrument will be available on the NMSU Presidential Search website when finalized.”

“The search effort is now entering its initial candidate outreach phase. The committee applauds the regents on your selection of WhitKeefer as the professional search firm which will play a vital role in promoting knowledge of the position and the opportunities that await the next President of New Mexico State University. The presence of WittKieffer enhances and expands the search effort far greater than could otherwise be accomplished.”

“The search committee encourages each member of the NMSU family to make themselves aware of the search process and engage in nominating individuals whose unique skills and capabilities make them worthy for consideration for this position. Confidential nominations will be submitted through WittKieffer at nmsupresident@wittkieffer.com.”

“By its very nature, our presidential search now enters a quiet phase that does not mean that efforts are not significant and proceeding, prospective candidates will be nominated, solicited, and approached. Those prospective candidates will be carefully considering the challenges and the opportunities that this position affords, and they will be shaping their respective application, should they select to proceed in this process. Applications will be submitted over the course of the fall semester. The goal established by our committee in accordance with the charge document and the advice and counsel of our search firm, is to report back to the Board of Regents in mid-January 2024, with a diverse list of semifinalists from which the regents will select 5 finalists to be named to participate in the university wide interviews. There will be select opportunities for updates over the current semester and the committee will seek to update this board, the university and the public as each opportunity presents itself. Madam Chair, at this time I’d stand for any questions.”

There were no questions asked. The Board thanked Ben Woods and Adam Cavotta for all their hard work with the listening sessions and the passion they show for New Mexico State University. They thanked everyone who attended from the Board of Regents as well as the community. Dr. Woods listed off the dates and location of all the listening sessions that were set up and held throughout NM and appreciated the leg work involved in this undertaking and how important it was to hear from the constituents of the rural communities that depend on the outreach of NMSU.

H. **Consent Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Chacón-Reitzel asked to set aside item #11-ROTC Tuition Proposal, in order to make a few comments on the proposal.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel moved to have item #11-ROTC Tuition Proposal set aside from the consent items, Regent Moseley seconded, all were in favor and motion passed.

Regent Devasthali called on Dean Enrico Pontelli to elaborate on item #11.

Arts and Sciences, Dean Enrico Pontelli, “This proposal originates from our Army ROTC programs and the proposal consist of extending in-state tuitions to cadets who decide to come to NMSU and contract, which means as they come, they sign off to continue serving afterwards. The main reason for this proposal is three. So, the first is the issue of recruitment. If you look at our current cadre of cadets, we have about fifty-four cadets right now and only two of them are out of state. So, clearly, we are not very competitive.”

“If you look at institutions across the regions, we see that a lot of institutions offer similar benefits. For example, most of the Texas institutions offer a similar agreement, The University of Oklahoma, for example, offers in-state tuition to all cadets, not just those that contract.”

“So, first, there is the issue of recruitment. Recruitment is very important, because we also need to try to diversify the disciplines of our cadets. The army has a big demand for cadets who are either in STEM areas or nurses, and unfortunately, we are struggling to track that in those areas. There is an issue of retention, cadets need to maintain a GPA of 2.0 to be eligible and unfortunately, a lot of our scholarships require a GPA of 2.5 and we have a lot of cadets that fall in that gap which means they do not get financial benefits. So, this would be an incentive for them to remain in the program.”

“Then there is the issue of viability of the program, the Army requires us to commission twelve or more cadets every year to be sustainable and we have not met this goal since 2005. We are going to meet this target in 2024 but after that the situation does not look very good, which means we really need to improve our pool of cadets and improve our recruitment and improve our attention. Again, the financial benefits will be minimal in the sense of impact because we have only two cadets in the program which fall in this category. If we cannot improve recruitment, that will be more students coming to NMSU, this would be a strong incentive. Our main ROTC program has been doing a fantastic job in training our cadets. Every time I go out in the field and meet alumni who have been in the program, they talk about how much the program benefited them not just while they were at school, but in their follow-up careers. So, I think we need to try to support them as much as we can. I stand for any questions.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel stated that she wanted to bring attention to the program before the Board of Regents and the importance of the program. She stated NMSU’s core mission of a Land Grant University is Agriculture, Mechanical Arts and Military Science and the concern of the waning program that is having a hard time with funding and recruits. She goes on to recall the prisoners in baton from the program and how alarming the threat of losing our accreditation is. She emphasizes that we need to get the program back on track and how it has impacted her family personally in such a positive way. Chair Devasthali invites Dean Pontelli to let Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta know when he wants to get on the agenda for future meetings to give updates.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel moves to approve going forward with the ROTC Tuition Proposal, Regent Moseley seconds the motion, all were in favor and motion passed.

Chairwoman Devasthali entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with having set aside item #11 and discussed. Regent Moseley moved to approve, and Regent Romero seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

1. **Disposition/Deletion of Property**, *Interim Vice President D’Anne Stuart*
2. **DACC: Alex Sanchez Hall Chiller and Cooling Tower Replacement**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
3. **DACC: Sunland Park Center Roof Replacement**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
4. **DACC: Las Cruces Elevator Modernizations**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
5. **DACC: Campus Wide Security Cameras**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
6. **NMSU Grants: Martinez Hall Improvements**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
7. **Las Cruces: IT Infrastructure Improvements Project**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
8. **Las Cruces: Breland Hall Deans Suite Renovations**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
9. **Las Cruces: Devasthali Hall Mechanical and Acoustical Improvements**, *Associate Vice President Raghu Raghavan*
10. **Applied Associate’s Degree in Nursing at NMSU - Alamogordo**, *Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Cal*
11. **ROTC Tuition Proposal**, *Dean Enrico Pontelli, Vice President Renay Scott*
12. **Research and Public Service Projects and Non-Instruction and General Requests for FY25**, *Associate Vice President Clayton Abbey*
13. **Specials, Supplementals, and Deficiencies Request**, *Associate Vice President Clayton Abbey*
14. **Philanthropic Naming, AMEF Retail space, NMSU Foundation** *Chief of Staff Matty Burns*
15. **Authorization to Confer Posthumous Honorary Degree**, *Provost Alan Shoho*

Chairwoman Devasthali ask for Provost Shoho to say a few words regarding the student for whom the posthumous degree has been requested.

Provost Shoho, "Thank you madam chair, as you all saw that the women's soccer team was here earlier and as coach mentioned, one of their students passed away suddenly and through the support of the Dean of the College of Business and the department head of Management, they were able to solicit the correct support and process to then petition for the consideration of a posthumous degree for this young lady and her family. Since it was just supported at the consent agenda it will be awarded at our December graduation. I anticipate her family will be coming, and I hope it will provide the young lady and her family some level of consolation for this tragedy that occurred. Unfortunately, we will have two students, there was one other student that we had also awarded a posthumous degree earlier in the year and they will also be awarded at the December graduation. That one involved a lady who, you may recollect, was part of a murder-suicide right off campus here last fall and so those two young women and their families will be given, hopefully, some level of consolation by us being able to award a posthumous degree to them. Thank you."

Chairwoman Devasthali, "Thank you Provost, the young ladies name, the soccer player was Talia Chavarria and she had just turned 20."

Regent Romero moved to take a 10-minute recess, Regent Moseley seconded, all were in favor motion passed to recess for 10 minutes. Meeting will resume at 10:50.

RECESS (10 MINUTES)

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta conducted a roll call coming back from recess, prior to the continuation of the BOR meeting at 10:50 am since three of the Regents were remote.

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta proceeds to call on Regents Chacón – Reitzel, Romero and Saucedo and they all responded as being present on-line with Regent Moseley and Regent Devasthali present in the board room.

I. Action Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

1. Interim President Contract Renewal and Delegation of Authority to Chair of Board of Regents, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali continued forward with the action items up for consideration, the first being the contract extension for Interim President Gogue. She goes on to state the terms of the contract and how the board feels it is best to move forward. She goes on to state that before the board is consideration to extend the contract on a month-to-month basis for a period of up to 12 consecutive months. She also put in front of the board the consideration to grant the chair authority and in the absence of the chair the vice-chair authority to sign monthly extension without further board action.

Chairwoman Devasthali, "If it is the will of the Board to approve the contract extension and the delegation to the chair as presented, the effective date of the first extension will be October 7, 2023, with the effective date of the final extension to be no later than September 7, 2024. I move that the Board approve up to twelve monthly extensions to the Interim Employment Agreement between the Regents of New Mexico State University and Doctor Jay Gogue and the delegates authority to the chair or vice chair to approve and sign the monthly extension without further board action."

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

Regent Saucedo would like to comment prior to the confirmation of the motion, "I appreciate the willingness of President Gogue to operate with a month-to-month contract. That is absolutely service to the University, and it is greatly appreciated that, that willingness is there."

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta, “Thank you, members of the Board. The motion on the table is to approve the up to 12-month contract extension for the Interim employment agreement between the regents and Dr. Gouge, and to delegate authority for signing those agreements to the Chair, Vice Chair monthly without requiring additional board action. It has been motioned and seconded, and the roll call vote will begin with Regent Romero to vote yes or no on the motion.”

Regent Romero, “Yes.”

Regent Chacón-Reitzel, “Yes.”

Regent Moseley, “Yes.”

Regent Saucedo, “Yes.”

Regent Devasthali, “Yes.”

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta, “Thank you madam chair, which is five votes in favor.”

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 Witte, “I'd like to start off by thanking the regents and the Administration for participating in our groundbreaking ribbon cutting ceremony. What a great day for NMDA and NMSU. We had a great crowd that came out.”

“We have completed our move in to PSL, and the laboratories are on their way to accreditation. The welcome at PSL has been fantastic, and we appreciate the hospitality that they are giving us at NMDA.”

“I think there are a lot of great opportunities for us to work together with PSL and maybe create some good synergies along the way as well. I am not going to give you the whole 14 pages of this. I just wanted to do some highlights.”

“The DC. Chili roast, we went back to DC. This year in August. NMDA has been doing that chili roast for the last 12 years in August, and it's a great event for us. We had to take a break for 3 years during Covid. We went to a new store this year, the Harris Teeter supermarket on Duke Street, but the best part of the Chili roasts this year was, ACES Sam Steele Society stepped up, and the NMSU Alumni Association stepped up. We had a reception one night. We had a lot of great volunteers. It was the easiest Chili roast I've ever participated in, because we had a lot of help. But I think the folks from NMSU saw a great opportunity to have that thing grow and in our in our glory days, about 3 years ago we had a green Chili Cheeseburger reception on the hill at the American Legion Post right off the House office buildings, and we served over 250 displaced New Mexicans, and want to be New Mexicans at that event. So, we have an opportunity to grow that fun event again and grow some good relationships back for NMSU in that.”

“The next thing I want to highlight is, as a Secretary of Agriculture I sit as honorary Board member for the National Agricultural Hall of Fame. A few years ago, I did not even know that existed, and I received a letter in the mail, and that year we nominated Dr. Fabian Garcia, and he was accepted into the national Ag Hall of Fame, a few years of

delay because of the covid, but he was finally inducted. I received another letter this year, they were accepting nominations, and we nominated Fabiola Cabesa de Baca-Gilbert.”

“She was NMSU’s first extension agent that worked with the Native American communities and the Pueblos tribes and nations, not only in New Mexico, but she was tasked by the United Nations to go around the world. This was in the 1920s, so you think about a trailblazer working with our communities in New Mexico, and she will be inducted into the National AG Hall of Fame on October fifth, in Bonner Springs, Kansas, which I think is amazing, that NMSU will now have 2 individuals in the National Ag Hall of Fame. So, I think that’s a real credit to this university.”

“I was invited to be a part of a delegation to do an emerging markets trade mission into Indonesia a couple of weeks ago, and so we flew over to Indonesia, New Mexico sends a lot of way products from our cheese plants into Indonesia, but out of that trade mission is an opportunity for New Mexico State University, and we’ve got a conference call on Monday and one of the new country requirements to facilitate trade into Indonesia is that you have to help their native industries. So, we are interested in dairy products, so one of the requirements by the country, we had meetings with the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Quarantine and many others; is that you have to train their dairy producers to become better dairy. And you’re talking dairies that range in size from 4 to 12 head of cattle. They produce 20% of the nation’s milk consumption.”

“United States of America is not going to be sending fluid milk into Indonesia. It’s far too costly. And our FDA regulations just really don’t let us do that kind of thing because of the X dates on milk and whatnot. They get their fluid milk from places like New Zealand and Australia. But whey products like yogurt, cheese, and powder are our targets, and in New Mexico we produce much of that so there’s opportunity.”

“President Gogue often talks about the relationship between NMDA and the University and having that opportunity to educate and train. Here’s a prime example, I’m sitting at the meeting with the Minister of Commerce, Minister of Quarantine, and they bring this up time and time again.”

“Who better than New Mexico State University, with our extension dairy specialist with our extension nutrition specialist. We run the regulatory program for dairy in the State of New Mexico. What better team to put together to go and train the folks in Indonesia. So, our call on Monday is with the US Dairy Export Council and their present CEO is Ms. Krista Hardin. Krista was the former Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff at USDA in previous administrations. She knows export and dairy and USDA funding and whatnot. I think we have a great opportunity to enhance the partnership between NMSU and dairy and getting more of our products into Indonesia. So, I think more to come on that, so we’re excited about that.”

“Next thing I wanted to. Highlight was Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffett visited the State a few weeks ago, and we highlighted the 1 billionth dollars spent and allocated for the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. And the reason I brought this up is many years ago, before the 2,008 Farm Bill. We were part of a group from we call it, NFACT, New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, California, and Texas. Before the 2,008 Farm Bill Specialty Crops was not even a part of the Farm Bill, and our coalition made many trips to DC, working with associations like Western growers, and we were able to secure Specialty Crops into the Farm Bill in the Block Grant program. In the 2,014 Farm Bill it was permanently funded, and New Mexico receives about \$611,000 this year for that. We typically receive a little more, sometimes up to a half a million or more dollars for that from that program, but what a great tribute to our producers in New Mexico for the Under Secretary to come and highlight the 1 billionth dollar spent, and she did it in New Mexico. So, it’s something I’m proud of.”

“Ag day, we’re working on that for November fourth, associated with homecoming. Dean Flores has got a bunch of activities with his ribbon cutting and whatnot. But we’re going to have a great ag day event, and so invite

everybody to do that. We're in the middle of the State Fair, the State fair started at 10:00 this morning. If any of you want to come see the activities this weekend, we've got the battle of the Salsas, we've got the Friday night, we've got the New Mexico beef jerky contest, we've got the green Chili Cheeseburger contest on Monday, and next Friday we're going to have a big kick off event for our logo program at the State Fair. So, a lot of good things are happening in our department, and with that I'll let you read the other 15 pages and be happy to answer questions."

Regent Chacón-Reitzel asked the question, "Count you expand a little and give some examples of the funding that specialty grants go to? Some of the things that have been funded in the state?"

Cabinet Secretary & Director, Jeff Witte, "The one that we like to highlight is the showcasing of our green chili products around the country. We go around the United States, and this year we did 12 of what we call "Green Chile 101's" where we train grocery store produce managers on how to roast green chili. We estimate that our green chili ends up in about 2,600 supermarkets across the United States and the event that we do in DC is part of that program. So, that's one that comes to mind. NMSU has done a lot of research on pecans, jujubes, and other specialty crops to see what would be more adaptable in New Mexico. There's some great pecan research on drought tolerance and things like that that are part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant, but also marketing the New Mexico Farmers Markets Association participated in some of that in trying to enhance and grow those specialty crop markets across the state. What we highlighted the other day was an herb farm where an individual is working to grow herbs and spices and different kinds of specialty crops and then that individual trains the 70 others through this network in Albuquerque of specialty crop growers. So, it's really expanding that reach. We've worked with the veteran farmers coalition. So, I think we've got about 51 ongoing projects through that program right now."

Chairwoman Devasthali, "How is the thing with Hatch Green Chili?"

Cabinet Secretary & Director, Jeff Witte, "Hatch green chili is always the most popular thing across the state. One of the challenges that we have is the New Mexico Chili Advertising Act, and that if you are selling chili products in the state of New Mexico you have to register with us. And we must verify that the chili, in fact, came from a New Mexico field, and there's some exemptions to that, and we have streamlined that process quite a bit. It was interesting, we were in DC and at one of the supermarkets we found some product on the shelf at the Harris Teeter Supermarket, from an entity here in New Mexico, but on the label, it said: "Chile, not grown in New Mexico", they were in compliance with our state law even in the DC area. So, we are getting more and more folks education on that and in compliance. One of the big challenges we have with the program in the State of New Mexico, are things like salsa and some of the products that we don't grow a lot of, is Jalapeños. So, we're really working through the specialty crop block grant and through others to encourage additional Jalapeño production because we just jalapeños as a balancer in the flavoring of salsa and whatnot."

Chairwoman Devasthali, "Thank you, I know they were growing Hatch Green Chili in Colorado."

Cabinet Secretary & Director, Jeff Witte, "Madam Chair, my colleague in Colorado and I have an ongoing battle and in Pueblo, they think they have a wonderful Chile crop, they have a few acres up there and we go back and forth on that. I told her that the only reason that they even have a little bit of flavor is that the seed products came from New Mexico. So, the last thing I'll want to mention is that I had my morning started with a lot of meetings, and one of my first meeting was with one of the embassies around the world, and I'm about to announce. But I can't do it today, cause we're going through this deal. But I work with the New Mexico Ag leadership program. And we do what I call the Director's Trade and Innovation Mission about every year. Sometimes it skips a year due to timing and whatnot. But probably next May, we're going to be doing another director's trade and Innovation Mission across the pond, more details on that will come. But it's going to be a

fascinating trip, and what we do is trade, we meet with the Embassy folks, we do an act trade officials, we trade with other industry people, we're going to meet with the universities in in the country we select and then we piggyback on a USDA type of an event, so that we can showcase what the nation is doing for ag trade promotion across the globe. So more to come on that. But I know Regent Chacón-Reitzel will be very interested in what I'm about to do."

"In my second meeting today was with, I'm on 2 EPA's FACA, they're the Federal Advisory committees for the Administrator, VPA. So, I had another one of those today as well. But there's just a lot of things going on and with New Mexico, it is the epicenter of the PFAS discussion, and EPA has dragged me into a couple of other PFAS conferences and whatnot. But this is going to be something that I will just say that every entity that has a water system needs to be paying attention to what EPA does with their PFAS regulations between now and the end of the year, and I'm happy to visit with facilities or anybody else about that down the road."

K. NMSU System Report, Interim President Jay Gogue

Interim President, Jay Gogue, "Regent Chacón-Reitzel, I would like to thank you for your comments on ROTC, as a ROTC graduate worked at a lot of Land Grant Universities. It's impressive, but the thing I wanted to mention, I saw an article in the last week or so that said, there's 62 living medal of honor winners in this country, and 13 of them are New Mexicans, and I've been trying to write it down to see if we could find the names of the individuals. But that's an impressive number of Medal of Honor winners."

"I want to talk to you today a little bit about sort of the number one problem in higher education. And that is enrollment. There were 5,300 colleges and universities a year ago, the rate of closure and merger is one per week, and enrollment is the primary culprit in that. During the 2,008, 2,009 recession people did not have children, that, coupled with Covid is nationally, we're seeing some States at 25% fewer high school graduates are going to college and other states is 13% -15% is the more normal number. But a pretty dramatic shift in the capacity of high school graduates to immediately go to college."

"We have good news from NMSU, certainly the opportunity scholarship has been extremely important, when we visit Santa Fe, the word we hear is, get them in the door. You all can do that, but you must get them out of the door, too. You must get them in and figure out how to get them out. So, retention is certainly a key part of it. NMSU system-wide, so all our schools had roughly 22,000 students and that's about a 2.9% increase over last fall. The Las Cruces campus is up 3.7%. First time freshmen, 2,410 students. And from what I understand, that's the strongest number we've had in about a decade in terms of new freshmen, so that's a very good number."

"And NMSU Global is up 33% in terms of new students, over 2,100 plus, so tremendous growth in the global program. Alamogordo has 5.5% increase in enrollment, Grants has 4.5% increase in enrollment, DACC has 2.9%. So really incredible numbers as we go into this demographic cliff that we all are worried about."

"I met with Dr. Scott and Cooperative Extension; we've got to figure out a way, we have long term strategies, but we really have got to focus on next fall. That's going to be key to us, to be sure we see some growing."

"A lot of good ideas out there, one afternoon, Justin put together this little chart that I think all of you have seen, if you want to be a New Mexican and go to Texas, it's going to cost you \$50,000 in tuition before you have your other costs, or you could come to New Mexico and it's probably free. So, we are excited about that, Justin tells me we are going to have billboards, particularly in the eastern part of the state. And so, we are looking forward to that. I would just say on the enrollment, thank you, to all of you, this is not just an enrollment function, this is everybody's function, it's an alumni job, it's a president's job, it's a faculty job, staff, all of us have got to do a good job in that area. So, I would like to say thank you. On that, this morning we recognized a couple of athletic teams for their success, I would point out we have 5 of our female golfers that were named to the all-American scholars

team this year, so pretty impressive.”

“I’ll mention a couple of faculty, Cory Windorff is an assistant professor in the Chemistry Department. He is an inorganic chemist and he just won, from the Department of Energy, their Early Career award of \$875,000 over a 3-year period of time. So, if you see him, it’s impressive.”

“Dr. Leinauer is a professor at the College of Agriculture. He just won the top award for turf grass in his specialty area nationwide. And then the final one I want to mention is Patricia Sullivan. Dr. Sullivan, we had a great time, we invited her into the office to tell her. I started off and said, you know, I really don’t believe in just sending out a termination notice by email, I really think when you want to fire somebody, you really should do it in person. And the look on her face was worth a lot! And then we told her she had won the Hispanic National Engineering Award. She’s called a Great Minds in STEM. It was really for her work in community service for Minority programs, First Generation Kids to try to move them in to that area. So, she’s done a tremendous job. Final thing I will mention is money was set aside by the legislature and parked at the Higher Ed Department. We have just received 2.5 million dollars from them to support graduate students’ stipends in the STEM areas over the next 3 years I think it is. Madam Chair, be happy to respond to any questions.”

Chairwoman Devasthali stated that she is glad that we are getting a presence in Eastern NM since during the listening sessions, it was brought up that we lacked a presence there and were missing out on recruiting potential students that were easily recruited to go to Texas. Then Regent Romer thanked the president for his good news report, and we need to start touting all the wonderful things and people that NMSU is involved in.

L. Announcements and Comments, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

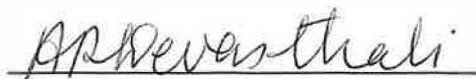
1. Good News for NMSU!

Chairwoman Devasthali went around and asked everyone to share good news and she began with enrollment numbers being up and the football team winning. Regent Chacón-Reitezel thanked all the student athletes that were recognized at the meeting for their accomplishments and their grades. Provost Shoho mentioned a great visit hosting Navajo Nation and thanked everyone involved as well as letting the board know that they will be sending 4 students to the Haku Conference in Chicago to participate in the Haku Leadership Academy for student leaders. Regent Romero wanted to recognize Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta for assisting CYFD when they reached out for help with a round table exercise and he stepped up to assist with logistics.

M. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Moseley moved to adjourn the meeting, Regent Romero seconded, all were in favor, meeting was adjourned at 11:23.

Meeting Minutes Approved on December 7, 2023 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer