



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL MEETING
October 16, 2023, at 3:00 PM**

The online meeting will be Webcast at the following address: <https://regents.nmsu.edu/regent-meetings/>

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 called the special meeting to order at 3:00 pm

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta called roll to confirm quorum as the meeting was on zoom.

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta called on all asking them to state present when called upon.

Regents Romero, Chacón-Reitzel, Moseley, Saucedo and Devasthali all responded as present.

Next, he called on advisory members ASNMSU President, Citalli Benitez, Chairwoman Fasenko, and Chairwoman Berger, all responded as present.

Next, were University officials, Interim President Gogue, Provost Shoho, and Interim General Counsel, Scott Field, all responded as present, and quorum was confirmed.

B. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Moseley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion passed.

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta called for a yes or no on the motion to approve the agenda as presented, Regents Romero, Chacón-Reitzel, Moseley, Saucedo and Devasthali all responded yes to the roll call vote to approve the agenda.

C. Consent Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Romero made a motion to approve the consent items, Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion.

All approved and the motion passed.

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta called for a yes or no on the motion to approve the consent items, Regents Romero, Chacón-Reitzel, Moseley, Saucedo and Devasthali all responded yes to the roll call vote to approve the consent items.

1. El Paso Electric Utility Easement, Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner

D. **Action Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

1. Organizational Communication & Leadership – Master of Arts (Online), Communication Studies Department Head, Greg Armfield

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield, “Thank you very much. You should be able to see on the screen PowerPoint Slide, this presentation was brought to you last year. It was not approved by the Secretary of Education at the State level, and so there have been some modifications to it. And so, I would like to re-present this to you.”

“This is a master's degree in organizational communication and leadership. It is designed as an online asynchronous through NMSU Global. The program will help students master effective leadership and communication skills in the current global dynamic business environment that we are in. The outcomes are to equip students with leadership at individual team and organizational context for professional work, organizational private non-profit as well as government leadership positions. Enhance leadership skills to present leaders to work effectively in today's dynamic changing global business environment. Enhanced analytical and problem-solving skills through written verbal and nonverbal communication, enhanced written verbal and nonverbal communication skills.”

“So, the decision that was returned to us had two points to it, the main concern was the program was the program title, not the actual program itself. The committee did not feel that the curriculum was consistent with the title of organizational leadership. So, they asked for consideration of a new title that better reflects organizational communication. Given that we are a Communication Studies Department and to revise with greater emphasis on leadership. So, the new title is Organizational Communication and Leadership. We also made some strategic changes to it in addition to just the title change.”

“As a reminder, this is a multidisciplinary approach to the program. It has diverse learning across different disciplines as well as theoretical backgrounds. The courses that are required, our leadership, organizational communication, strategic communication as well as a change/diffusion/innovation class that is taught out of the College of Agriculture.”

“There are 36 required hours, previously it was 30 hours. The Department went back and did some deliberations with ourselves. We have a face-to-face master's program already that is 36 credit hours. We thought maybe it was odd to have 2 different programs. This isn't really structured as a professional degree. There are a lot of professional communication degrees that are 30 credit hours that are taught online. That's not how this is structured, and so we decided to go with 36 credit hours, so that both of our master's programs would be consistent.”

“There are 21 credits that are required in the department of communication. It does end in a project which is one of the three ways that our face-to-face program ends. The project is basically a large case study, it is the easiest way to think about it. Students will be presented with a large case study. They will have to go back and apply leadership and organizational communication ideals, both theoretical and applied, and implement a solution to the case study. This can also be packaged with other concentrations; we currently oversee concentration and analysis and decision making. With the 21 credits that are required in communications, you can have any 15 credits from any other department that will count towards this program as long as you have 21 credits and then 36. So, you can package it with many different concentrations, not just the one that we ever see in analysis and decision making.”

“All the classes are 8 weeks asynchronous except for a couple of the outside classes. There is an internship that we teach. It is a 16-week course cannot really do an internship in less than 16 weeks. So, it is a semester long course. It is also taught over the summer as a 10-week course, and then one of the electives is out of the business college, it is an ethics class, and that class is taught synchronously.”

“So, the required courses are listed in your pamphlet, it should have the newer numbers as university transitions to four digits so, leadership communications, strategic communications, organizational communications, case studies & leadership and ethics, and diversity leadership. Those are all of our classes taught on main campus through either a tenure track or a visiting faculty member at this time. The project class is typically overseen by me, as the program grows it will probably be overseen by multiple faculty members. AXED Management Change and Diffusion is also a required course, we got permission when I presented this earlier. So, all in all, those are 21 credits that are required, that leaves 15 electives they can be communication, or they can be other ones. Some of the electives that are listed are taught in our department in all 8-week asynchronous classes, family, nonverbal, culture, and personal communication, the internship class, the business team has approved the business ethics class to be offered. So, it is an elective. The risk and crisis communication are also part of that analysis and decision-making minor as well as the two industrial engineering classes which are part of that engineering concentration. So, all of those, as well as others, can be applied to it.”

“As far as what else is out there, the proposed degree does not have any overlap with any existing master's programs offered in the State. UNM has an undergraduate concentration organizational leadership, but not a graduate program. Highlands has a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and public safety, not a graduate program. None of the other state schools overseen by the Board of Regents have anything at the graduate level. UTEP does have a Master of Arts and leadership studies. It is more focused on public administration, and community engagement. It is not communication or organizational related.”

“So how this aligned with LEADS is, we believe that this will help with enrollment growth. I'll show you some numbers here. We're currently teaching this as a concentration, this also ranks extremely high in Gray Associates in that upper 90 percentile. We believe that the program will be attractive to organizational professionals employed in all organizational types, not profit, nonprofit, government sector. We have a couple of letters from our alumni who have expressed interest in the program that's also included in your packet.”

“We believe it also aligns with Goal 3 to amplify outreach and community engagement. It is designed to meet the needs of working professionals in a variety of industries. It is anticipated that we'll have students from the state and the region as well. There are several universities that offer this type of online platform. Some will structure it called professional communication, the University of Kansas has a professional organizational communication which is only 30 credit hours, we didn't want to go towards that 30 credit hours, as I stated before, but this is similar to it.”

“We do have a couple of students that have transferred from Phoenix University and Grand Canyon University, those are large online universities and our tuition built through NMSU Global is simply much lower. So, it makes us a little more competitive.”

“We also believe that it aligns with diversity and inclusion, Goal 4 of this, organizational leadership will provide a wealth of expertise to broaden students, understanding of diversity and inclusion. Culture is one of the classes that is offered. Ethics and diversity within the case studies has been guaranteed. We anticipate students that will enroll in this will do so for personal as well as professional enrichment and upscaling of their competencies. The skill development will then spill over to those that engage in community service and with nonprofit organizations.”

“The state, we believe, has a high need for something like this. There is no other in the state that is focused on leadership or organizational communication. We believe it has a multi-disciplinary approach that makes it extremely attractive to several students. The learning objectives are practical in nature. They engage in organizational communication. If you survey organizations, typically the top ten things that they ask for employees is good communication skills, those being verbal and nonverbal, including listening skills and public speaking.”

“Finally, this MA addresses the Land Grant Mission to improve organizational skills and business development for the State of New Mexico.”

“In our first year we had about six new students. We're in our second year right now, we have about ten students and the potential is very conservative. As I predict out, year three, four, and five, We believe we're growing a little faster than that. Right now, we're seeing a retention rate and about 70% across NMSU Global and our target retention was about 66% for this with a target of graduation rate of 60% and placement rate at 75%. I find it difficult and hard to track placement rates, at times we have to try to stay in touch with our graduate students to be able to do that.”

“Included in your packet, there are several letters of support, Sr. Vice President, Cision Insight the West Test District Manager for Veterans Commission, the Chief Growth Officer for Heart Mind Strategies, Employee Wellness Officer, Y.M.C.A. Lubbock, Texas. There are several others, one of the community engagement vendors here at Tresco has expressed interest. She is one of our alumni, as well as several leaders of nonprofit organizations around the community.”

“I will be glad to answer any question that you have.”

Regent Moseley, “What is the reason or advantage to go with a Master’s of Arts rather than a professional degree?”

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield, “Our existing Master of Arts is in communications studies. It is more generalist in nature. We wanted to kind of stay in alignment with what the department does. The professional online degree, there is no distinction, when I had discussion with the registrar, we couldn't market it as an online degree. We have had a few students express an interest in pursuing a Ph.D. after doing this degree. So, as an advisor, I am more comfortable making sure that they have some theoretical background and some research methods background before they go into the application process for a PhD. If we just taught the theoretical nature of it in a professional masters, when they went to apply for a PhD, it wouldn't mark the transcript as saying that this was a professional degree, so we think the 36 hours better prepares them. The number of people that transition into a PhD program are going to be extremely low, but the potential is there, so we were more comfortable going with the 36 hours.”

Regent Moseley, “Thank you and I have one other question. What undergraduate degrees that students get would you expect to see apply for this masters, and what type of other industries would you anticipate this master’s degree to roll over into?”

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield, “We have a few people that have come from entertainment, uniquely. We get quite a broad array. Many of them have some form of business or communication background. Most of them are looking to progress in their career, many need a master’s degree to get to the next level in their career, or it gives them a leg up for the promotion they are wanting in the future. Quite a few of them are getting help from their employer and going part time, taking three credits every eight weeks. It is six weeks, and they can knock it out in about two years at that progress, if they continue through the summer. The majority of them have an undergraduate degree in communications or business.”

Regent Moseley," Thank you for that explanation."

Regent Romero," Is this an on-line course or not an on-line course?

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield, "Everything is on-line, asynchronous through NMSU Global, a few of the classes are cross listed with main campus, that's really to help with our enrollment. Once the program continues and grows, it will always be an on-line course we are just allowing some main campus students to take those courses right now, but the goal really is the online asynchronous education with most of the students from afar, but we do have a few main campus students take the classes when we cross list them.

Regent Romero," Thank you for that. I really appreciate you doing this. If I was still with State Government, this is definitely something we would be looking for to try to help because everything we do is communication and leadership at the state level. So, it is important that we have people that have those skills. I am interested in the letters of support; the majority seem to be from out of state. Why is that?

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield," We reached out to alumni for most of the support. There are a few here in Las Cruces, there are a couple from El Paso and Abilene. That is the advantage of an on-line degree, we can attract from anywhere. The tuition is the same whether you live in the State of New Mexico or you live in Texas or Vermont, the tuition is the same with the NMSU Global structure.

Regent Romero," I feel we are missing an opportunity with State Government as well as with all public entities, there are opportunities within these organizations that individuals may be interested in these types of programs. Yes, we want individuals from all over taking advantage of these programs, but I also think we have a responsibility to try to market within the State of New Mexico. So, if this is approved between now and the time you have, to submit, I would encourage you to reach out local entities that might be interesting in this and see this as a value to their organizations."

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield, "I would be glad to do that."

Regent Devasthali," I do have a question for you; Is the terminal degree in this field a Ph.D.? And do we currently offer that?"

Communications Studies, Department Head, Greg Armfield," Yes, it is but no we do not. UNM has a Ph.D. in communications within the state, so that terminal degree. We do have some students that will go to UNM for that but quite often our Ph.D. students will look outside. A lot of our master students come from our current program in our face to face, and so when they are going to a Ph.D. it is best that they get another experience from outside of the State of New Mexico. But the closest Ph.D. would be either Texas Tech or the University of New Mexico for communications studies."

Regent Devasthali, "Thank you, if there are no other questions, thank you for your presentation, Dr. Armfield. I will entertain a motion on this item as presented."

Regent Moseley made the motion and Regent Romero seconded it. A roll call vote was called to approve the Organizational Communication Leadership Masters online Program.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta called on each regent for their vote.

Regents Romero, Chacón-Reitzel, Moseley, and Devasthali all voted yes on the motion. Motion passed.

2. Geographic Information Science and Technology - Master of Science, *Geography & Environmental Studies*
Department Head Michaela Buenemann

Department Head Michaela Buenemann,” Thank you so much for the opportunity to share with you our proposed fully online master’s program in Geographic Information Science and Technology which will be housed in the department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Just to give you a quick background on what Geographic Information Science and Technology, or GS&T is about, it is a multidisciplinary field that deals with the science of geographic information that tries to answer basic scientific questions using geographic information and technologies. It encompasses the technologies to do that kind of work that includes remote sensing, essentially the acquisition and analysis of products that were acquired with sensors that are on board satellites or aircraft’s or more recently, drones. It also encompasses geographic information systems (or GIS), which are software programs for capturing, managing, analyzing, and visualizing geographic information and of course GPS which most of you probably have built into your cell phones and into your vehicles. There are diverse applications of GIS&T that answer questions about where. Like where do we want to conserve a particular species. Where are we most likely to get infected by a particular virus? Where is the ideal location for a new business? The way that we answer those questions is to use remotely sense data from census bureau and many other sources, which we then capture in the GIS to answer those kinds of questions. So, we might want to, for instance, identify an ideal location for business. To do that, we might want information about proximity to interstates, perhaps population density, zoning regulations, that kind of thing. In a GIS, we can capture all these layers on top of each other, specify the criteria, and then come up with optimal locations.”

“Again, these types of applications, the natural sciences, the social science, even within the humanities. There are lots of job opportunities. There is a very strong student demand for this kind of program, both in the region nationwide and globally. And yet there is currently no such program within the state or the region. The program will address all goals of LEADS 2025, and it will be quite crucial to advance economic development in the state as well. We feel strongly that this is a very important field and that there is a need for that here at NMSU. It is a fully online program that will be offered through NMSU Global, and we look forward to working with NMSU Global and the Graduate School to advance the program. It encompasses about 30 to 31 credits and the program can be completed in flexible time frames from anywhere. We are primarily targeting working professionals who are seeking to advance their existing careers or perhaps step into more advanced careers and another location or business or agency, but we are also certainly trying to recruit recent graduates. There are many different types of careers that our graduates could pursue, some of these are listed here, others include areas such as law enforcement, agricultural management, asset management, it is up to one’s imagination where one wants to take this particular field.”

“We have five major learning outcomes, the first is to think spatially, geographically, and geospatially. The second is to discuss the moral, ethical, social, political, and legal implications of geospatial data. The third is to advance, to explain basic and advanced concepts, methods, and applications in GIS&T. The fourth is to solve real-world problems by acquiring, analyzing, interpreting, and visualizing spatial data. And finally, the fifth learning outcome is to conduct all stages of an independent research project, including conceptualization, planning, implementation management and communication.”

“Here is our road map for the program, as you can see, we anticipate that students would require 30 to 31 credits to complete the program. The courses include basic courses in GIS Remote Sensing and Cartography. Their advanced courses in Programming and Spatial Analysis and Modeling are one elective course. And then, importantly, we have a sequence of two courses on Geospatial Professionalism and Professional Portfolio Development that is designed to help students enter the workforce, advance in the workforce, and really sell themselves in a competent manner. Then there are capstone courses one and two, which deal with the

implementation with a design and implementation of a project that students would complete in collaboration with external partners and businesses and NGOs in city, county, state agencies and so forth.”

“Our target retention, graduation, and job placement rates currently are 100%, we have not launched the program, so we will see how this goes. But our goal is to recruit ten students in year one and then five students in each subsequent year. We are not asking for new resources for the program beyond visiting assistant professor line that was promised to us through NMSU Global. We have faculty on campus who can teach all of these courses. In fact, many of these courses are already on the books and we also have a new Ph.D. program in Geography that started in fall 2020 and those Ph.D. students can help with these courses as well. So, we have a very strong support base to make the program happen.”

“We received letters of support from various partners, and these were included in your packet. I extracted four quotes from some of these partners. Brandon Bestelmeyer, with USDA-ARS, said ‘The program would be an excellent pathway for students from their graduate programs into the Federal workforce.’ Steve Sesnie, with the Fish and Wildlife Service noted that ‘The proposed program will prepare students to meet new challenges and demand for spatial data synthesis in an ever-changing region and world.’ Natalie Runyan from New Mexico Geographic Information Council noted that ‘The program caters to the evolving needs of students, working professionals and the job market in the fast-growing field of geospatial technology.’ Sandy Talasila from the New Mexico Geospatial Advisory Committee noted, ‘They already had a member eager to sign up at the last meeting.’ According to Gray Associates and NMSU Online data, there is also a very strong demand and need for the program. We rank in the eighty-ninth percentile among all CIP codes. There is a robust student demand, ranging from 74% to 93%, depending on the spatial scale we are looking at. NMSU online, as you probably know, has grown significantly over the last two years in terms of both online graduate enrollments and online graduate admissions. We are quite certain, based on the data, that we are presenting here that we would help increase that trend even more.”

“You can see in this slide the demand for Geographic Information, Science and Technology Specialists is increasing both nationally and regionally. You can see here some data from the nation ranging anywhere between 8% and 16% depending on which job title you are looking at. This is one of the challenges with this program, there are so many different job opportunities that it is hard to capture them using just one term. But the geospatial industry is one of the high growth job industries in the country has been for some time and will likely continue to grow in that way in the future. We did a little search of job opportunities within New Mexico and in El Paso using three different online websites and as you can see here, the number of jobs for people interested in GIS and remote sensing and mapping is quite high. We have diverse strategies to market the program and ultimately recruit students into the program, which includes working with NMSU Global on marketing. You can see here one of our draft flyers on the right, we will build a very strong web and social media presence and we will be offering webinars and virtual open houses. We will have an online forum where alumni and current students can share the good news. We will have recruitment tables at job fairs and will be networking at conferences. We already have a very extensive network with partners and businesses and agencies at all levels and NGOs and we are planning to nurture those partnerships and build new ones as well. We will work with alumni to advocate for the program and of course we will take advantage of whatever feedback we receive to continuously improve our marketing and recruitment campaign. Finally, NMSU Global offers very competitive pricing and as you can see, where we rank in comparison to programs at other universities and that positions us well to recruit not just from the New Mexico and El Paso region, but also nationwide. With that we will answer any question you may have.”

Chairwoman Devasthali posed a question regarding the moral, ethical, social, political, and legal implications and asked what the potential for abuse in the application of this program is.

Department Head Michaela Buenemann response to the question was, “The learning outcome is less about the application of GIS&T. It is more about using the technologies in a moral and ethical and generally responsible manner. As you may know, geographic information, historically, has been used for propaganda purposes. There are maps going back decades and even centuries that were used to try to persuade people to favor one political party over another or to be in favor or against wars. We are still having constant discussions about boundaries between countries and other kinds of regions. So, we want to make sure that students who graduate from this program are aware of the implications of using geospatial data so that they will use them in a moral, ethical, social, political, and legally responsible manner.”

Regent Chacón-Reitzel posed the question to the presenters, “What outreach or plans do they have to work with the College of ACES?”

Professor of Geography & Environmental Studies, Christopher Brown, “Any question that has spatial and geographic component to it can be answered very adequately with these technologies and if we look at water resource management within the state, there are a lot of opportunities. I was a founding member of the Water Science and Management Program, which is how it is in the College of ACES, and we collaborate very strongly with Sam Fernald who is the director of the Water Resources Research Institute. So, I think our opportunities are quite open in that area. If it has a geographic and spatial component to it, the tools that we are training our students to master and be brought to bear on those questions. So, since we have not launched the program yet, we don’t have strong opportunities for collaboration with the College of ACES, but we work very actively with faculty within the college and graduate committees. I have worked actively with Dr. Fernald in the Water Resources Management Institute as well as the Water Science and Management degree.”

Department Head Michaela Buenemann, “I would like to add that I currently have several USDA NRCS funded projects, one of those deals with acequias in northern New Mexico and I am working with Colby Brungard and others in Plant and Environmental and Soil Sciences on this. I also have a project that deals with mapping mesquite encroachment, and again working with individuals from PES and Range Science. So, we have well developed collaborations with colleagues already, both through research initiatives, but also through graduate thesis committees and dissertations.”

Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences, Associate Dean, Donald Conner asked if they could elaborate on the curriculum map and would there be any opportunity for any ACES courses to fill the need there since ACES does have some GIS courses.

Department Head Michaela Buenemann, “Those are the core choices that we included in the roadmap, but we do anticipate having some students in the program who already have some background in GIS and Remote Sensing. With those students we will work on an individual basis to develop their curriculum plan and that could most certainly include them taking courses in the College of ACES or other colleges for that matter.”

Professor of Geography & Environmental Studies, Christopher Brown, “I think another component of that is this is not a thesis program, but they have to do a capstone geospatial project and we envision many of those projects may be for their current employers or may be for external sponsors that are interested. So, clearly if we bring students into the program that have an interest in agricultural natural resource management that would be helped by classes within the College of ACES. It would be a natural partnership to put those classes into their program.”

Chairwoman Devasthali thanked the presenters and stated she would like to entertain a motion on the program as presented.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to approve and Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took a roll call vote asking each Regent to vote yes or no on the motion to approve the Geographic Information Sciences, Technology, Master of Science Degree.

Regent Romer voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

Regent Devasthali voted yes.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta stated to Chairwoman Devasthali that there were 5 votes in favor to approve.

3. Food Science - Doctor of Philosophy, *Family and Consumer Sciences Department Head Efren Delgado*

Family and Consumer Sciences Department Head Efren Delgado, "Thank you for allowing us to present our proposal for a Ph.D. in Food Science. The proposal would be housing the Department of Family Consumer Science in the College of ACES. Food Science draws from multiple disciplines. It is a study of the physical, biological including micro biological aspect and chemical makeup of food that allow the experts to better understand food processing and the way to improve food products for the general public. Food scientists are engaged in ways to better process food, preserve, package, and store according to industry, governmental, and also consumer requirements. Here is a list of the potential job areas where a food scientist can work, and there are a lot of employee opportunities for a food scientist in the food industry, academia, USDA, FDA, consumer research, regulatory affairs, basic research, food marketing, sales, and nutrition."

"We just wanted to present that prior coursework is a 42 credit Ph.D. program that goes hand in hand with other food science programs in the nation. We compared and discussed and visited with other programs, so we came up with this coursework and if you see that the coursework gives the student the opportunity to pick classes related to their area of emphasis or area of research working with a specific advising committee and the program also allows for student to take courses in other departments of NMSU."

"The program has strong existing resources. You might know that through a GO Bond a new food science building is coming November third, but we do have an existing food, microbiology, food safety pilot plan food chemistry lab and a frozen desert research center, and we are already starting to move into the new building and believe we will start working in the new facility in the coming two or three weeks."

"We also have existing faculty resources, it is an existing investment that we already have in a critical mass of faculty with food science experts, most of them are here in this room sharing this presentation with you. We have a strong faculty with a high record of national and international collaboration along with very productive, experienced researchers and teachers with together over 250 peer review publications and more than 10,000 citations and also, our faculty has established a strong collaboration with different departments at NMSU."

"Based on the overview of 01 CIP, specifically for agriculture, a Ph.D. program in food science nationwide ranks third in overall student demand. Of all employees in food science related positions, 11% of those positions have a Ph.D. in food science, showing us the high demand that a Ph.D. in food science has in the workforce. We also do not have a Ph.D. program in the State of New Mexico, if approved we will be the first and only Ph.D. program in food science even in the region of West Texas and Arizona. There is potential not only to recruit students from New Mexico, but also from other regions. As shown in our attached letters of support from stakeholders from the New Mexico Chile Association, NMDA, meat processors and other

industries. They are stakeholders that have shown the need of this type of program in our state.”

“What is the importance of a Ph.D. Program in food science in New Mexico? As we know, value added agriculture is one of the nine targeted industries that the State of New Mexico has identified to grow into the future. There is also a lot of stakeholders that rely on New Mexico’s strong agricultural and needs it to expand it agriculture industry into the food processing sector. So, this is a great opportunity to support the economic development in the state. We also know NMSU is uniquely located to address border and food safety and security issues. This program will attract New Mexico students and underrepresented minorities such as tribal communities and Hispanic students. The students from this region will have access to a Ph.D. program in this area and will have the opportunity to stay in their state and later work in their state and contribute to the economic development of New Mexico.”

“There are no additional requests for resources. We have the required faculty and the new facility as well as existing labs and library resources. We also have a strong faculty resource that are applying constantly for grant proposals that will fund stipends, health insurance, and student fees for the students. We are open for questions and recommendations currently.”

Regent Chacón-Reitzel to expressed her excitement for this program.

Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Gaylene Fassenko expressed her concern to not forget about the pet food industry and the presenters let her know that they do have projects with ideas with pets in mind.

Chairwoman Devasthali stated that she would like to entertain a motion for approval of the Ph.D. program. Regent Moseley made a motion for approval and Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took a roll call vote asking each Regent to vote yes or no on the motion to approve the Food Sciences Doctor of Philosophy program as presented.

Regent Romer voted yes.
Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.
Regent Moseley voted yes.
Regent Saucedo voted yes.
Regent Devasthali voted yes.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta stated to Chairwoman Devasthali that there were 5 votes in favor to approve.

E. Informational Items

1. None

F. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Romero made a motion to adjourn. Regent Moseley seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 3:57pm

Meeting Minutes Approved on March 28, 2024 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer