



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL MEETING
March 28, 2024 at 8:00 AM**

Live Webcast at the following address: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/87619268433>

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 Donna Johnson

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

Minutes

A. Call to Order

Chairwoman Devasthali called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

(Zoom meeting for all and phone for Regent Chacón-Reitzel)

1. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta called roll all were present and quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Romero moved to approve the agenda.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the agenda.

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

B. Minutes, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

1. Special Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2024

Regent Moseley moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes.

Regent Romero seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2024.

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

2. Regular Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2023

Regent Romero noted a spelling error on page 16. Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Regent Romero seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the minutes as amended for December 7, 2023.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

3. Special Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2023

Regent Moseley moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2023.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

4. Special Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2023

Regent Romero moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes.

Regent Saucedo seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2023.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

5. Special Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2023

Regent Moseley moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2023.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

C. **Consent Items**

1. **None.**

D. **Informational Items**

1. **Presidential Search Update, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali stated:

“Next, we have an update on the Presidential search and I will provide that update. Later in the agenda for today’s meeting we will select the search committee, so I will reserve any discussion regarding that action item until that time.

The primary reason for providing this informational update is to inform everyone regarding the process and the details we have at this time.

First, members of the WittKieffer team, including Dr. Zack Smith, managing partner and practice leader, and Dr. Melody Rose, who is the principal on the WittKieffer team, will continue to work with us on the search for our next president.

We plan to move quickly considering that a lot of the groundwork has already been completed and Zach has drafted a proposed timeline for the search that I would like to share today.

We plan to begin the search in April and have campus visits by candidates in August. Our goal is to have the permanent president in place for the beginning of the spring 2025 semester in January 2025.

As we move forward, we will be providing continuous updates as details become available on the same presidential search website, located at nmsu.edu/president-search.

Our goal, as before, is to find the right leader for New Mexico State University at this critical juncture. We need everyone’s help and support through this process, so I hope that you will attend candidate forums and provide feedback when we bring our next slate of candidates to campus for interviews.

That concludes my update.”

E. **Action Items**

1. **Presidential Search Committee Selection, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali stated:

“Members of the board, you have before you a list of nominees for the presidential search committee and for the record I will read those names:

- ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez
- Faculty Senate Chair elect Vimal Chaitanya
- Employee Council Chair Donna Johnson
- Vice President for Academic Affairs at NMSU Grants, Marlene Chavez-Toivanen
- Dean Enrico Pontelli

- Associate Dean/Director Cooperative Extension Service Jon Boren

And the following community members:

- Suzanne Quillen, Vice President of HealthCare Innovation at Ernest Health
- Margaret Hardin, who among other professional activities is a member of the NMSU Foundation board of directors.
- Rex Wilson, Southern Region Director Presbyterian Medical Services
- Terra Winter, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico
- Scott Hutchinson, Senior Manager, Electrical Sciences, Sandia Campus Executive for New Mexico State University

Also, I am proposing that I serve on the committee as the regent member and chair of the committee. I will entertain a motion on the search committee membership as presented.”

Regent Moseley made a motion to approve the names for the presidential search committee.

Do I have a second for this motion?

Regent Saucedo seconded the motion.

Adam, will you please take a roll call vote?

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes, motion carried to approve the names for the presidential search committee.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

2. Executive Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

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

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes and motion carried to convene in executive session.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

Regents went into closed executive session at 8:15 am.

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

3. Reconvene in Open Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali reconvened in open session at 9:09.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta read the following statement:

“The regents met in executive session today, Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 8:15 AM in an online closed session to discuss the selection of the Interim President of New Mexico State University as permitted under the personnel matters exemption the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA Section 10-15-1, subsection (H)(2). Those members who were present, please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes that only matters of that nature were discussed.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

4. Final Action on the Interim Presidential Selection Discussed in Executive Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Saucedo made a motion to appoint Dr. Monica Torres as the Interim President of New Mexico State University Effective May 1, 2024, and approve the interim employment agreement between the regents and Dr. Torres for an initial term of six months or until a permanent president is in place.

Regent Romero seconded the motion.

Regent Devasthali noted for the record that Dr. Gogue’s last day will be May 10 and Interim President Dr. Monica Torres will have a brief transition spanning from May 1-May 10. Seeing no additional discussion, Chairwoman Devasthali asked for a roll call vote.

A roll call vote was taken, and all five regents voted yes. The motion carried that Dr. Monica Torres is selected as the Interim President of New Mexico State University with and effective start date of May 1.

Regent Romero – Yes	Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes	Regent Mosely -Yes
Regent Salcedo – Yes	Regent Devasthali -Yes	

Dr. Torres said a few words and was excited to get started.

F. **Announcements and Comments, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali thanked Dr. Shoho for his service to NMSU and on behalf of the Board of Regents, wished him a happy retirement. She also welcomed and thanked Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi and being willing to step into that role.

G. **Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to adjourn.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and all five regents voted yes, motion carried, the March 28 Special Meeting is adjourned at 9:14 am.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Mosely -Yes

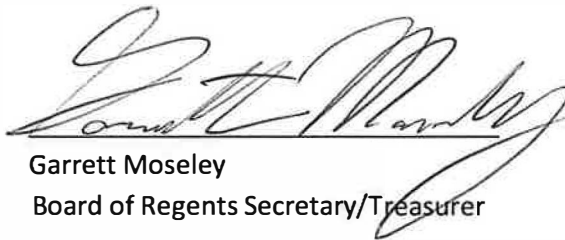
Regent Salcedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali -Yes

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



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer