



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
October 25, 2024 at 8:00 AM**

Live 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 Ala Alhalholy, Faculty Senate Chair Vimal Chaitanya, Ph.D., Employee Council Chair Donna Johnson

**University Officials** - Interim President Mónica Torres, Ph.D., Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi, Ph.D., General Counsel Lisa Henderson, J.D.

**MINUTES**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Devasthali called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

**1. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took roll and confirmed the quorum.

Regent Romero – Present

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Present

Regent Moseley -Present

Regent Saucedo – Present

Regent Devasthali -Present

**2. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Chacón-Reitzel moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second from Regent Moseley. The motion passed without opposition.

**B. Consent Items**

**1. None.**

**C. Action Items**

**1. President Employment Agreement by and between The Regents of New Mexico State University and Dr. Valerio Ferme, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Devasthali said, “Members of the board, we have just one item on the agenda today which is the President’s Employment Agreement by and between The Regents of New Mexico State University and Dr. Valerio Ferme.

On September 19, 2024 the Board of Regents selected Dr. Ferme as NMSU's next president. The Board authorized the chair to negotiate final contract terms for Board approval in open session at a special meeting to be set promptly after the Chair concludes negotiations.

I'm pleased to announce the conclusion of negotiations and present for your consideration the Employment Agreement for President of NMSU by and between the Regents of New Mexico State University and Dr. Valerio Ferme. I will entertain a motion on the agreement as presented."

Regent Saucedo moved to approve the agreement as presented. Regent Romero seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took a roll call vote.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali -Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Regent Devasthali invited regents to make comments about the vote to approve the Employment Agreement with Valerio Ferme as President of NMSU.

Regent Romero said, "I can't tell you how relieved I am that we have a president at NMSU. I think that this is going to be the beginning of new and wonderful things for NMSU. Everything that I've heard so far about our new president has been wonderful, and I think he's just going to bring that peace that we need, that ability to unify people. And we look forward to just all the opportunities that he is going to be bringing to NMSU. So thank you for agreeing to accept this position. I look forward to working with you."

Regent Chacón-Reitzel said, "Thank you. Bienvenido President Ferme! We're very happy to have you in our beautiful state, and we are looking forward to meeting your lovely family. All I can say is, this has been home for me and my family for some centuries, and I think you found a home here, and so I just want you to know that you have my support. I think, as Ammu stated, the best is yet to come. We're happy to have you here in New Mexico, and I wish you many, many years that you'll spend your life here and love it as we all do. Welcome."

Regent Moseley said, "Dr. Ferme, I just want to say I can't wait for you to be down here in Las Cruces, and I'm so happy that we get to call you our next president of the New Mexico State University system. I know these next couple of months are really going to be hitting the ground running. But I just want you to know we all really support you. We're excited and anything we can do to help you, we're always in your corner, so I hope the move goes well, and I can't wait to see you down here hopefully for a very long time. When I come back and visit, you're still here. So thank you so much for taking on this role and this responsibility. And I'm looking forward to it."

Regent Saucedo said, "I simply want to say that I am personally very excited with this development, and with what is now, I consider a new beginning, if you will, for New Mexico State. We have a lot of great things here, a great tradition and it's going to be really exciting to see where we go from here. So welcome and we certainly we'll be in support of you and your actions, and very excited about it. Thank you."

Several other meeting participants greeted and welcomed Dr. Ferme.

Dr. Ferme said, "Today I officially accept the presidency of New Mexico State University and my family and I are honored to join the Land Grant Institution of the State of New Mexico. I'm humbled by this responsibility, even though I understand that it has significant responsibilities to our campuses, our communities, and to the citizenry and government of the State. To me, it's both exciting, and I do feel the responsibility to be an excellent representative of the University itself in everything it does. My first thanks go to the Board of Regents for entrusting me with this responsibility, but also to everyone who, during my visit, and immediately after, has shown so much interest and concern for me, my family, and encouraged me with affection to take on the challenges and opportunities that are embedded in the position.

I'm excited to engage the work and the passion, the challenges, and the opportunities that you bring to me, and that I see ahead of us. Like many of you have just stated, I think they're untapped opportunities here that we can really make work on behalf of the University in the State.

More importantly, and this is really what it comes down to, I'm excited to engage the 'us' that comes together in our communities, and I think that together we will turn these possibilities into realities and elevate and enhance the pathways already at work in the strategic plan, but well beyond them. I do have some ideas for the beyond, but I think until one hits the ground, one doesn't know what that beyond looks like."

Dr. Ferme continued, "I think there is so much energy that I feel collectively we can harness to get there. I look forward to engaging with faculty, with staff, with everybody who is interested in the well-being of this university. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity."

**D. Informational Items**

**1. None.**

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

There were no additional announcements or comments.

**F. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Moseley moved to adjourn with a second from Regent Romero. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 AM.

**Meeting Minutes Approved on December 12, 2024 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.**



Ammu Devasthali  
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer