



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL MEETING
September 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM**

Live Webcast at the following address: <http://regents.nmsu.edu/>

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.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

1. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Chairwoman Devasthali called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Chief of Staff, Adam Cavotta confirmed all Regents were present and the quorum was confirmed, and role was called.

2. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Mosley made a motion to approve the agenda and Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried for approval of the agenda.

B. Approval of Minutes and Confirmation of Prior Closed Sessions

1. Regular Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2024

Regent Romero made a motion to approve August 19, 2024, minutes as presented, Regent Moseley seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried.

2. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session September 9, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024. The meeting was called to discuss the candidates for President of New Mexico State University and was closed to the public as permitted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

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

Regent Saucedo – Yes Regent Devasthali -Yes

3. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session September 10, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. The meeting was called to interview finalists for President of New Mexico State University and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

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

4. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session September 12, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2024. The meeting was called to interview finalists for President of New Mexico State University and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

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

5. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session September 13, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting on Friday, September 13, 2024. The meeting was called to interview finalists for President of New Mexico State University and the interview was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

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

6. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session September 14, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2024. The meeting was called to interview finalists for President of New Mexico State University and was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

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

7. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session September 18, 2024

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the closed executive sessions.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents held a closed meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. The meeting was called to interview finalists for President of New Mexico State University and was closed to the public as exempted under NMSA 1978, section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali -Yes

C. Consent Items

Regent Moseley made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented and Regent Saucedo seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion passed.

- 1. Honorific naming of the New DACC Creative Media Building at Arrowhead Park "Cholla Hall", NMSU Foundation Vice President of Philanthropy & Alumni Relations, Patrick Stewart**
- 2. Acceptance of New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) Endowment Grants, NMSU Foundation Chief Executive Officer Sylvia Y. Acosta**
- 3. Inter-governmental Service Agreement Between the City of Sunland Park Police Department and New Mexico State University, NMSU Interim Chief of Police Justin Dunivan**

D. Action Items

Chairwoman Devasthali made a motion for the regents to convene in executive session to discuss the finalist for president of New Mexico State University, as permitted under the personnel matter’s exemption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA Section 10-15-1, Subsection H (2).

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion and Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta conducted a roll call vote.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Regent Moseley -Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali -Yes

All were in favor and motion carried. Regents moved into closed session in room 2 at 1:09 pm.

1. Executive Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

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

2. Reconvene in Open Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

The board reconvened at 1:24pm. Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta was asked to confirm the closed executive session.

“The New Mexico State University Board of Regents met in executive session today Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 1:09 pm in room 2 Educational Services Center to discuss the finalist for President of New Mexico State University as permitted under the Personnel Matters Exemption of the New Mexico’s Open Meetings Act NMSA section 10-15-1 subsection H2. Those board members who are present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.”

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

The prior closed executive session is confirmed.”

3. Final Action on Presidential Finalists Discussed in Executive Session, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Moseley made a motion to appoint Dr. Valerio Ferme as the President of New Mexico State University, subject to reaching mutually agreeable contract terms and to authorize the Regent Chair to negotiate final contract terms for board approval in open session at a special meeting set promptly after the chair concludes negotiations. Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was requested.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta conducted a roll call vote on the motion.

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

All voted in favor and the motion passed.

The Aggie fight song was played in celebration of Pistol Pete and Cheer present.

Chair Devasthali read the following statement, “On behalf of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents, I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have played a vital role in our Presidential search process. To the members of the Presidential Search Committee, your tireless efforts and dedication have been the cornerstone of this endeavor. Your commitment to finding the best possible leader for NMSU is truly appreciated.

To the presidential candidates, thank you for your interest in NMSU and for sharing your vision for our university's future. Your participation has enriched this process immeasurably.

To the NMSU community, our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends in Las Cruces and throughout New Mexico, and around the world, your engagement has been inspiring.

There were 757 feedback messages that were received. We have never received that kind of feedback in the past. The feedback submissions we received following the faculty staff, students, and community forums have provided invaluable insights. Your voices are a big part of the success of this process.

I would like to add a very big thanks to Dr. Monica Torres for her leadership as interim president. We look forward to her continued leadership as we transition to our new administration.

Finally, a special thank you to my fellow members of the Board of Regents, your dedication to this thorough and collaborative process has been extraordinary. We recognize the sacrifices you have made, taking time away from your professional lives and families for many months. Your commitment to finding the right leader for NMSU is a testament to your unwavering service to our university. Thank you all for your contributions to this important process. We look forward to sharing the exciting next chapter in NMSU’s history with you soon as we look forward to welcoming Dr. Ferme back on campus for a reception held here to meet with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of NMSU. Thank you all.”

4. Applied and Agricultural Biology - Doctor of Philosophy, Department Head Ricardo Ramirez

Dean of the College of ACES Rolando Flores started by stating that he wanted to submit to the board the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied and Agricultural Biology. He goes on to state that agriculture is affected by climate change as well

as many other items that he lists off and follows up with the importance of high-level research that happens in a land grant university. He then introduces Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, who is the current Department head of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science as well as Dr. Erik Lehnhoff and Dean Connor. They present their proposal for a path to a PhD in Applied and Agricultural Biology. They present the opportunities that this will open up for students and present the letters of support from industries for this degree as well as all the enrollment increase this will encourage. They end their presentation and open up for questions from the board.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel did not have a question just a comment on how important agriculture is to not just NM but the world and she supports this proposal.

Chairwoman Devasthali also just had a comment that she sees that there is clearly a need for this program and is happy that it comes at no additional cost.

Regent Romero voiced her concern about salaries and how are we going to keep these graduates here if we cannot pay competitively and need to consider this concern.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to approve the Ph.D. for Applied and Agricultural Biology and Regent Saucedo seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

5. Borderlands and Ethnic Studies – Master of Arts, Department Head Dulcinea Lara

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Dean Phillip Post introduces their Borderline Ethnic Studies Master's Program and gives some reasons for the request for the program degree and introduces Academic Department Head Dulcinea Lara to present to the board. She goes on to present the strengths and support the program has as well as supporting the mandate of Yazi Martinez to provide culturally and linguistically relevant education for k through 12. She listed the different entities that the students work for and points to the growing number of official recognitions of the Ethnic Studies across the state. After listing several benefits this program will provide, she concluded her presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Regent Romero posed the question of when they will see the work in other parts of the state and when she states Southern New Mexico, where is she talking about.

Academic Department Head Dulcinea Lara responded with some examples stating NM Highland University, Northern NM, In Wagon Mound, Mora, Penasco, Las Vegas and Pecos as well as looking into Albuquerque.

Regent Romero goes on to state that she feels we are missing opportunities as a lot of pueblos are in the northern part of NM versus the southern part. She suggests working with the CES programs to get the program moving quicker, we are the Land Grant Institution for the State of New Mexico that is in all thirty-three counties. She thanked her for her presentation.

Regent Moseley took the time to recognize the program and the work they are doing.

Regent Chacón- Reitzel posed a question on commerce and how the program can help in developing those borderlands.

Academic Department Head Dulcinea Lara states that if they teach in cultural and linguistic, relevant ways; these young people do not have to leave their talents at home and then come to school and keep switching back. She goes on to state that all of that becomes integrated to uplift the students to their most incredible capacity.

Regent Saucedo posed the question of if a local teacher with a bachelor's degree, will these masters allow them to advance to level 3 credentialing?

Academic Department Head Dulcinea Lara responds that it is a very technical question and that she is in conversation with the New Mexico PED about micro credentialing and about ways that ethnic studies can be formally part of that advancing in the portfolios. New Mexico Public Ed Department will be including the ethnic studies content and attitude in the official NM PED advancement to level 3 indirectly and conversations still need to be had.

After more back and forth conversation a motion was entertained to approve the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies – Master of Arts.

Regent Mosely made a motion to approve the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies – Master of Arts. Regent Saucedo seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion passed.

6. Engineering Management – Master of Engineering (Online), Department Head Hansuk Sohn

Dean of College of Engineering David Jauregui begins the presentation for the Online Master of Engineering in Engineering Management. He introduces his colleagues, Department Head Dr. Hansuk Sohn and Dr. Salvador Rodriguez who were both key architects for the proposal. He states that this program is also a collaborative effort between the Colleges of Engineering and Business.

The proposed program is based on an in-depth analysis using data from the Gray Associates Scorecard and Bureau of Labor Statistics. It aims to meet growing demand for engineering managers in New Mexico by restructuring existing engineering courses to provide accessible flexible education for recent graduates and working professionals. Program Demand and Accessibility, approximately 75% of students in similar programs are working professionals. It is designed for maximum flexibility to cater to career advancement and uses existing faculty and resources, requiring no additional investments. The market analysis and student demand are in the top 2% nationally for program demand based on enrollment, applications and student interest. Expected high employment outcomes, with graduates securing roles such as project manager, president and business owner. It will address critical workforce needs in sectors like manufacturing, construction, aerospace, defense and energy. The expected employment outcome are graduates to see 50% salary increase compared to those with only a bachelor's degree with \$100k vs. \$150K median salary. The program focuses on technical and managerial skills, including finance, accounting, organizational behavior and operations as well as preparing engineers for leadership roles and entrepreneurship. The collaboration with NMSU Global and the College of Business which promotes interdisciplinary instruction and research. An accelerated master's degree allows students to earn credits towards both bachelor's and master's degrees, saving tuition costs. New Mexico high school students will qualify for STEM graduate fellowships covering full tuition and partnership with Arrowhead Center and Studio G provide entrepreneurial support and resources. This will compete with programs at NM Tech, U of A and Arizona State University. The program has undergone all required approvals and is now seeking final authorization to establish the Master of Engineering in Engineering management of New Mexico State University. He opened the floor for questions.

Chairwoman Devasthali commented her support.

Regent Moseley asked what was meant by faculty lines being allocated?

Dean of College of Engineering David Jauregui states that it would be based on growth and student to faculty ratio. They will be consistently reevaluating the capacity they have for instruction.

Regent Mosely continued with, would it be hiring new faculty or shifting existing faculty, and at what point do you flatten out the program and increase the faculty salary that are working in that area versus bringing on a new faculty member to increase the program enrollment?

Dean of College of Engineering David Jauregui responds that they would look at allocation of effort and workload and administrative staffing will initially use existing staff, supported by NMSU Global. Program coordinators will manage staff requirements as the program grows, ensuring sufficient support without overburdening current staff.

Other regents made some positive comments prior to the motion being made.

Regent Moseley made a motion to approve the engineering management Master of Engineering as presented.

Regent Romero seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

7. Systems Engineering – Master of Engineering (Online), Department Head Hansuk Sohn

Dean of College of Engineering David Jauregui presented to the board on the proposed Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering is a coursework-only degree designed to restructure and integrate faculty expertise within the College of Engineering. This proposal seeks approval for the Master of Engineering in System Engineering, emphasizing affordability and value for students. It addresses the growing demand for systems engineers across industries like automotive, manufacturing, energy and defense. Students are in the top 5% nationally for demand with competitive intensity in the top 9% with less competition compared to other fields. Employment outcomes are that bachelor's degree graduates earn ~\$100K, with a 5% salary increase for master's holders. The projected job growth is 12%, double the rate of engineering management roles.

Some of the highlights focus on interdisciplinary education tailored to state and regional needs. Including the Borderplex area. It leverages NMSU's Aggie Innovation Space for hands-on learning and collaboration and builds on existing research programs like QCAM (Quality Control and Additive Manufacturing) and DREAM (Distribute Resilient Additive Manufacturing) and expands on the graduate certificate in Systems Engineering and nationally ranked master's programs. It does compete with programs at UNM, U of A, ASU, and UTEP. He opens the floor for questions from the board.

Regent Moseley asked the question how is the decision made on when a graduate degree should be offered online versus whether it should be offered on main campus?

Dean of College of Engineering David Jauregui responded that the major factor is who the audience is for that particular degree. For main campus students they will be focused on those that will be performing research and need to be on campus working directly with a faculty member, where on a Master of Engineering that is to research based such as this particular degree, they will tailoring to students to give them the flexibility of working and schooling fulltime but online.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to approve the Master of Engineering in System Engineering online program.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried.

8. Repeal Previously Approved NMEDD Soundstage Project Agreement and Memorandum, Arrowhead Park Executive Director Wayne Savage

Executive Director of Arrowhead Park Wayne Savage presented to the board on the TV soundstage project that has been in collaboration with the Economic Development Department of the State Film office and University and Arrowhead center inc. Agenda item #8 is the request to repeal the originally approved documents and subsequent to the June 28th meeting of the BOR. It was determined by the NMSU Dept of Finance that the project funds could not be transferred directly to Arrowhead Center Inc. under the current structure of the agreement at that time. It was determined that the only way the funds could be transferred to Arrowhead Inc was to remove NMSU as a party to the soundstage agreement and because of that the request to have the previous agreement repealed and request a newly revised agreement.

Regent Romero made a motion to repeal the agreement.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion passed.

9. NMEDD Soundstage Revised Project Proposal Agreement and Memorandum, Arrowhead Park Executive Director Wayne Savage

Executive Director of Arrowhead Park Wayne Savage presented to the board a summary of changes to the previous agreement. Revisions were made to comply with the Department of Finance's requirement to remove NMSU from the soundstage agreement. Adjustment so the memorandum of proposed terms maintains the core agreements between the Economic Development Department, Arrowhead Center, Inc. (ACI) and NMSU.

HED approval will not be required for the eventual transfer of the soundstage complex from ACI to NMSU. This transfer initially planned for completion upon project completion will now occur later during the operational phase to allow time for the HED approval process. Despite NMSU's formal removal from the agreement, the institution retains all original responsibilities under the memorandum of understanding with ACI. The Board was invited to request a detailed explanation of the changes or proceed with approval of the revised documents or just move ahead with the approval of the revised agreement. Chairwoman Devasthali clarified that even though NMSU has been removed from the agreement de facto, NMSU is still responsible for everything it was responsible for before.

Executive Arrowhead Park, Director Wayne Savage confirms that is correct, per the memorandum of understanding.

Regent Romero made a motion to approve the NMED Soundstage Device Project Proposal agreement and memorandum as presented.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

E. Informational Items

1. None.

F. Announcements and Comments, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

There were no announcements or comments, so Chairwoman Devasthali reminded everyone of the UNM game and for them to all show up.

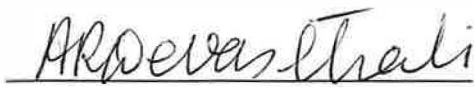
G. Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali

Regent Mosley made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

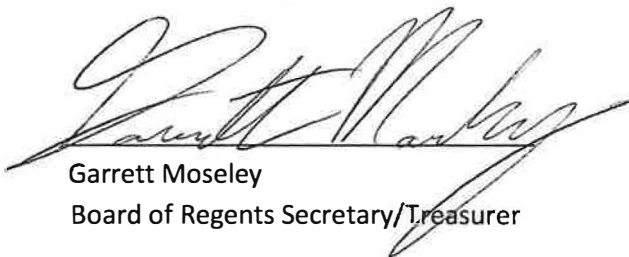
Regent Romero seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

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