



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
May 9, 2024, at 10:00 AM**

The meeting will be held online at the following address:  
<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/81547872302>

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

**Minutes**

**A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali called the May 9, 2024 special meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta confirmed the quorum by first calling on the regents and asking them to state "present," for the record.

Regent Romero stated present.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel stated present.

Regent Moseley stated present.

Regent Saucedo stated present.

Regent Devasthali stated present.

Employee Council Chair Johnson stated present.

Faculty Senate Chair Fasenko stated present.

ASNMSU President Benitez stated present.

General Counsel Henderson stated present.

Interim Provost Reddi stated present.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta stated that the roll call was done, and the quorum is confirmed.

**2. Introduction of Interim President Mónica Torres, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali introduced and welcomed Interim President Monica Torres who was selected as interim president of the NMSU System by the board of Regents on March 28, 2024, and her first day in this position was May 1, 2024.

Chairwoman Devasthali, “Monica Torres earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from New Mexico State University, before obtaining her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Torres worked in higher education for almost forty years, beginning as a composition instructor. Since then she has been a faculty member and our academic administrator at four universities and three community colleges in New Mexico, Minnesota, and Illinois. Dr. Torres has been at Doña Ana community College for eleven years, first as Vice President for Academic Affairs and since 2018 as President. Dr. Torres has engaged in community service throughout her career, that work has included serving on the Founding Boards of the Mesilla Valley Film Society, La Piñon, and Engage New Mexico. She currently serves on nine boards and commissions, including The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, Moreda, and the Burrelle College of Osteopathic Medicine. President Torres, thank you for taking up the call to be our interim President and for your ardent support of the NMSU system. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Torres to her new role as Interim President of New Mexico State University. “

### **3. Introduction of Faculty Senate Chair Elect Vimal Chaitanya, Chair Gaylene Fasenko**

Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fasenko, “It is my pleasure and privilege to introduce to you incoming Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Vimal Chaitanya. Dr. Chaitanya is a professor in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department in the college of Engineering. Prior to joining New Mexico State University, he worked for a year at National Bureau of Standards and then joined the University of Central Florida where he did some fantastic work. He established a state recognized Center of Excellence in Advanced Materials, Processing and Analysis; this also included developing a new master’s and doctoral degree program in materials and science engineering. In 2006, Dr. Chaitanya joined NMSU as the Vice President for Research Graduate Studies and International Programs. During this ten-and-a-half-year period the research and development expenditures at NMSU averaged about 142.5 million dollars. As a professor in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, Dr. Chaitanya introduced and taught four new courses including undergrad and graduate courses and serves as the P&T Committee chair. Dr. Chaitanya is currently serving as Director of Manufacturing Systems and research programs for the College of Engineering. He also serves as the Program Director of Plutonium Workforce Development for the National Nuclear Security Administration, and this includes ten New Mexico educational institutions. Cherokee to China has an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from India, a master’s in bioengineering from Clemson and a Ph.D. in Materials, Science and Engineering from the John Hopkins University. I have worked with Dr. Chaitanya over the last year as Vice Chair of Faculty Senate. He is thoughtful, and extremely smart, and he has positive intent in mind for NMSU and faculty and I know you will find him a pleasure and joy to work with, so with that I introduce Dr. Chaitanya.”

### **4. Introduction of ASNMSU President Elect Ala Alhalholy, President Citlalli Benitez**

ASNMSU President Benitez, “Distinguished members of the Board and esteemed guests. It is with profound privilege that I introduced to you the newly elected student body president of ASNMSU, Ala Alhalholy. She is a rising senior majoring in biology, she embodies the spirit of academic excellence as a crimson scholar and aspires to pursue medical studies, post-graduation. A product of Las Cruces campus upbringing, her favorite dedication to fostering positive change with NMSU is evident through our extensive campus involvement notably as the President of the Arts and Sciences Council and as an ASNMSU Senator. Among her notable accomplishments is her pivotal contribution to neuroscience research at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine. Her remarkable achievements extend to the international stage as she is slated to present her

research at the FENS 2024 Conference in Europe this summer. Having had the opportunity to know Ala as a colleague, a friend, and even at times as a foe, I am confident that she will achieve great lengths in her new role in representing the students. I would like to personally extend the best wishes for her in her tenure as student body President and I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact that she will undoubtedly make within our university campus. The association and the student body are in great hands. Please join me in giving President Ala Alhalholy a warm welcome and the biggest congratulations.

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

Regent Chacón-Reitzel requested that C.5 on the agenda, be removed prior to approval.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta conducted a roll call vote:

Regent Romero voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

Regent Devasthali voted yes.

Five votes in favor, motion carries and the agenda as been approved as amended.

**C. Awards and Recognitions**

**1. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Interim President Jay Gogue, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Jay Gogue

WHEREAS, George “Jay” Gogue concluded his appointment as the Interim President of the New Mexico State University system on April 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue was selected as interim President on April 7, 2023 after having previously served as New Mexico State University’s president from 2000 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue has had a long and distinguished career serving as President and Chancellor of the University of Houston system from 2003 to 2007; and as president of Auburn University from 2007 to 2017, and again from 2019 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Auburn, that university continued to assert its status as the premier land-, sea- and space-grant university through research, academic rigor and national recognition; and

WHEREAS, he served as Provost at Utah State University from 1995 to 2000, Vice President for Research at Clemson University from 1986 to 1995, and Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources at Clemson University from 1993 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue started his professional career as a research scientist with the National Park Service, and served in

the United States Army and Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue has a Ph.D. in horticulture from Michigan State University, and a BS and MS in horticulture from Auburn; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents recognizes the commitment, dedication, and spirit of service of Dr. Gogue and his wife Susie Gogue in bringing all of their talents and experience to bear for the benefit of our beloved Aggies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue clearly demonstrated that he liked to lead winning institutions, when New Mexico State University defeated Auburn University at Auburn, on November 18, 2023 bringing great pride to New Mexico State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue freely shared his wisdom, including management tips for education careers and his core values and principles which helped to guide the administration through uncertain times; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gogue consistently, clearly, and eagerly promoted the land-grant mission and NMSU's pivotal role in fulfilling that mission as the state of New Mexico's land-grant university; and

WHEREAS, Board of Regents Chair Dr. Ammu Devasthali said, "President Gogue has shown great affection and dedication to NMSU by coming out of retirement to serve as interim president from April 2023 to April 2024."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED in official session, that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Jay Gogue for his dedicated service.

PROCLAIMED this 9th day of May 2024, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**2. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fasenko, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Gaylene Fasenko

WHEREAS, Dr. Gaylene Fasenko, as Chair of NMSU Faculty Senate, has represented faculty with professionalism and served with distinction as an advisory member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents from May 2022 through May 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fasenko provided stable leadership in Faculty Senate through changes of three Provosts, two Presidents, and one Chancellor; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Fasenko helped to recruit and onboard a new Faculty Senate Recording Secretary after the retirement of a long-time senate administrative assistant; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fasenko served as a trusted advisor and mentor for Faculty who came to her for advice on a variety of career matters; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fasenko took every opportunity to elevate the significant contributions made by faculty and staff at NMSU Las Cruces, Alamogordo Community College, Doña Ana Community College, Grants Community College campuses; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Fasenko has been a tireless advocate for increasing faculty compensation as well as leadership

opportunities at NMSU, particularly for women and faculty from underrepresented and marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, on her own volition, Dr. Fasenko organized monthly mentoring sessions with aspiring and upcoming NMSU leaders who wanted to learn from Interim President Gogue; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fasenko rebuilt trust between Faculty and NMSU Senior Administrative Leadership by serving as a bridge to foster respectful and transparent communication; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fasenko has helped Faculty Senate contribute to and advance the goals of NMSU LEADS 2025; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fasenko has led Faculty Senate with proficiency, compassion, and humility; and

WHEREAS, Interim President Jay Gogue said: "Gaylene is a consummate diplomat with tough issues and provided a voice of reason throughout the year. Dr. Fasenko has a tremendous future in higher ed leadership."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Dr. Gaylene Fasenko for her dedicated service and wishes her great success in her future endeavors.

PROCLAIMED this 9th day of May 2024, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

### **3. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of ASNMSU President Citlalli Benitez, *Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali***

Citlalli Benitez

WHEREAS, Citlalli Benitez ended her term as ~~the~~ President of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University on April 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Benitez dedicated her time and service to the students at NMSU where she ensured every student's voice was heard and represented in the highest manner; and

WHEREAS, in her undergraduate journey, Benitez participated in Model United Nations where the NMSU team received national recognition, and helped sustain the College of Arts and Sciences Council during COVID-19 to where it has continued to grow today; and

WHEREAS, she was committed to advocating for the student body, working with members of ASNMSU, and having collaborative conversations with students, staff, and faculty outside of ASNMSU; and

WHEREAS, during her time in ASNMSU, she lobbied in Santa Fe as the Director of Governmental Affairs advocating for students with New Mexico legislators to fund the renovation of the NMSU Activity Center; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to the students motivated her to run as the ASNMSU President where she innovated ASNMSU and opened the doors for more student voices to be heard for future years to come; and

WHEREAS, she vocalized student voice and opinion as a member of the NMSU Presidential Search Committee; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, along with the ASNMSU Department of Governmental Affairs, she continued to advocate the student voice in Santa Fe during the legislative session in which ASNMSU received \$2.05 million for a multi-purpose benefiting thousands of students in future generations; and

WHEREAS, she has continued boosting the level of student impact ASNMSU provides; and

WHEREAS, Benitez has left her legacy at ASNMSU and the NMSU community with her renowned mindset and innovative skills to make a positive impact on NMSU; and

WHEREAS, Interim President Jay Gogue said: "Citlalli is professional beyond her years and has the tremendous ability to 'sell' as evidenced by her work during the legislative session."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED in the official session, that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Citlalli Benitez for her dedicated service.

PROCLAIMED this 9th day of May 2024, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**4. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Employee Council Chair Susanne Berger, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Susanne Berger

WHEREAS, Susanne Berger, as Chair of NMSU Employee Council, has served with distinction as an advisory member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents from February 2022 through March 2024; and

WHEREAS, she supported the update of the Employee Council bylaws, which resulted in extending the terms of the Executive officers to 2 years, thereby facilitating continued leadership; and

WHEREAS, she is a professional and collegial leader, who treats everyone with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, she is deeply engaged with administration to advocate for increases in staff salaries and an improved climate which contributes to the action plans of NMSU LEADS 2025; and

WHEREAS, she served on the NMSU President Search Committee and the Provost Search Committee; and

WHEREAS, she served on many committees, such as University Naming Committee, University Administrative Council, and on numerous others while successfully representing employees' perspectives with exceptional subject matter knowledge and expertise; and

WHEREAS, she kindly and emphatically welcomed Interim President Jay Gogue, Interim President Mónica Torres, Provost Alan Shoho and Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi to Hadley Hall on behalf of NMSU Employee Council; and

WHEREAS, she continues her work with Employee Council by remaining an active member of the Council as Past Chair; and

WHEREAS, her tireless efforts to advocate for Employee Council and all NMSU employees have consistently contributed towards the goals of the action plan NMSU LEADS 2025; and

WHEREAS, Interim President Jay Gogue said: "Susanne is extremely bright and knowledgeable of NMSU operations. She always represented staff in an objective, fair, and professional manner."

NOW, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks

and commends Susanne Berger for her dedicated service and wishes her great success in her future endeavors.

Proclaimed this 9th day of May 2024, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**5. Proclamation in Honor and Memory of Palemon Martinez, Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

**D. Minutes, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

**1. Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 11, 2024**

Regent Moseley made a motion to approve the minutes as is for March 11, 2024

Regent Romero seconded the motion.

A role call vote was conducted.

Regent Romero voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

Regent Devasthali voted yes.

There were five in favor and motion passed to approve the minutes from the regular meeting for March 11, 2024, have been approved as presented.

**2. Minutes for the Special Meeting on March 28, 2024**

Regent Moseley made a motion to approve the minutes as is for March 11, 2024

Regent Romero seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Regent Romero voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

Regent Devasthali voted yes.

There were five in favor and the motion passed to approve the minutes from the special meeting minutes for March 28, 2024, have been approved as presented.

**E. Higher Education Regents Coalition Report, Regent Garrett Moseley**

Regent Moseley gave background information since this is a new agenda item explaining who makes up the Higher Education Regents Coalition Group. He goes on to state what the coalition supports through information sharing, collaboration strategic planning, policy development, and community outreach and that from each university, two

delegates serve on HERC. From the last meeting on April 11, 2024, they met via zoom and discussed best practices and university governance. They elected officers and Regent Moseley was elected president of HERC. Las Cruces campus will be hosting the annual HERC meeting this fall.

**F. Advisory Member Reports**

**1. Associated Students of NMSU Report, *President Citlalli Benitez***

President Benitez reported that ASNMSU had their final senate meeting where they made significant allocation to a multitude of campus organizations, one being a \$33,000 allocation to ICT for renovating one of the student labs as well as them finishing off their multitude of event such as the favorite build a bear event where they had over 300 students attend to de-stress due to finals.

**2. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, *Chair Gaylene Fasenko***

Faculty Senate Chair Gaylene Fasenko reported that there were several pieces of legislation passed but that she would just report on the Faculty Senate elections for the 2024-25 year commencing on May 16, 2024.

- **Faculty Senate Chair:** Vimal Chaitanya
- **Vice Chair:** Christopher Brown from the College of Arts and Sciences
- **Budget and Resources:** Dr. Stephen Hanson from the College of ACES.
- **Curriculum and Programming:** Dr. Gus Piña from DACC will continue.
- **University Planning:** Erik Lehnhoff from the College of ACES.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Karen Kopera-Frye from HEST.
- **Student Success:** Tawny Aguirre from DACC.
- **Research and Creative Activity:** Dr. Paul Tian from the College of Arts and Sciences.

She goes on to report on efforts made during her tenure such as fostering increased communication between NMSU Leadership and Faculty Senate. She encouraged that both Faculty and leadership continue interacting with positive intent. She also encouraged that both Regent Devasthali and Chair Chaitanya continue meeting regularly, as these meetings were very productive.

She concluded by thanking the Board of Regents for their work on behalf of NMSU.

**3. NMSU Employee Council Report, *Chair Donna Johnson***

Employee Council Chair Donna Johnson reported on the events of March and April. The highlight was the Annual Founders Day event that was held on April 24, 2024, and was deemed a success. There were recognition awards, The 2024 Aggie Legend Award presented to Herb Wimberly, The A Mountain Award presented to Freddie Murrow. She goes on to mention the concern that remains on the lack of competitive salary structure which results in staff attrition as employees seek higher pay with local competitors. She stated that the Employee Council will not meet in June or July due to the summer break for many faculty members. She goes on to report that preparations are being made to begin planning in August, for the Fall 2024 Appreciation Picnic anticipated to be held October 31. Finally, preparations for the 2025 Employee Council election will commence in October and that Joyce Widner from HR has been invited to join the Employee Council meetings in hopes to facilitate discussions on the positive initiatives undertaken by the HR Department and that concluded her report.



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

Regent Romero made a motion to approve the consent items as presented.

Regent Saucedo seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Regent Romero voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

Regent Devasthali voted yes.

There were five in favor and the motion passed to approve the consent items as presented.

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

**2. NMSU Honorary Degree Recipient Nominee, Interim President Mónica Torres**

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

**1. Authorization for Conferral of Degrees and Certificates, Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi**

Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi proceeded with requesting approval from the Board of Regents to confer degrees and certificates to name candidates listed in the spring 2024 commencement programs of the institution's four campuses. He goes on to state that conferral is contingent upon the students satisfactory completion of the courses in which they were enrolled, and meeting the requirements of the appropriate catalog and that it is further contingent upon the assumption that the content of the theses submitted by each student required to do so is original unless otherwise represented in the document. He concluded by thanking the board for the opportunity to come before the board for such a momentous occasion.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel made a motion of the authorization for the conferral of degrees and certificates for spring 2024.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

Before the roll call vote was conducted, each of the regents congratulated the graduates and thanked the faculty.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Regent Romero voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

Regent Devasthali voted yes.

That's five votes in favor, the motion to authorize the conferral of degrees and certificates for spring 2024 has been approved.

I. **Informational Items, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

1. **None.**

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

Regent Mosely wanted to recognize Cynthia Wise and her work with Graduate Students and congratulate her and thank her for her work with NMSU.

K. **Adjournment, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Romero made a motion to adjourn.

Regent Moseley seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Regent Romero voted yes.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel voted yes.

Regent Moseley voted yes.

Regent Saucedo voted yes.

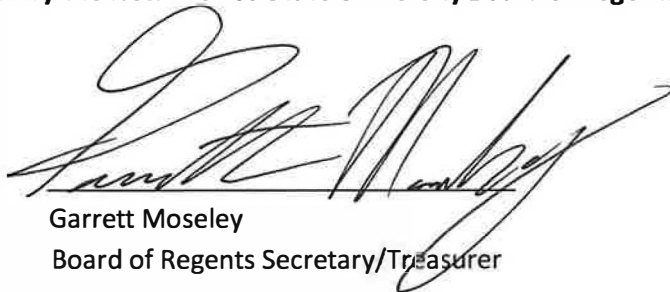
Regent Devasthali voted yes.

There were five in favor and the motion passed meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

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



Ammu Devasthali  
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer