



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
WORK SESSION AGENDA  
Friday, December 13, 2024 8:00 AM**

Hadley Hall, Room 130  
NMSU Las Cruces

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

Chair Ammu Devasthali, Vice Chair Christopher T. Saucedo, Secretary/Treasurer Garrett Moseley, Dina Chacón-Reitzel, Deborah Romero

**MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 AM.

Attendees included Regent Ammu Devasthali, Regent Chris Saucedo, Regent Garrett Moseley, Regent Dina Chacon-Reitzel, Regent Deborah Romero, President Monica Torres, Interim Provost Lakshmi Reddi, General Counsel Lisa Henderson, Chancellor Sherry Kollmann, Chief Budget Officer Kim Rumford, Chief Information Technology Officer Jim Stanfill, Interim Associate Vice President for HRS Marshall Parks, Assistant Vice President for Government Affairs Clayton Abbey, Deputy Provost James McAteer, University Policy Administrator Ermelinda Quintela, BOR Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta, Interim Chancellor of NMSU Community Colleges Andy Burke, Interim Chief Financial Officer Chris Kinsley, President Designate Valerio Ferme, Special Assistant to the President Vicki Haggard

**B. Informational Items**

**1. University Updates**

Introductory Remarks - President Torres

President Torres opened the work session, stating its purpose was to discuss emerging issues and anticipate challenges and opportunities for the next 4-6 months. She emphasized the need for focused conversation given the extensive agenda. President Torres identified addressing organizational issues within HR, Sodexo, and Facilities as a top priority, noting these would be embedded throughout the presentations.

Provost's Report

- Aggie Pathway: The Provost highlighted Aggie Pathway as a key focus for enrollment initiatives.
- K-12 Outreach: The Provost noted the need to unify K-12 outreach efforts across colleges for more effective recruitment. A formal process delineating responsibilities between

central offices and colleges is currently lacking and requires development.

- Disenrollment and Scholarship Funds: The Provost raised concerns about unspent scholarship funds in some programs and the lack of available funds where needed to address disenrollment.
- Regent Romero: Regent Romero requested that enrollment numbers clearly distinguish between increases in global enrollment versus traditional enrollment for reporting to legislators.
- Associate Provost Devasthali: Associate Provost Devasthali inquired about the utilization of unspent funds from the Foundation, specifically regarding two quasi-endowments: one for regent professors and another with uncommitted funds. She questioned the appropriate use of these one-time funds.
- Regent Chacon-Reitzel: Regent Chacon-Reitzel discussed the underutilization of scholarships in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and suggested recruitment tools like the Rodeo and scholarships to support the college.
- President Designate Ferme: President Designate Ferme suggested incentivizing the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) to assist with recruitment efforts. He further inquired about the handling of funds from deceased donors and proposed the creation of an emergency fund, emphasizing the need to prioritize funding needs.
- Regent Devasthali: Regent Devasthali clarified that the Foundation has the right to designate funds according to original donor intent for newer agreements, but older agreements lack this language.
- Regent Chacon-Reitzel: Regent Chacon-Reitzel highlighted existing ACES recruitment activities with FFA and 4-H.
- President Designate Ferme: President Designate Ferme suggested involving Jon Boren in enrollment efforts and inviting CES agents to the main campus in addition to campus representatives visiting them. He proposed a bus tour to facilitate statewide engagement.

#### NMSU Global Presentation

- Regent Chacon-Reitzel: Regent Chacon-Reitzel inquired about tracking student metrics for current students.
- Chancellor Kollmann: Chancellor Kollmann mentioned metrics that staff are required to meet.
- Regent Chacon-Reitzel: Regent Chacon-Reitzel expressed support for adapting the college's curriculum to online formats.
- Chancellor Kollmann: Associate Provost Kollmann highlighted various technologies being utilized, such as 3D virtual environments.
- Regent Romero: Regent Romero asked how to replicate successful online programs in

colleges with less online success. It was noted that instructional designers are familiar with and engage in curriculum development with faculty.

#### Community Colleges Presentation - Andy Burke

- Dr. Burke presented an overview of community college initiatives. The presentation is attached for reference.

#### Research Activity - Provost Reddi

- The Provost provided an update on research activity, noting several items not included in the previous presentation.
- Key points included:
  - Nursing produces the largest number of graduates, followed by Psychology, MBA, and Mechanical Engineering.
  - NMSU achieved R1 research status.
  - Funding for graduate assistantships comes from awards received by research faculty.
  - Faculty research productivity is comparable to top 75 research universities.
  - A search for a new Vice President for Research (VPR) is underway, with no interim VPR anticipated.
  - Exploration of a Water Officer position to coordinate water research across the university.
  - Enrico Pontelli holds a similar coordinating role for AI research.
  - The #1 area for research funding is education (STEM institute mentioned).
  - Biomedical research is a collaborative area between Arts & Sciences and Health and Education.
  - Discussion of various areas within the VPR office related to current and future research activities and potential.
- Regent Chacon-Reitzel: Regent Chacon-Reitzel inquired about improvements to research resources and the status of the state research endowment.
- Provost Reddi: The Provost explained that half of indirect cost recovery (IDC) goes to colleges and a task force has been formed to examine this.

## Collective Bargaining Process - Lisa Henderson

- Ms. Henderson provided an overview of collective bargaining, including:
  - NMSU's obligation under the state's public bargaining act.
  - The resulting Collective Bargaining Agreement.
  - The obligation to bargain in good faith, outlining examples of bad faith bargaining.
  - Mandatory bargaining subjects (wages, hours, working conditions).
- Ms. Henderson stated that university constituents and outside counsel were reviewing potential matters to be covered under the agreement.

Ms. Henderson: Negotiations will begin in the second full week of January with an initial housekeeping session.

## IT Update - Jim Stanfill

- Mr. Stanfill provided an update on IT matters, including a discussion of the student fee process and fee amounts. (Presentation received from Vicki Haggard)
- The return of staff to campus was also discussed.

## 2. Administration & Finance Updates

### Administration and Finance - Chris Kinsley

- Mr. Kinsley presented information on revenue projections and fund balances. (Information shared in PowerPoint)

### Human Resources (HR) Update

- Discussion of compensation and classification work to re-establish job families, position descriptions, and position classifications.
- Focus on process improvement with enough structure to ensure clarity while preserving management decision-making.
- PageUp and I-9 tools were discussed as process improvement measures.
- Investment in LinkedIn Learning and ERP systems was mentioned.

### Auxiliary Services Update

- Housing: Occupancy rates are trending upwards since COVID, with a projected increase to 90% by Fall 2025. Laundry service upgrades and residential experience enhancements are underway. Student feedback on dining services has been

requested. Modifications to campus catering are in progress.

- Corbett Center: Corbett Center hosted 1,200 events. Pete's Lab reopened with high-power computers and will be used for an eSports event. Wifi improvements have been implemented through increased hotspots. A new fire alarm system has been installed.

### **3. FY 2026 Preliminary Planning Discussion**

#### Student Fees - Kim Rumford

- Dr. Rumford provided an update on the student fee process, stating that training is complete and packets have been distributed to units funded by student fees.
- Regent Romero: Regent Romero inquired about setting expectations for fund balances for organizations receiving student fee funding.
- Dr. Rumford: Dr. Rumford confirmed that a budget form includes fund balance information and funding plans.
- Regent Romero: Regent Romero suggested that the university should cover certain fee increases.
- Dr. Rumford: Dr. Rumford acknowledged the challenges of fee increases and noted that diversity groups have recently been moved from student fee funding to I&G funding.

#### Capital Outlay - Chris Kinsley

- Regent Romero: Regent Romero emphasized the need for a comprehensive, multi-year plan for capital outlay.
- President Torres: President Torres agreed on the need for a comprehensive maintenance plan.
- Regent Romero: Regent Romero expressed her intention to work with President Torres to find a way to begin work on the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) before the bond is signed.

#### 4. 2025 Legislative Session Discussion

##### Legislative Session - Clayton Abbey

- Mr. Abbey reviewed the landscape of federal and state legislative opportunities.
- He discussed unified priorities for the legislative session.
- A document outlining the 2025 legislative session was provided. Attached for reference.

##### Closing Remarks – President Designate Ferme

- President Designate Ferme thanked President Torres for her work.
- He challenged attendees to start every meeting with an expression of gratitude.
- He discussed various trips around the state to university facilities.
- He emphasized the need to work toward a transparent system.
- He challenged the university to reduce budgets by 2%.

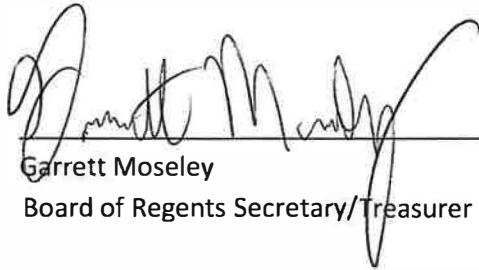
#### C. Adjournment, *Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali*

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

**Meeting Minutes Approved on January 30, 2025 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.**



Ammu Devasthali  
Board of Regents Chair



Garrett Moseley  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer