



## **Board of Regents Special Meeting**

New Mexico State University  
<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/85886974526>  
2026-07-02 09:00 - 10:00 MDT

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**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
July 2, 2026**

**Item 2**

**Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session – May 15, 2026**

The Board of Regents of New Mexico State University held a closed meeting at 8:00 am on Friday, May 14, 2026. The closed meeting was called to complete an interim performance assessment of the President under his contract and as permitted under the personnel matters exemption of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA Section 10-15-1, subsection (H)(2).

Those board members who were present, please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.

Regent Gonzales \_\_\_\_

Regent Olivas \_\_\_\_

Regent Saucedo \_\_\_\_

Regent Romero \_\_\_\_

Regent Devasthali \_\_\_\_



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF  
REGENTS REGULAR MEETING  
May 14, 2026, at 1:00 PM**

Corbett Center Student Union, Senate Chambers  
NMSU Las Cruces, International Mall, Las Cruces, NM

**Regents Present:**

Chair Ammu Devasthali, Vice Chair Deborah Romero, Secretary/Treasurer Christopher T. Saucedo, Marisol Olivas, Ricardo Gonzales (All members present in person).

**Advisory Members:**

ASNMSU President Wyatt Ziehe, Faculty Senate Chair Vimal Chaitanya, Employee Council Chair Sonia A. White.

**Officials Present:**

President Valerio Ferme, Acting Provost R.T. James McAteer, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Allen Bottorff, General Counsel, Lisa Henderson.

**MINUTES**

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

Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali called the regular meeting of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents to order at 1:05 PM. She welcomed attendees and noted that conduct disrupting the meeting's business or interfering with the educational process would not be tolerated, and individuals engaging in such behavior would be escorted out to maintain an orderly proceeding.

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairwoman Devasthali invited Air Force ROTC Cadet Klawiter to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Cadet Klawiter shared that she is a graduating senior who will commission in one week as an intelligence officer in the United States Air Force. Her first duty station will be Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. Chairwoman Devasthali congratulated her and thanked her for her attendance and service.

B. **Welcome, Bryan Ashenbaum, Dean of the NMSU College of Business**

Dr. Bryan Ashenbaum, Dean of the NMSU College of Business, formally welcomed the Board of Regents to the campus. He thanked the Regents for spending time earlier that morning with his leadership team and faculty over lunch. He highlighted the college's unique Professional Golf Management program embedded within the marketing degree, describing a tour given to the Regents of the specialized Trackman Golf Simulator Lab on the third floor of Guthrie Hall where students refine their business and physical skills.

**C. Introduction of the Media and Elected Officials, Chief of Staff Justin Bannister**

Chief of Staff Justin Bannister confirmed that no elected officials or members of the media were present at the meeting.

**D. Introductions**

**a) Introduction of incoming ASNMSU President Carina Frisch,**  
*ASNMSU President Wyatt Ziehe*

ASNMSU President Wyatt Ziehe introduced the incoming student body president, Carina Frisch. He noted that she is a rising senior from Silver City, New Mexico, studying environmental science with aspirations to attend law school for environmental law. She currently interns with the Office of the State Engineer, has spent two years as the Director of Public Relations within ASNMSU, and serves as president of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority chapter. President-elect Frisch expressed her enthusiasm for continuing the positive momentum of student governance alongside the board.

**b) Introduction of incoming Faculty Senate Chair Kristian Finlator,**  
*Faculty Senate Chair Vimal Chaitanya*

Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Vimal Chaitanya introduced the incoming Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Kristian Finlator. Dr. Finlator addressed the board, sharing that he joined NMSU's astronomy department in 2015 after earning his academic degrees from the University of Arizona and completing postdoctoral fellowships in Santa Barbara, California, and Copenhagen, Denmark. Elected to the Faculty Senate in the 2021-2022 academic year upon submitting his tenure portfolio, Dr. Finlator emphasized his dedication to shared governance, highlighting his work on several committees and leading five successful propositions to synthesize faculty and student concerns into administrative recommendations.

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

The roll was called to verify attendance. All five voting members of the Board of Regents were verified as present in person. Advisory members President Ziehe, Chair Chaitanya, and Chair White were also confirmed present, alongside administrators President Ferme, Acting Provost McAteer, General Counsel Henderson, and Vice President Bottorff.

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

Chairwoman Devasthali proposed two modifications to the published agenda: the removal of the Sunflower Community Center Project informational item due to a scheduling conflict, and shifting Consent Item C (the Integrated Digital Enterprise Accelerator Lab) from the consent calendar to action items. On a motion by Regent Christopher Saucedo, seconded by Regent Deborah Romero, the modified agenda was approved unanimously.

## II. Approval of Minutes

### A. Regular Meeting on April 28, 2026

The minutes of the regular Board of Regents meeting held on April 28, 2026, were presented for consideration. Regent Romero requested a correction on page 6 of the documentation to clarify that ASNMSU President Wyatt Ziehe, rather than Regent Romero, highlighted the national performance of the American Marketing Association team. Regent Romero moved approval of the minutes as amended, Regent Marisol Olivas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## III. Awards and Recognitions

### A. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Vimal Chaitanya as Faculty Senate Chair, *Chairwoman Ammu Devasthal*

Regent Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya will conclude his distinguished service as the Chair of the Faculty Senate and as an advisory member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents at the conclusion of the 2026 academic year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chaitanya brought a wealth of academic and administrative expertise to this role, drawing from his background as a Professor in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and his previous ten-and-a-half-year tenure as the Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and International Programs; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a vital leader and a primary voice for the NMSU faculty to the Central Administration, ensuring that the principles of shared governance remained at the forefront of institutional decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chaitanya's commitment to the university system was demonstrated through his active participation on the Presidential Search Committee, the Policy Steering Committee, the NMSU Systemwide Budget Committee, the President's Cabinet, and his collaborative work within the "Group of Four"; and

WHEREAS, under his thoughtful and intelligent leadership, the Faculty Senate achieved significant milestones, including the formation of task forces to improve dean evaluations, analyze the pedagogical impact of AI, and enhance the climate for international students; and

WHEREAS, working with members of the University Program Approval Committee, he has been instrumental in advancing institutional sustainability and faculty support through the launch of the Program Sustainability Plan Ad Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, working with members of Senate leadership, he helped develop and launch the Open Access Publication Fund Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chaitanya has consistently demonstrated "positive intent" for the university, earning a reputation for being both a pleasure to work with and a steadfast advocate for the faculty and students of New Mexico State University; and

WHEREAS, President Valerio Ferme said, "Dr. Chaitanya has been a consistent and effective advocate for

faculty needs and shared governance. I've enjoyed working with him in this role representing the faculty viewpoint and am grateful for his insights, which have helped me navigate the important relationship between the President's Office and the Faculty Senate;" and

WHEREAS, Regents Chair Ammu Devasthali said, "I've truly appreciated the perspective that Dr. Chaitanya's varied experience at NMSU has brought him and the way he's applied that knowledge to amplifying faculty voices. I'm grateful for his contributions to the board."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED in official session, that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Dr. Vimal Chaitanya for his dedicated service, his visionary leadership, and his unwavering commitment to the Aggie community.

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2026 at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**B. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Wyatt Ziehe as ASNMSU President,**  
*Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali*

Regent Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, Wyatt Ziehe will end his term as President of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University on May 15, 2026; and

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

WHEREAS, in his undergraduate journey, Ziehe was a long-time member of Airforce ROTC where he consistently moved up in rank as time went by. He is contracted to be an officer in the Airforce upon graduation and will be a pilot; and

WHEREAS, he was committed to advocating for the student body, working with members of ASNMSU and other programs across campus. He collaborated with many other students, staff, and faculty outside of ASNMSU; and

WHEREAS, during his time in ASNMSU, he started as a College of Engineering Senator and served a one year term before running for ASNMSU President. In his term as Senator, he led all other College of Engineering Senators in total dollars reimbursed for the year; and

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

WHEREAS, under his leadership, along with the ASNMSU Department of Governmental Affairs, a department that went through a director transition just weeks before the State Legislative Session, he continued to advocate for students in Santa Fe. At the 2026 Legislative Session, ASNMSU received \$1.955 million for a campus safety initiative, setting the ASNMSU record for a 30-day session; and

WHEREAS, Ziehe saw a need for more WEPA Printers towards West Campus seeing that they were mostly only in the Corbett area and advocated for printers to be installed for students in Gerald Thomas Hall and the Engineering Complex, which can now be found in those exact locations; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, along with the ASNMSU Department of Elections, voter turnout doubled from the previous semesters; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, along with the NMSU Athletics Department, student attendance at sporting events nearly tripled from the semesters before; and

WHEREAS, Regents Chair Ammu Devasthali said, “The thing that has really struck me about Wyatt is just how well-read and well-informed he is about anything and everything. He truly has a passion for learning and I’ve been so impressed with him and what he’s brought to the board and to the students he represents. Students like Wyatt give me great hope for the future, and I appreciate the opportunity I’ve had to get to know him;” and

WHEREAS, President Valerio Ferme said, “Wyatt has brought so much to his time as ASNMSU president, and I appreciated the work he has done on behalf of all NMSU students. He’s got a bright future ahead of him, and I look forward to seeing what he’s able to accomplish next.”

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

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2026, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**C. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Rolando Flores Galarza as ACES Dean,**  
*Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali*

Regent Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, Rolando A. Flores Galarza served with distinction as Dean of the New Mexico State University College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences for nearly a decade, beginning his tenure here in August 2016; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, he was instrumental in bringing in tens of millions of dollars in state and voter-approved funding to drive the modernization of NMSU’s Ag District, resulting in new buildings with state-of-the-art technology and laboratories that have helped elevate NMSU’s research efforts; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems was established in 2019 with a mission to build a resilient agricultural economy in New Mexico, and has emerged as a key driver of innovation and economic development in the state’s agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent fiscal year, research expenditures in the College of ACES were associated with direct employment impacts of more than 500 jobs, labor income of more than \$37 million, and contribution to state GDP of more than \$45 million; and

WHEREAS, when the COVID-19 pandemic reached New Mexico, faculty and staff in the College of ACES and Cooperative Extension Service responded to community needs throughout the state through Extension offices in every county, expanding training opportunities and offering resources to help communities weather challenges from internet access for rural schoolchildren to navigating the pandemic financially; and

WHEREAS, President Valerio Ferme said, “Rolando lives and breathes our land-grant mission, and has made an indelible mark on the state of New Mexico through his leadership. I’m grateful for his contributions to the communities we serve and the industries that drive New Mexico’s economy forward;” and

WHEREAS, Regents Chair Ammu Devasthali said, “I’m incredibly grateful to Rolando and the College of ACES for their help during the presidential search process. When we wanted to ensure that our new president understood the scope of our work across the state, Rolando’s leadership team put together an eye-opening tour that helped better-inform not only President Ferme, but other campus leaders – myself included – about the impact NMSU has across New Mexico.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Dean Rolando A. Flores Galarza for his dedicated service and wishes him great success in his future endeavors.

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2026, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**D. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Sherry Kollmann as NMSU Global Chancellor,  
Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherry Kollmann has served New Mexico State University with distinction since 2020, when she joined the university as vice provost for digital learning, later becoming Chancellor of the New Mexico State University Global campus; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Dr. Kollmann has secured \$17 million in state appropriations, expanded online enrollment to more than 3,500 students, and generated more than \$30 million in tuition revenue, helping stabilize and strengthen the overall NMSU system budget; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her leadership and statewide impact, the New Mexico Legislature selected Dr. Kollmann to lead the New Mexico Online Hub initiative, bringing together four year institutions across the state to drive the growth of accessible, coordinated higher education in New Mexico and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kollmann worked to elevate NMSU's digital learning initiatives to the highest level of the institution's strategic goals, setting up focus areas that built on quality online education, operational capacity and excellence, innovative solutions, and sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kollmann leaves NMSU to take on an exciting new role as system Vice Chancellor and President of Vermont State University, a powerful reminder that NMSU develops leaders of real consequence who are professionals sought out by peer institutions across the country; and

WHEREAS, President Valerio Ferme said, "Dr. Kollmann has had a truly transformative impact on NMSU and has made a name for NMSU Global among our peers nationwide. We are thrilled for her success and look forward to continuing the momentum she helped create for our online programs;" and

WHEREAS, Regents Chair Ammu Devasthali said, "Dr. Kollmann took NMSU Global to a level that even we didn't expect it to reach so quickly and we are very grateful. In her 6 years here, she has also become a good friend. I'm personally so proud of her, and I wish her absolutely the best in her new role."

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

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2026, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**IV. Regent Committee Reports**

**A. Real Estate Committee, Regent Ammu Devasthali**

Chairwoman Devasthali reported that the Real Estate Committee held an organizational meeting on April 29, 2026, to evaluate several informational parameters. She indicated that no actionable items emerged from the session requiring board consideration at today's regular meeting.

**B. Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee Report, Regent Deborah Romero**

Regent Romero reported that the New Mexico State University Board of Regents Financial Strategies, Performance, and Budget Committee met on May 5, 2026, to address several significant capital projects and fiscal reports. During the session, the committee unanimously approved four major capital requests, including the Integrated Digital Enterprise Accelerator Lab and renovations to the Aggie Memorial Stadium press box. Other approved infrastructure improvements included a multipurpose band practice field and HVAC renovation for the Corbett Center. You will see the items on today's consent agenda. Additionally, the committee approved a new strategic five-year capital plan for the Las Cruces and community college campuses, prioritizing the multidisciplinary academic building and a new aquatic center to replace the current failing facility. This item will be presented as an action item for the Board's consideration at today's meeting.

The meeting also included critical updates regarding the university's property and financial standing. The committee approved the disposal of capital property, which featured the sale of the university's airplane and a decommissioned police vehicle. This item is also listed on today's consent agenda.

Finally, the committee reviewed the temporary investment report and the transfer of uncollectible debt to inactive status as informational items.

**V. Advisory Member Reports**

**A. Associated Students of NMSU Report, President Wyatt Ziehe**

President Wyatt Ziehe highlighted that students are completing final examinations. He celebrated 16 internal ASNMSU student employees who are graduating, demonstrating how structured on-campus engagement actively increases student retention rates. He noted that the student senate successfully utilized its complete legislative fiscal allocation for the spring semester, rebounding from a mid-year \$100,000 deficit. He concluded by thanking the NMSU Foundation for co-hosting the Senior Walk from the Miller Gates to the Pan American Center and the annual ring ceremony.

**B. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, Chair Vimal Chaitanya**

Dr. Vimal Chaitanya offered informal reflections on his two-year tenure, expressing gratitude to the regents and administrative leadership for sustaining high positive intent. He noted that his primary institutional goals centered on rebuilding mutual trust between general faculty lines and central leadership, and emphasizing the value of shared governance. Over the past academic year, the senate processed 17 to 18 distinct legislative items, memorials, and resolutions, and successfully deployed faculty representatives across campus task forces including the Faculty Advisory Technology Committee and Athletics Oversight.

**C. NMSU Employee Council Report, Chair Sonia A. White**

Chair Sonia White thanked the Office of the President for extensive administrative support in preparing and executing NMSU Founders Day. She noted that today marked the final council session of the spring semester, as operations pause over the summer months. She announced that the highly anticipated annual employee Halloween-themed picnic is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2026, and invited NMSU faculty and staff to attend.

## VI. Affiliated Entity Reports

### A. NMSU Foundation Inc. Report, *NMSU Foundation CEO Sylvia Y. Acosta*

Ms. Debra Marks presented the foundation report on behalf of CEO Sylvia Acosta, who was absent due to an unexpected conflict. Key highlights included:

- **Fundraising Volume:** The foundation secured \$20,498,169 as of May 4, hitting 84% of its annualized operational target ahead of schedule.
- **Assets Under Management (AUM):** Socioeconomic fluctuations induced a temporary reduction in March asset balances to \$480,325,612. However, asset valuations had exceeded \$500,747,000 in February, and current preliminary April tracking lists project a return past the \$500 million threshold. This capitalization places NMSU significantly above the national \$200 million median compiled within NACUBO indexing reports.
- **Minutes of Giving:** The '1888 Minutes of Giving' campaign held on April 21–22 raised \$286,301 across 309 discrete contributions, achieving 107% of its target across 10 strategic priority funds. Annualized giving segments experienced robust expansion across five years, climbing from \$85,000 in FY21 to \$965,000 in FY25.
- **Board Appointments:** At its spring meeting in Houston, Texas, hosted by alumnus James Holland, the board confirmed incoming directors Raquel Bone, Lyndon Armstrong, and Paul Gutierrez, while honoring departing members Christopher Dulany, Frank Seidel, and Joel Granger. New officers taking effect July 1, 2026, include Margaret Hardin (Chair), Carol Smallwood (Vice Chair), Eric Powell (Treasurer), and Amy Hummer (Secretary).

### B. Arrowhead Center Inc. Report, *Interim Director & CEO Winnie (Yu-Feng) Lee*

Dr. Winnie Lee, Interim Director and CEO, delivered updates on regional economic development and commercialization benchmarks:

- **Soundstage Facility:** Building on an initial \$15 million state appropriation, Arrowhead secured an additional \$8 million during the February legislative session via the support of Senator Steinborn and Representative Small. To balance internal architecture costs, Arrowhead secured matching \$1.3 million funding commitments from Doña Ana County and President Ferme's office, with a final matching request undergoing active review by the Las Cruces City Council. Physical construction is scheduled to commence in early June 2026, targeting full structure closeout within 10 months and final inside design tracking completion by Q3 of 2027.
- **Site Readiness Designation:** The New Mexico Economic Development Department officially selected Arrowhead Park as a Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness location, projecting a subsequent localized economic output expansion exceeding \$100 million.
- **Intellectual Property & Licensing:** Dr. Misra's Advanced Cybersecurity Resilience Lab received the 2026 IP Innovation Award, and Dr. Misra was named the first Innovation Fellow for the center. Arrowhead finalized a high-profile commercial licensing compact for its proprietary quantum platform with CyberCatch, a specialized startup recently acquired by Philadelphia-based DataVault AI. Dr. Lee concluded by noting NMSU manages 56 active patents, including 9 new awards finalized between 2025 and 2026.

**C. Aggie Development Inc. Report, CEO Scott Eschenbrenner**

Mr. Scott Eschenbrenner provided structural status highlights for real estate ventures. Following the retirement of Dean Flores, the board is initiating search sequences for a replacing academic representative. Dr. Alen Bottorff will officially assume the duties of corporate Treasurer. He noted that a localized EV fast-charge initialization behind Starbucks encountered federal regulatory funding roadblocks, but has stabilized a recovery path and is clearing historical back-rent lines. Negotiations with the city are underway to bring 2.7 acres back into university holdings to construct a 125-room secondary hotel behind the existing Marriott Courtyard. First-quarter hotel metrics indicate an 8% climb in revenues, a 6% increase in daily room averages, and sustained regional occupancy exceeding 80%, contributing significant lodgers and property tax yields. The property currently sustains internships and full employment paths for multiple Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management (HRTM) students.

**VII. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Abby Butler**

Associate Vice President Abby Butler opened the public comment by iterating standard procedural rules limiting comments to three minutes per speaker. Mr. Jeremy Doniger, a graduate mathematics student and regional steward for the Graduate Workers Union, addressed the board regarding active wage bargaining sessions. He contextualized local wage needs against a wider structural global crisis, citing International Energy Agency reports on energy disruptions in the Hormuz Strait and Bureau of Labor Statistics data documenting a 21.9% cumulative surge in consumer costs from January 2021 through March 2026. Doniger emphasized that graduate workers bear disproportionate burdens within the current affordability crisis and urged the Board of Regents to display systemic moral leadership by deploying enhanced asset allocations toward graduate funding line items.

**VIII. Consent Items**

The remaining items on the consent calendar were approved collectively on a motion by Regent Romero, seconded by Regent Marisol Olivas. The motion passed unanimously, finalizing the following actions:

- A. Multipurpose Field and Band Tower Improvements, Associate Vice President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- B. Corbett Center HVAC Renovation, Associate Vice President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- C. Stadium Press Box Improvements, Associate Vice President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- D. Disposition and Deletion of Capital Property, University Controller Ross Justus**
- E. Appointment of Outside Director to the New Mexico Consortium Board of Directors, Chief of Staff Justin Bannister**
- F. Resubmission of the Applied Artificial Intelligence - Master of Applied Artificial Intelligence (Online) Program Proposal, Associate Dean Joseph Lakey**
- G. Board of Regents Staffing Changes, Chairwoman Ammu Devasthali**

**IX. Action Items**

- A. Integrated Digital Enterprise Accelerator Lab, Associate Vice President Scott Eschenbrenner**

Mr. Scott Eschenbrenner presented a revised capital modification request for the lab. He apologized for a clerical variance in the initial agenda packet, which listed an outdated funding projection. He explained that through the persistent grant compilation efforts of Dr. Lavrova, Dr. Misra, and Vice President Patricia

Sullivan, NMSU secured significant external funding enhancements, elevating the total project capitalization from \$18 million to \$31 million. President Ferme commended the research group, noting that both the Department of Energy and the New Mexico Department of Economic Development identified the facility as a high-value regional asset. Regent Romero stated the Finance Committee reviewed the expanded context and firmly endorsed its execution. On a motion by Regent Olivas, seconded by Regent Romero, the item passed unanimously.

B. **Authorization for Conferral of Degrees and Certificates, Acting Provost R.T. James McAteer**

Acting Provost R.T. James McAteer presented the official request to confer degrees and certificates for the Spring 2026 commencement across NMSU's four regional campuses. The authorization is contingent upon satisfactory course completion and validation of thesis originality. Dr. McAteer highlighted a graduation pool comprising 2,137 total degree applicants from the main campus (including 557 graduate degree targets) and 696 candidates from community college campus centers. He praised the cohort's exceptional grit, noting they navigated systemic high school interruptions during COVID-19, transitioned into online landscapes, and adapted to emerging AI paradigms.

Chairwoman Devasthali and the Regents expressed immense institutional pride, stating each diploma represents profound hard work, sacrifice, and socioeconomic mobility capable of breaking generational poverty cycles. President Ziehe and Regent Gonzales echoed these sentiments, celebrating the faculty lines that supported the students. On a motion by Regent Marisol Romero, seconded by Regent Gonzales, the conferral was officially approved with a unanimous vote.

C. **Capital Request for Fiscal Year 2028, Associate Vice President Scott Eschenbrenner**

Mr. Scott Eschenbrenner presented the university's unified Five-Year Capital Plan, emphasizing that the compilation prioritized collaborative inputs from the executive team, branch chancellors, athletics, housing, and government relations. The institutional plan must be submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) by June 1, 2026, ahead of formalized summer hearings scheduled for August 4 at the Fulton Center. Key structural elements of the multi-year request framework include:

- **FY 2027–2028 (Severance Tax Bond Cycle):** Prioritizes a \$35 million request to finalize construction on the Multidisciplinary Academic Building. It includes early design and engineering funding lines to initiate renovations for Campus IT Infrastructure and structural tracking for a new Natatorium and Aquatic Center replacement. It incorporates a \$5 million allocation for strategic campus-wide demolition targeting 54,000 square feet of obsolete space to balance state square-footage mandates.
- **FY 2028–2029 (GO Bond Cycle):** Targets specialized construction execution paths, including a \$31 million request for Campus IT modifications and \$34 million for the Natatorium replacement. It incorporates a \$15 million allocation for campus-wide mechanical, HVAC, and central cooling asset corrections, alongside a \$5 million electrical grid infrastructure upgrade to transition obsolete lines up to modern 25 KV standards. It specifies an \$8 million demolition allocation centered on Milton Hall.
- **Out-Year Projects (Years 3 to 5):** Earmarks funding placeholders for the relocation of broadcasting facility KRWG, comprehensive infrastructure remediation for the end-of-life chemistry building (estimated at \$23 million for HVAC systems alone), Gerald Thomas Hall renovations, and updates for Facilities and Services complexes constructed in 1962.
- **Branch Campus Frameworks:** Incorporates localized priorities compiled alongside Chancellor Monica Torres and Kelly Brooks, including a \$2.5 million boiler/chiller for Alamogordo; sewer line

modifications for Grants; and an East Mesa Academic Resource Building roof replacement (\$2 million) and physical plant construction (\$4 million) for DACC.

- **Auxiliary Priorities:** Integrates a Student-Athlete Wellness and Performance Center championed by Athletic Director Joe Fields, and strategic campus housing renewals managed by Jake Narvaez. Housing requests have grown urgent due to a 216-student spike in incoming first-year residential applications, necessitating the design of long-life structures to replace temporary units.

CFO Dr. Alen Bottorff addressed the board, explaining that the five-year layout acts as essential 'sheet music' that will directly integrate into an upcoming year-long Comprehensive Campus Master Plan driven by data parameters. He stated that state agencies (HED, LFC, and DFA) explicitly requested a unified long-term capital roadmap to optimize state appropriations. Regent Romero advised the board that future state legislative tracking may require four-year universities to produce institutional matching funds, similar to community colleges that possess local bonding authority. On a motion by Regent Romero, seconded by Regent Gonzales, the Five-Year Capital Plan was approved unanimously.

#### X. **Informational Items**

##### A. **Sunflower Community Center Project, Michael Bursum**

This informational item was postponed.

#### XI. **NMSU System Report, President Valerio Ferme**

President Valerio Ferme delivered system updates and administrative actions:

- **Emergency Response Commendation:** President Ferme extended formal appreciation to Robbie Grant, the marketing team, and Acting Provost McAteer for their agile, coordinated response to a severe platform outage involving Instructure/Canvas during the final week of classes. Rapid communication minimized student anxiety and allowed faculty to extend deadlines efficiently.
- **Enrollment Projections:** Summer registration metrics indicate clear positive growth, with undergraduate enrollment climbing by 386 students across physical and digital campuses, and graduate student enrollment increasing by 70. Aggie Welcome Orientation confirmations are up by 196 students year-over-year.
- **Interim Leadership Appointment:** Following the departure of Chancellor Sherry Kollmann, Dr. Ferme announced that Tony Morin will step in as Interim Leader of NMSU Global to guarantee structural continuity in online student success configurations.
- **Doña Ana Community College (DACC) Successes:** In alignment with requests to amplify community college metrics, Dr. Ferme recognized several achievements: Hilary Avitia, Department Chair for Administrative Technologies, received the ACBSP Region 6 Associate Degree Teaching Excellence Award and is nominated for an international award in Phoenix. Dr. Elmer Gonzalez received the prestigious World Dental Hygienist Award from the Sunstar Foundation, making him the first academic selected from New Mexico, and will represent NMSU at an international symposium in Milan, Italy. Additionally, 16 DACC students secured awards at the State SkillsUSA competition, with 10 gold medalists advancing to national finals in Atlanta. Royal Jones will receive an honorary degree at an afternoon reception in the Barbara Hubbard Room.

#### XII. **Report from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to the Regents of New Mexico State**

**University (Board of Agriculture), Secretary Jeff Witte**

Secretary Jeff Witte presented updates on statewide agricultural coordination and development:

- **ALERT Conference:** NMDA successfully hosted the 20th annual Agricultural and Livestock Incident Response Team conference in Socorro, training private veterinarians alongside the National Guard in field necropsies and disease diagnostic techniques. Secretary Witte presented the Secretary's Agriculture Legacy Award to program founders Dr. John Wenzel (retiring Extension Veterinarian) and Dr. Tim Hanosh (former Vet Diagnostic Lab Director), noting the program is recognized by the USDA as a national model for animal disease containment.
- **International Officer Delegation:** NMDA partnered with the British Embassy to lead a delegation of 17 elite 4-H and FFA student officers on an educational tour of the United Kingdom to establish cross-continental agricultural youth collaboration programs.
- **Soil and Water Testing (SWAT) Lab Reopening:** Secretary Witte announced a major institutional partnership with the College of ACES to officially reopen NMSU's Soil and Water Testing Lab, which had been closed since 2012. Backed by a multi-year \$1 million allocation drawn from NMDA's share of the state's Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund endowment, the lab will resume active operations shortly after July 1, 2026, to support statewide agricultural soil testing without requiring direct legislative funding requests.

XIII. **Announcements and Comments**

**1. Good News for NMSU!**

Members of the Board of Regents and administrators highlighted several student and faculty achievements:

- Regent Romero announced that the NMSU Men's Rodeo Team achieved a #3 national ranking. Eight students qualified to compete at the College National Finals from June 14–20: Kaden Miranda (Bronc Riding), Cade Griego (Bull Riding), Billy DeLong (Bronc Riding), Payton Levine (Breakaway Roping), Damian Padilla (Steer Wrestling/Team Roping), Kade McKnight (Steer Wrestling/Team Roping), Brette Tully (Goat Tying), and Lucas Cruz (Tie-Down).
- President Ferme highlighted major research distinctions, celebrating engineering professor Dr. Gloria Zhang and astronomy professor Dr. Ju Shetty for securing prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Awards amid highly competitive national funding pools.
- Regent Gonzales recognized golfers Emma Bunch and Javier Delgado for advancing to the NCAA Tournament on behalf of their respective teams. He also highlighted the structural integration of three incoming athletic coaches and a formal contract extension for head coach Bowen under Athletic Director Joe Fields.
- Chairwoman Devasthali celebrated the NMSU Model United Nations team, which received the highest institutional honor, the Outstanding Delegation Award, at the National Model UN Conference in New York City.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Sensing no further business before the board, Chairwoman Devasthali called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Regent Marisol Olivas, seconded by Regent Deborah Romero, the regular meeting of the NMSU Board of Regents was officially adjourned at 3:00 PM.

DRAFT



**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: July 2, 2026**  
**Agenda Item Cover Page**

Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_

- Action Item
- Consent Item
- Informational Item

**Presented By:**

Scott Eschenbrenner  
Special Assistant to the President

**Agenda Item:**

Dona Ana County Information Technology (IT) – Office of Emergency Management

**Requested Action of the Board of Regents:**

Dona Ana County Information Technology (IT) – Office of Emergency Management based on the terms stated in the Executive Summary.

**Executive Summary:**

This is a new easement between the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University and Dona Ana County Information Technology. This Easement is for the Office of Emergency Management that is currently under construction on Tortugas Trail near the Golf Course and President's Residence and is similar to the easement recently approved for the electrical service to this facility. This agreement has been reviewed and approved by legal and ICT who will be supplying the fiber connection to the building.

The following language is included:

*"At Grantor's request, Grantee agrees to terminate, if at the time of the request, the Easement has not been in use for at least six consecutive months."*

**References:**

See attached Easement.

**Prior Approvals:**

Regents Real Estate Committee approval on 6-26-26.

**Agenda Item Approved By:**

Valerio Ferme  
President

06/26/2026

Date

UNDERGROUND EASEMENT

**EASEMENT**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA

For one dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, **THE REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**, hereinafter called Grantor, grants unto Doña Ana County, hereinafter call Grantee, its successors and assigns, whose address is 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007, the perpetual right, privilege, authority and easement to enter and erect, construct operate, remove, inspect, access, and maintain underground conduit raceways & pull boxes at any time with any and all necessary cables, lines, wires, And any other usual appurtenances, pertaining thereto, to together with an underground low voltage system, thereto for the installation, construction, operation inspection, repair, maintenance, replacement renewal or removal thereof, for the distribution and/or transmission of low voltage data transmission, under the following described premises and the adjoining rads, streets and highways, in the county named above, to wit:

A portion of **SECTION 27, T.23S, R.2E, N.M.P.M., DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO** as shown on the attached Exhibits A and B and made a part hereof.

The authority granted herein includes the right to permit the attachment of any other company.

Buildings and structures of a permanent nature, including but not limited to fences, boundary walls, walkways and landscaping that obstruct access to or safe operational clearances from Grantee's low-voltage equipment, will not be built on or over the easement, or under easement except with the prior written consent of Grantee.

At grantor's request, Grantee agrees to terminate, if at the time of the request, the Easement has not been in use for at least six months.

This Easement is effective upon the date it is executed by Grantor as stated in the Acknowledgement of Grantor's execution.

**GRANTOR**

**THE REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF NEW MEXICO }  
COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA }

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 by \_\_\_\_\_, who stated that (s)he executed same for the purpose and consideration therein expressed and, in the capacity, therein stated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of New Mexico

Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRANTEE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Scott Andrews

Title: County Manager

STATE OF NEW MEXICO }  
COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA }

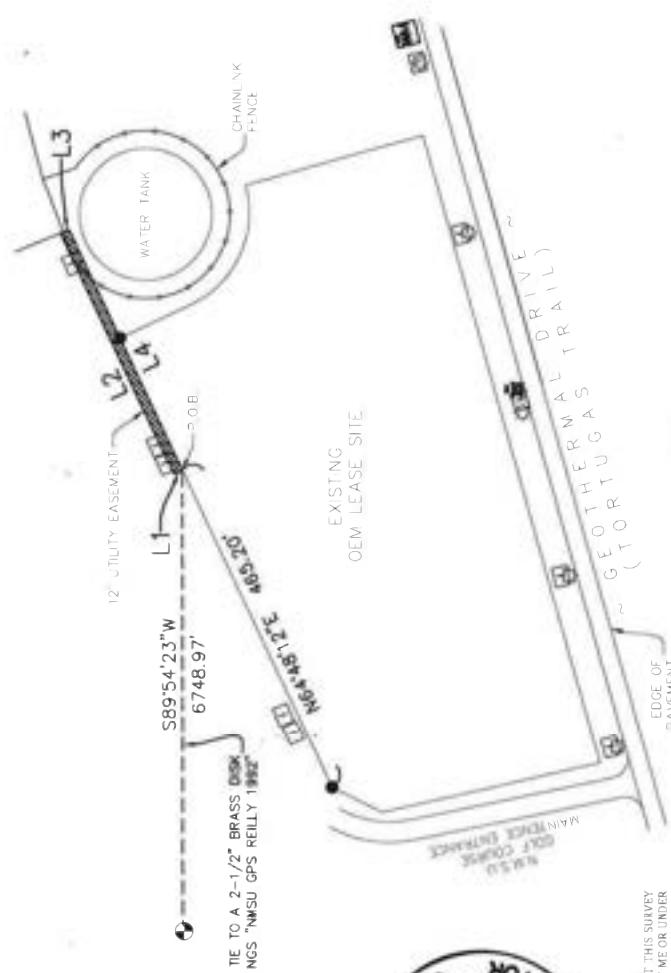
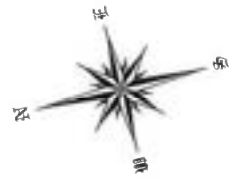
This instrument was acknowledged before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 by Scott Andrews who stated that he executed same for the purpose and consideration therein expressed and, in the capacity, therein stated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of New Mexico

Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

# PLAT OF SURVEY

12' WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT, LOCATED AT NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY PROPERTY BEING LOCATED IN SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 2 EAST, N.M.P.M., OF DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



LINE TABLE			
LINE #	BEARING	DISTANCE	
L1	N25°11'48\"W	12.00	
L2	N64°48'12\"E	353.00	
L3	S25°11'48\"E	12.00	
L4	S64°48'12\"W	353.00	

**LEGEND**

- BOLLARDS
- FOUND MONUMENT AS NOTED
- FOUND 1/2\" IRON ROD - NO CAP
- POWER POLE
- ELECTRIC BOX

**Doña Ana County**  
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
844 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007  
Voice (505) 625-0344 Fax (505) 625-0171

PROJECT NAME:  
**NMSU-OEM UTILITY EASEMENT**

---

DATE: 9/8/2025 FIELD WORK: 8/25/2023 FILE NAME: 25006-NMSU-OEM\_EAS\_1 SHEET 1 OF 1

- NOTES**
- BEARINGS ARE BASED ON NEW MEXICO STATE PLANE COORDINATES, CENTRAL ZONE GRID NORTH.
  - DISTANCES REPORTED ARE HORIZONTAL GROUND DISTANCES.
  - THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY IS TO CREATE A 12' WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT.



**SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION**  
 I, OSCAR N. TORRES, A NEW MEXICO PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR, CERTIFY THAT THIS SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF SURVEYORS AND LAND ADJUSTERS OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, AND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SURVEY. THAT THIS SURVEY IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND THAT THIS SURVEY AND PLAT MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SURVEYING IN NEW MEXICO.

*Oscar N. Torres*  
 OSCAR N. TORRES, PLS 30347 9/08/25



# Doña Ana County

Engineering & Roads Department

845 N. Motel Boulevard • Las Cruces, NM 88007 • (575) 525-6164 • Fax (575) 525-6179

September 8, 2025

## DESCRIPTION OF A 12' WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT

A strip of land, 12 feet wide, situate within New Mexico State University property, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, within Section 27, T.23S., R.2E., N.M.P.M. and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Southerly boundary of the OEM Lease Site, for the Northwest corner of this easement; WHENCE at a 2-1/2" Brass Disk found for NGS control point "NMSU GPS REILLY 1992" bears, S.89°54'23"W., 6748.97 feet.

THENCE from the point of beginning, N.25°11'48"W., 12.00 feet to a northwest corner of this easement;

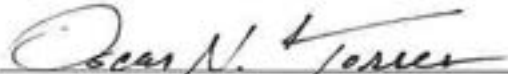
THENCE N.64°48'12"E., 353.00 feet to a northeast corner of this easement;

THENCE S.25°11'48"E., 12.00 feet to a southeast corner of this easement;

THENCE along the north line of said OEM Lease Site, S.64°48'12"W., 353.00 feet to the point of beginning, for the end of this easement;

This description was prepared by Oscar N. Torres, PS #30347.



  
Oscar N. Torres, PS 30347

9/08/2025  
Date



**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: July 2, 2026**  
**Agenda Item Cover Page**

Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_

- Action Item
- Consent Item
- Informational Item

**Presented By:**  
  
Scott Eschenbrenner  
Special Assistant to the President

**Agenda Item:**  
Satisfaction of Mortgage – Lot 1, Hatch Valley Schools Plat No. 1

**Requested Action of the Board of Regents:**  
Satisfaction of Mortgage – Lot 1, Hatch Valley Schools Plat No. 1 based on the terms stated in the Executive Summary.

**Executive Summary:**  
  
The sale of the DACC Hatch Learning Center to Hatch Valley Public Schools for the sale price of \$1,250,000 was approved by the Borad of Regents on March 6, 2018. The payments to the University were in the form of a \$325,000 down payment on the building and land and the remainder of \$925,000 being paid through a Mortgage on the property. The final payment has been made for the sale and now the Satisfaction of Mortgage for Lot 1, Hatch Valley Schools Plat No. 1 needs approved.

**References:**  
  
See attached Satisfaction of Mortgage, Original Mortgage.

**Prior Approvals:**  
Board of Regents approval on 3-6-2018 – Agenda Item # F-11. Also attached.

**Agenda Item Approved By:**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerio Ferme  
President

06/26/2026  
Date

**SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE**

This Satisfaction of Mortgage is signed by the Regents of New Mexico State University (Mortgagee), who is the owner and holder of, and has not transferred, assigned, pledged, or otherwise encumbered any interest in, the following described mortgage (“Mortgage”):

Mortgage dated June 14, 2018, from the Hatch Valley Public Schools (Mortgagor) to Mortgagee securing that certain promissory note (Note) in the original principal amount of Nine-hundred and twenty-five thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$925,000.00) which mortgage is recorded in Instrument #1814674 Public Records of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, encumbering certain property situate in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, as more particularly described in the Mortgage (Property) as

Lot 1, HATCH VALLEY SCHOOLS PLAT NO.1, in the township of Hatch, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, as shown and designated on the plat thereof, filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County on March 2, 2010, in Book 23, Page(s) 24 of Plat Records.

Mortgagee hereby acknowledges full payment and satisfaction of the Note and Mortgage, does hereby surrender the Note and Mortgage as cancelled, releases the Property from the lien of the Mortgage, and directs the Clerk of the Court in and for Dona Ana County to cancel the same of record.

The duly authorized Chair of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University, by placing her signature upon this Satisfaction of Mortgage, memorializes the release of the referenced mortgage hereunder, following a majority vote of the Board of Regents in an open meeting.

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ammu Devasthali, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Saucedo, Secretary

State of New Mexico  
County of Dona Ana

ss.

This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_ by Ammu Devasthali as the Chair of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University. [Official Stamp]

Notary Public

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission No.: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**MORTGAGE**

THIS MORTGAGE is made this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018, between **Hatch Valley Public Schools (Mortgagor)**, and **The Regents of New Mexico State University (Mortgagee)** whose address is MSC 309E, P.O. Box 30001, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003.

Mortgagor, for consideration paid, mortgages, grants and conveys to Mortgagee the following described real estate in Dona Ana county, New Mexico:

Lot 1, HATCH VALLEY SCHOOLS PLAT NO. 1, in the Townsite of Hatch, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, as shown and designated on the plat thereof, filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County on March 2, 2010, in Book 23 Page(s) 24 of Plat Records.

with mortgage covenants.

This mortgage secures the performance of the following obligation: a promissory note executed by Mortgagor on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018, in the amount of nine-hundred and seventy five thousand dollars and no cents (\$925,000.00) payable to the order of Regents of New Mexico State University, and which is upon the statutory mortgage condition for the breach of which it is subject to foreclosure as provided by law.

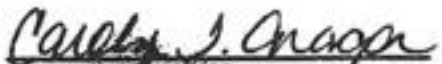
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, by placing his signature upon this Agreement, the duly authorized officer and agent of the Mortgagor agrees and binds the Mortgagor to the terms and conditions set forth in this Mortgage, as of the date indicated above.

**Hatch Valley Public Schools**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Mitchell, School Board President

State of New Mexico  
County of Dona Ana

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018, by Greg Mitchel, as the School Board President of Hatch Valley Public Schools.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn T. Aragon

My commission expires: 4/11/2020



OFFICIAL SEAL  
CAROLYN T. ARAGON  
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
My commission expires: 4/11/2020





**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018**  
**Agenda Item Cover Page**

Agenda Item # F-11

- Action Item
- Consent Item
- Informational Item

**Presented By: Scott Eschenbrenner,**  
Special Assistant to the President

**Agenda Item: Dona Ana Community College (DACC) – Hatch Learning Center**

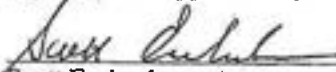
**Requested Action of the Board of Regents:** Approval to change the sales price for the DACC Hatch Learning Center to Hatch Valley Public Schools from \$1,300,000 to \$1,250,000, and a delegation of authority to the Chancellor to sign all closing documents necessary to finalize the sale. Additionally, we seek approval for the \$325,000 down payment to go directly to defeasance of the 2009 GO Bonds.

**Executive Summary:** Approval to move forward with the sale of the DACC Hatch Learning Center to Hatch Valley Public Schools, for the sale price of \$1,250,000. The payment to the University will be in the form of a \$325,000 down payment on the building and land, with the remainder of \$925,000 being secured by Master Promissory Note and Mortgage on the property. Additionally, we seek approval for the \$325,000 down payment to go directly to defeasance of the 2009 GO Bonds, which partially funded the construction and acquisition of the DACC Hatch Learning Center.


**References:** N/A

**Prior Approvals:** The Board of Regents Real Estate Committee was presented the terms of the sale on Friday, February 16, 2018, with a favorable outcome, and it was recommended for approval to the Board of Regents.

Agenda Item Approved By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Eschenbrenner  
Special Assistant to the President

2/27/18  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

2/27/2018  
Date



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 6, 2018 at 3:00pm**

Regents Room of the Educational Services Building  
NMSU Las Cruces Campus, 1780 East University Avenue  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

Chair Debra Hicks, Vice Chair Kari Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer Jerean Hutchinson, Chris Saucedo, Margie Vela

**Non-Voting Advisory Members** - Faculty Senate Chair Christopher Brown, Ph.D., Employee Council Chair Monica Dunivan, ASNMSU President Kevin Prieto

**University Officials** - Chancellor Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Provost Daniel Howard, Ph.D., Senior Vice President Andrew Burke, Ed.D., General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.

**MINUTES**

The Board of Regents meeting is available by webcast through the link at <http://panopto.nmsu.edu/bor/>

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:43pm.

**1. Introductions**

**Introduction of the Media, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister**  
Associate Vice President Bannister introduced several members of the media.

**Introduction of Officials**

**-Newly appointed Regent Chris Saucedo, Chair Debra Hicks**

Chair Hicks introduced new member of the Board of Regents Chris Saucedo. Regent Saucedo spoke of his roots in the Mesilla Valley and his pleasure in returning to serve the institution as regent.

**-Employee Council Chair Monica Dunivan, Chancellor Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D. and Adam Cavotta**  
Chancellor Carruthers introduced incoming Employee Council Chair Monica Dunivan.

**-Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Becky Corran, Provost Dan Howard, Ph.D. and Christopher Brown, Ph.D.**  
Provost Daniel Howard introduced Faculty Senate Chair Elect Becky Corran.

**2. Confirmation of Quorum, Chair Debra Hicks**

All members of the Board were present: Hicks, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Saucedo and Vela.

**3. Approval of the Agenda, Chair Debra Hicks**

Regent Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda with movement of agenda item G-2 Athletics Subcommittee Report to immediately follow public comment. Motion seconded and passed unanimously (Hicks, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Saucedo, Vela).

**4. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister**

20 individuals provided public comment: Christopher Brown, Michele Nishiguchi, Anne Hubbell, Bernd Leinauer, Julie Steinkopf, Brook Milligan, Margaret Malamud, James Coburn, Jon Hunner, Neil Harvey, Gary Roemer, Monique Martinez, Stu Munson-McGee, John Sandstrom, James McAtteer, Stephen Lopez, Martha Desmond, Gary Rayson, Spencer Herrera, and Chris Hatch.

**G. 2. Athletics Subcommittee Report, Regent Kari Mitchell** *Moved during approval of the agenda.*

Regent Mitchell stressed the goal of investing in revenue generating opportunities for Athletics to reduce dependency on Instruction and General (I&G) funds. Subcommittee Chair Mickey Clute shared the charge of the committee to leverage recent and nationally prominent successes for greater and long standing athletic success. An investment in athletics now might gain a sizable return on that investment. There are concerns regarding retention of coaches, salaries, summer school costs and recruiting. Multiple options were presented in the report to increase the budget including I&G investment, debt forgiveness and debt payment extension. In addition, investments in athletics marketing, private fund generation, and alumni support were included in the report. Finally, opportunities to enhance the game experience and profit from concessions were examined.

Regent Mitchell made a motion to extend the athletics debt for an additional five years, with an immediate \$250,000-\$300,000 investment this fiscal year, preliminary metrics to measure effectiveness, annual progress report, and a three year evaluation of metrics. A letter will be submitted by Chancellor Carruthers and Chair Hicks to the Secretary of the Higher Education Department. Regular periodic review of athletics will continue to occur. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (Hicks, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Saucedo, Vela). The Athletics Subcommittee will continue to examine long term opportunities.

**B. Approval of the Minutes, Chair Debra Hicks**

**1. Special Meeting of February 12, 2018 @ 1:00pm**

Regent Hutchinson moved approval of the minutes, motion seconded and motion approved (4-0). (Hicks, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Vela). Regent Saucedo abstained.

**2. Confirmation of Prior Executive Session of March 6, 2018 @ 12:00pm**

Regent Hicks-yes, Regent Hutchinson-yes, Regent Saucedo, Regent Vela-yes.

Regent Mitchell-yes (confirmed later in the meeting as she had momentarily stepped out earlier).

**3. Confirmation of Prior Executive Session of March 6, 2018 @ 2:00pm**

Regent Hicks-yes, Regent Hutchinson-yes, Regent Saucedo, Regent Vela-yes.

Regent Mitchell-yes (confirmed later in the meeting as she had momentarily stepped out earlier).

**C. Awards and Recognitions, Chair Debra Hicks**

**1. Athletics Awards, Athletics Director Marlo Moccia**

Athletics Director Moccia recognized the regular season champion volleyball team and coach of the year Mike Jordan and the Arizona Bowl Champion football team.

**D. Committee Reports - DEFERRED**

**1. Audit and Risk Committee Report, Chair Debra Hicks**

**2. Real Estate Committee Report, Chair Debra Hicks**

**3. Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee Report, Chair Kari Mitchell**

**4. Student Success Committee Report, Chair Jerean Hutchinson**

**E. Recurring Reports - DEFERRED**

**1. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, Chair Christopher Brown, Ph.D.**

**2. Associated Students of NMSU Report, President Kevin Prieto**

**3. NMSU Employee Council Report, Chair Monica Dunivan**

**4. Higher Education Regents Coalition Report, BOR Chair Debra Hicks**

**5. Aggie Development Inc. Report, President & CEO Scott Eschenbrenner**

**6. NMSU Foundation Report, President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.**

**7. Arrowhead Center Inc. Report, Chair Kevin Boberg, Ph.D.**

8. *New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Cabinet Secretary & Director Jeff Witte*

F. *Consent Items, Chair Debra Hicks*

Following consideration of item G-1, the Board considered the consent agenda.

Regent Mitchell moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded and motion passed unanimously (Hicks, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Saucedo and Vela).

1. *Temporary Investments Report for the Quarter ended December 31, 2017, Senior VP Andrew Burke, Ed.D.*
2. *Disposition/Deletion of Property, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke, Ed.D.*
3. *FY18 Parking Lot Funding, Associate VP Glen Haubold, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh*
4. *Engineering Complex III-Ed and Harold Foreman Engineering Complex, Suite 300 Renovation, Associate VP Glen Haubold, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh*
5. *Honorary Degree Recipient Nominees, Vice President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.*
6. *New Art Building Naming, Vice President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.*
7. *Spaces in the New Art Building Namings, Vice President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.*
8. *Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, Gardiner Hall Naming, Vice President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.*
9. *TECH Lab, O'Donnell Hall Naming, Vice President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.*
10. *McFie Circle Desert Landscape Garden Naming, Vice President Andrea Tawney, Ph.D.*
11. *Dona Ana Community College (DACC) – Hatch Learning Center  
Scott Eschenbrenner, Special Assistant to the President*
12. *RPM 2.10, Non-Academic Units, Creating, Reorganizing, Relocating, Eliminating - Repeal  
General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*
13. *RPM 6.35, Mandatory Employee Training; Opportunities for Professional Development - Repeal  
General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*
14. *RPM 16.60, Responsible Alcohol Use – Revision, General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*
15. *RPM 18.80, Tailgating Activities – Repeal, General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*
16. *2018 Annual Open Meetings Notice Resolution, General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*
17. *Access to Classified Information Resolution, NMSU Facility Security Officer Chris Scott*
18. *Cooperative Educational Services' Restated and Amended Joint Powers Agreement (Amendment 9),  
General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*
19. *New Justice, Political Philosophy and Law (JPPL) Major within Philosophy at NMSU-Las Cruces  
Provost Daniel Howard, Ph.D.; Associate Dean Beth Pollack, Ph.D.; Professor Mark Walker, Ph.D.*
20. *New Associate of Applied Science in Game Development Program at NMSU-DACC  
President Renay Scott*
21. *Closure of Electrical Apprenticeship Program at NMSU-DACC, President Renay Scott*

22. Closure of Library Science Program at NMSU-DACC, *President Renay Scott*

23. Closure of Paralegal Studies Program at NMSU-DACC, *President Renay Scott*

G. Action Items, *Chair Debra Hicks*

1. Letter of Intent with El Grupo Promotor for Development and Operation of NMSU Campus in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, *Chancellor Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D. and Executive VP and Provost Daniel Howard, Ph.D.*  
Provost Dan Howard shared an opportunity for NMSU to consider a branch campus in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and highlighted potential faculty and student exchanges.

Regent Mitchell made a motion to support a Letter of Intent to examine the viability of a branch campus. The motion was seconded and motion passed unanimously.

2. Athletics Subcommittee Report, *Regent Kari Mitchell* **MOVED BELOW ITEM A-4 ABOVE**

3. Election of Officers, *Chair Debra Hicks*

Regent Mitchell moved Debra Hicks serve as Chair of the Board of Regents, motion seconded, and motion approved 4-0 (Regents Hutchinson, Mitchell, Saucedo, Vela). Regent Hicks abstained.

Regent Hutchinson moved Kari Mitchell serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Regents, motion seconded, and motion approved 4-0 (Regents Hicks, Hutchinson, Saucedo, Vela). Regent Mitchell abstained.

Regent Mitchell moved Jerean Hutchinson serve as Secretary Treasurer of the Board of Regents, motion seconded, and motion approved (Regents Hicks, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Saucedo, Vela).

H. Informational Items, *Chair*

1. Chancellor's Report, *Chancellor Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.*

Chancellor Carruthers provided a brief update on applications, admitted students and scholarship awards.

2. Provost's Report, *Executive Vice President and Provost Daniel Howard, Ph.D.*

Provost Howard heralded the Higher Learning Commission's Reaffirmation of NMSU's Accreditation and commended the team, including Dr. Shelly Stovall, Dr. Chris Brown, Dr. Stuart Munson-McGee, Dr. Kevin Boberg, Dr. Luis Vazquez, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Kathy Brook and Dr. Bernadette Montoya.

3. Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period 11/15/17 through 02/13/18, *General Counsel Lizbeth Ellis, J.D.*

General Counsel Liz Ellis provided a brief summary of the revisions.

4. Appointments to Committees and Bodies, *Chair Debra Hicks*

Chair Hicks made the following appointments:

Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee – Regent Mitchell and Regent Saucedo

Regents Student Success Committee – Regent Hutchinson and Regent Mitchell

Regents Audit and Risk Committee – Regent Hicks and Regent Saucedo

Regents Real Estate Committee – Regent Hicks and Regent Vela

Foundation Board – Regent Hutchinson

Arrowhead Board – Regent Hicks and Regent Vela

San Luis Potosi Due Diligence – Regent Hicks

Honorary Degree –Regent Vela and Regent Hutchinson  
Other committee members are to remain as previously appointed.

**5. Search Committee Update, Regent Kari Mitchell**

Search Committee met. Approximately 300 have expressed Interest, with 50 being viable. Through multiple iterations, the list has been winnowed to 10 candidates for skype interviews. Wheelers Partners has expressed excitement at the level of candidate quality. The search planning subcommittee will be very engaged in hosting the candidates.

Chair Hicks participated in a conference call with the Higher Learning Commission and acknowledged appropriate controls remain in place.

**I. Announcements, Chair**

**1. "Gun's Up" – Good News for NMSU**

Brief comments were provided highlighting good news at NMSU.

**2. Upcoming Board of Regents Meetings**

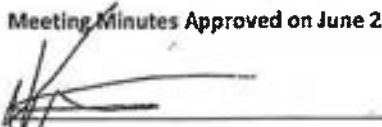
April 6, 2018 Special Meeting

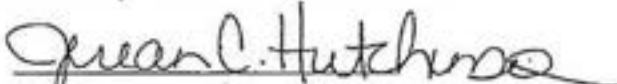
May 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

**J. Adjournment, Chair**

Regent Mitchell moved adjournment and the meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

Meeting Minutes Approved on June 29, 2018 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.

  
Debra P. Hicks  
Board of Regents Chair

  
Jerem C. Hutchinson  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer



**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: July 2, 2026**  
**Agenda Item Cover Page**

**Agenda Item # 5A**

- Action Item
- Consent Item
- Informational Item

**Presented By:**  
**Lisa Henderson, J.D., LL.M.**  
*General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer*

**Agenda Item:**

Proposed ratification of the Graduate Student Union's 2026 Compensation Article pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Regents of New Mexico State University and United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America Local 1498 representing the Graduate Workers Union.

**Requested Action of the Board of Regents:**

Board ratification of the proposed 2026 renegotiated compensation article pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Regents of New Mexico State University and the Graduate Workers Union.

**Executive Summary:**

Subject to ratification by the Board of Regents, the NMSU and Graduate Workers Union negotiating teams tentatively agreed to a proposed renegotiated compensation article to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Union ratified the proposed article on June 15, 2026. The last step before the article may become operative is ratification by the Board of Regents. The article provides, among other items, a two and one-half percent increase in compensation for qualifying bargaining unit members who make above the minimum on the applicable salary tables and who continue in the same assistantships, among other items, and a three percent increase to the minimum salary tables for new appointments, all to begin in the Fall 2026.

**References:**

The proposed 2026 renegotiated compensation article is included.

**Prior Approvals:**

NA.

**Tentative Agreement**  
**June 3, 2026 4:55 PM**

*(Contingent upon ratification by the parties prior to July 1, 2026)*

**ARTICLE 5.                    COMPENSATION**

A. Effective the first full pay period of **Fall** semester **2026**, bargaining unit members **who meet the requirements below**, other than RAs, will receive a two-and-a-half percent (2.5%) increase to the assistantship appointment amount, prorated for the remaining pay periods on the appointment.

- 1) In order to qualify for the 2.5% increase:
  - the bargaining unit member must hold the same assistantship appointment in the same department, without a change in Graduate Level (G1, G2, G3) in the Fall semester of 2026 as was held in the Spring semester of 2026;
  - the bargaining unit member must have held the Spring 2026 assistantship appointment continuously from the university census date of February 6, 2026; and
  - the Spring semester 2026 assistantship appointment must have:
    - (1) been an Appointment Type of Academic Year, Semester, or Annual, as listed on the Salary Table below. Summer, and Summer Session appointments will not be considered in determining eligibility for the 2.5% increase; and
    - (2) been paid more than the applicable minimum salary listed on the Salary Table below.
  
- 2) Salaries for new assistantship appointments will be set by the departments in accordance with budget availability and need, as solely determined by the departments, with application of the minimums contained in the Salary Table below. Departments, research centers, and services units may pay a bargaining unit member more than the minimum salary schedules provided it does not create an inequity within the department, research center, or service unit.
  
- 3) This provision will apply only for the term covered by this reopener and will expire upon the next wage reopener unless expressly renewed by mutual agreement of the parties in writing. Nothing in this provision will be construed to create an ongoing or automatic entitlement to future increases outside the applicable salary table.
  
- 4) The University encourages Departments, research centers, and services units to provide the same percentage increase to RAs in the same manner as set forth

*BRD  
6/3/26*

**Tentative Agreement  
June 3, 2026 4:55 PM**

*(Contingent upon ratification by the parties prior to July 1, 2026)*  
in this subsection.

B. The table below reflects the minimum salary schedules for bargaining unit members as of the beginning of the Fall Semester 2026.

<b>Appointment Type</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>G1</b>	<b>G2</b>	<b>G3</b>
<b>Academic Year (HACD)</b>	0.5	21927.07	22434.51	22940.90
	0.375	16446.09	16825.36	17205.68
	0.25	10963.01	11217.26	11472.55
<b>Semester (HFA, HSP)</b>	0.5	10963.01	11217.26	11472.55
	0.375	8222.00	8413.20	8602.31
	0.25	5483.08	5610.20	5735.22
	0.125	2742.06	2,806.15	2,870.24
<b>Annual (HANNL)</b>	0.5	29236.09	29912.69	30589.27
	0.375	21927.07	22434.52	22940.90
	0.25	14619.10	14957.39	15295.68
	0.5	7310.08	7478.18	7649.42

*BRAD  
6/5/26*

**Tentative Agreement**  
**June 3, 2026 4:55 PM**

*(Contingent upon ratification by the parties prior to July 1, 2026)*

<b>Summer Session (HSUM)</b>	0.375	5483.08	5609.15	5735.22
	0.25	3653.99	3739.08	3825.24
<b>Summer (HSUM1, HSUM2)</b>	0.5	3653.99	3739.08	3825.24
	0.25	1829.10	1870.07	1913.15

**United Electrica, Radio and Machine Workers  
Of America**

**Regents of New Mexico State University**



6/3/26

Gus Enger  
Director of Organizing



William Dial  
Associate Vice President for Human  
Resource Services



Anna Conly  
Treasurer



**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: July 2, 2026**  
**Agenda Item Cover Page**

**Agenda Item #5B**

- Action Item
- Consent Item
- Informational Item

**Presented By:**

Allen Bottorff  
*Vice President for Administration & Finance and  
Chief Financial Officer*

Tony Marin  
*Vice President for Student Enrollment & Engagement*

**Agenda Item:**

Authority to Reduce Texas 135 Waiver to In State Tuition

**Requested Action of the Board of Regents:**

No action is requested at this time. This item is presented for informational purposes only. Administration anticipates returning to the Board at a future meeting with a fully developed recommendation after completing additional systemwide analysis.

**Executive Summary:**

New Mexico State University (NMSU) is providing the Board of Regents with an informational update regarding a potential adjustment to the Texas 135 tuition treatment for eligible Texas residents. The concept under review would reduce the current Texas 135 multiplier from 1.1× in-state tuition to 1.0× in-state tuition, aligning eligible Texas 135 students with the legally permissible in-state tuition rate.

The purpose of the potential adjustment is to strengthen NMSU's competitive position in El Paso County, protect a critical regional enrollment pipeline, simplify tuition messaging for students and families, and respond to increased regional price competition, including UTEP's Paydirt Promise program.

Because this is a systemwide tuition initiative, administration is expanding the analysis to include applicable undergraduate, graduate, and community college benefits. Administration will return to the Board for action in the Fall, once the implementation timeline and communications plan have been fully reconciled.

**References:**

NMSA 1978, § 21-1-3(D)  
NMAC 5.7.18.10(F)

**Prior Approvals:**

N/A

# TEXAS 135 WAIVER TUITION ALIGNMENT

## INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON REGIONAL TUITION STRATEGY

Presented to the NMSU Board of Regents  
July 2, 2026

**Allen Bottorff**  
Vice President of Administration &  
Finance and Chief Financial Officer

**Tony Marin**  
Vice President of Enrollment  
Management



# Texas 135 Tuition Alignment

Informational update on protecting NMSU's El Paso County enrollment pipeline.

## Purpose of Informational Item

Provide the Board of Regents with an update on NMSU's review of the Texas 135 tuition multiplier and the potential alignment of eligible Texas 135 students with the legally permissible in-state tuition rate.

Administration is continuing to evaluate the systemwide enrollment, fiscal, operational, and communications impacts of moving the Texas 135 multiplier from 1.1× to 1.0× in-state tuition for a Fall 2027 recruitment cycle.

**No Board action is requested at this meeting**



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# Strategic Rationale

The concept under review is designed around enrollment protection and regional tuition alignment.

## 1 **Protect the pipeline**

El Paso County represents a high-value, strategically important student market for NMSU.

## 2 **Compete on price clarity**

A 1.0× rate would give recruiters a clean message: *eligible Texas 135 students pay in-state tuition.*

## 3 **Align regional treatment**

Texas 135 students would be aligned with other regional students, Arizona and Colorado for undergraduate students, receiving 1.0× in-state tuition treatment.

## 4 **Preserve long-term revenue**

The objective would be to protect enrollment and tuition revenue over multiple years, not simply reduce price.

## 5 **Simplify administration**

A published tuition rate would be clearer and more stable than a recurring scholarship workaround.



## Why this matters now

El Paso County is a core regional market facing new price-based competition and should be evaluated as part of NMSU's natural regional recruitment territory.

### REGIONAL MARKET FACTORS

- Geographic proximity to Las Cruces
- Existing student volume and family connections
- Commuter and residential enrollment patterns
- High price sensitivity in student choice
- Strong Borderplex workforce relevance

### MARKET PRESSURE

#### **UTEP's Paydirt Promise changes the recruitment environment.**

The program now offers free tuition and mandatory fee coverage to eligible Texas residents with family income up to \$100,000, creating direct competitive pressure in NMSU's El Paso pipeline.

### MESSAGE GAP

#### **Current pricing is harder to explain.**

Current:  
"in-state tuition + residual differential"



Future alignment:  
"eligible Texas 135 students pay in-state tuition"



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# Why tuition alignment is being evaluated

A rate adjustment may be simpler to administer and easier for families to understand.

## ACCOUNTABILITY METRICS

- El Paso County applications and admits
- Yield, enrollment, and retention trends
- New student enrollment and continuing student retention
- Comparison to prior-year El Paso County trends
- Recruitment response to Paydirt Promise
- Post-census report back on enrollment and net tuition performance

**Future action would include a post-census report back on market and enrollment outcomes**

## CONCEPT UNDER REVIEW

**Evaluate moving the Texas 135 multiplier from 1.1× to 1.0× as a targeted regional enrollment protection strategy for a future recruitment cycle.**

The concept preserves the Board's regional tuition policy authority while giving NMSU a simpler and potentially more competitive position in El Paso County.

**Bottom line:** this is being evaluated as a market-responsive alignment to protect a critical regional pipeline, not as a broad discount strategy.



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# Legal Authority for Texas 135 Tuition Alignment

Eligible Texas residents within 135 miles may be treated as resident students for tuition purposes under NMSA § 21-1-3(D) and NMAC 5.7.18.10(F).

- **New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, § 21-1-3(D) (2025).** Authorizes the board of regents of certain New Mexico postsecondary institutions, for tuition payment and budget/revenue purposes, to determine that “resident student” includes a Texas resident who resides within a 135-mile radius of the institution.
- **New Mexico Administrative Code, 5.7.18.10(F), “Certain Texas residents.”** Provides that, pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 21-1-3(D), eligible Texas residents within a 135-mile radius of NMHU, ENMU, NMSU, or WNMU may qualify for in-state tuition rates.

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This informational item reviews whether NMSU should align eligible Texas 135 students with the legally permissible in-state tuition rate in a future recruitment cycle.

