



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2020 at 8:30am**

Due to the public health emergency issued by the Governor, the meeting will take place via online meeting and Webcast at the following address:
<http://panopto.nmsu.edu/bor/>

Regents of New Mexico State University

Chair Dina Chacón-Reitzel, Vice Chair Ammu Devasthali, Secretary/Treasurer Luke Sanchez, Debra Hicks, Arsenio Romero

Non-Voting Advisory Members - ASNMSU President Evan Conner, Faculty Senate Chair Becky Corran, Employee Council Chair Letty Gallegos

University Officials - Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu, Ph.D., President John D. Floros, Ph.D., Provost Carol Parker, J.D., Vice Chancellor and Chief Strategic Financial Officer Ruth A. Johnston, Ph.D., Senior Vice President Andrew Burke, Ed.D., General Counsel Roy Collins III, J.D.

MINUTES

A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Introductions

Before continuing to the introductions, Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted that she is being hosted for the Web conference by State Veterinary diagnostics laboratory in Albuquerque. Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel further noted some details about the history of NMSU, highlighting that it was the first degree-granting institution in the territory. The original New Mexico Constitution was ratified in 1911 and created the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to be overseen by the Board of Regents, making the Board of Regents the State Board of agriculture, thus solidifying the importance of both agriculture and the university and to the state. Today, NMDA is a producer and consumer service and a regulatory department made of five divisions, one of them being Veterinary Diagnostic services (VDS). This is the state's only full service Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and they work to deliver the most accurate diagnostic results in a timely fashion. Working with that veterinarians, livestock producers, pet owners, and regulatory agencies, VDS incorporates state-of-the-art instruments to provide precise answers. VDS is part of the U. S. Department of Agricultural national animal health laboratory network which works to detect biological threats to the nation's food animals in order to protect animal and public health as well as the US food supply. This is the only veterinary diagnostics lab in the nation that is co-located with the state scientific lab, where human health is analyzed and with the State's office of medical investigator, where human death is analyzed. This unique setup as tri-services lab has allowed to New Mexico to have all its human and animal disease and diagnostic officials in one place, where a unique and close relationship exist. Zoonotic labs had the ability to share personnel and equipment. Some of the diseases are in mind today, such as COVID-19 that require a whole lot of testing that's a priority for the labs. Other states have looked at this relationship and hold it up as a model.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted pride in having the association with the veterinary diagnostics laboratory and it serves as another example of NMSU serving the state of New Mexico, but also the nation. She further expressed appreciation for hosting her and hoped that everyone would have a chance to tour the visionary lab in the future.

Introduction of Mathew Madrid and Tiffany Flores, Incoming ASNMSU President and Vice President, Vice President Renay Scott

Vice President Renay Scott introduced Mathew Madrid, noting that he will be the newly elected President of ASNMSU. Mr. Madrid is a double major in marketing and journalism with a minor in advertising, he is from Vado, New Mexico and his hope is to graduate in May of 2022. His career goals include working for a prominent advertising firm and working his way up through the leadership and administration of a firm, such as that.

His hobbies include graphic design and as he states, "I've been doing this since my junior year of high school, and it has shaped the way that I see the world."

Mr. Madrid noted that he was very excited to be coming into the role of President for a semester and that this will be his fourth year and his service has been the most enriching experience of his college career by far.

Vice President Scott also introduced the newly incoming vice president of ASNMSU, Tiffany Flores. Tiffany is a double major in criminal justice and psychology with a minor in Forensic Psychology and Spanish. She is from Farmington, New Mexico and she expects to graduate in May of 2021. Her a goal after attending NMSU is to go to law school and then perhaps a career in politics.

Ms. Flores was unable to attend, and Mr. Madrid spoke on behalf of Ms. Flores and noted that she is also very excited to begin exploring ideas about how to help students transition back to normal campus life once it's safe to do so. Mr. Madrid noted that she has a lot of good ideas and initiatives that she would like to advocate for during her time in ASNMSU.

Introduction of Dr. Julia Parra, Chair Elect of NMSU Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Chair Becky Corran

Faculty Senate Chair Becky Corran introduced Dr. Julia Parra as the incoming Faculty Senate Chair.

Chair Corran noted that Dr. Parra is an Associate Professor in the College of Education and is the coordinator for learning design and technologies programs. Her teaching specialization is in learning design and technology with focus on classroom technology integration, online course design strategies, tools for online teaching and learning, and qualitative research which, at this moment, means that she's extraordinarily busy. She's currently serving on the board of directors for the online learning consortium and is on the Amistad Family Services Board of Directors.

As a faculty senator, she has served on numerous committees sponsored legislation represented faculty for the NMC Online Task Force, and most recently served as the Vice Chair. Dr. Parra works hard to build relationships and cultivate innovation through her teaching, research, and service. Her willingness to lead the Faculty Senate will bring collaborative, forward-looking insight to the shared governance and the NMSU system.

Dr. Parra noted her excitement for getting started as Faculty Senate Chair.

Introduction of Derek Dictson, Vice President for University Advancement, Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu introduced Derek Dictson as vice president of university advancement and the new President of the NMSU foundation. Mr. Dictson joined NMSU on April 1, 2020 and he has previously served in roles in advancement, fundraising, and leadership positions at both Auburn and Texas A&M. Vice President Dictson began his nonprofit management career in 2002 serving as the executive director of three community nonprofit organizations, prior to beginning his higher education advancement career. Vice President Dictson

and his wife Nikki both grew up in New Mexico and graduated from NMSU in 1998 and they are members of several generations of their families that have attended and worked at NMSU. They are happy to return to Las Cruces with their two children Kylie and Logan and the administration are delighted to have them here as they have already hit the ground running. The Chancellor noted that they have already spent a lot of time together and expressed his confidence that the foundation is in great hands as a consequence of having Vice President Dictson come on board.

Vice President Dictson noted he is honored to be part of the future for NMSU.

2. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Regents Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took roll of all Regents and University Officials. The following Regents and University Officials were present.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel
Regent Devasthali
Regent Hicks
Regent Sanchez
Regent Romero
Chancellor Arvizu
President Floros
Provost Parker
Vice Chancellor Johnston
Senior Vice President Burke
General Counsel Collins

It was also noted that the additional NMSU staff were in attendance: Adam Cavotta, Dustin Cox, Evan Conner, Becky Corran, Letty Gallegos, Renay Scott, Luis Cifuentes, Scott Eschenbrenner, Jeff Witte, Kathryn Hansen, Derek Dictson, Heather Watenpaugh, Gena Jones, Julia Parra, Rolando Flores, Enrico Pontelli, Tim Hanosh, Justin Bannister, Norma Noel, Kim Rumford, Ermelinda Quintela, Mathew Madrid, and Alton Looney.

A quorum was confirmed.

3. Approval of the Agenda, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Regent Devasthali moved to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Regent Sanchez. A roll call vote was taken.

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

4. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

Associate Vice President Bannister announced that there were no sign ups for public comment.

B. Approval of the Minutes, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

1. Special Meeting April 21, 2020

Regent Sanchez moved to approve the minutes for the special meeting on April 21, 2020 as presented, with a second by Regent Hicks. A roll call vote was taken.

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

C. Awards and Recognitions, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

1. Proclamation Recognizing Becky Corran for her Service to Faculty Senate as Chair, Provost Carol Parker

Provost Parker read the proclamation for Becky Corran, which stated:

WHEREAS, Becky Corran will end her second term as the Chair of the Faculty Senate at midnight on May 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, her experience of being a first-generation college graduate and tenured Associate Professor of Public Health at Doña Ana Community College has helped shape her leadership of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran reached out to populations that were traditionally underrepresented within the Faculty Senate, including women, faculty of color, and LGBT faculty in order to support them as potential senators and collaborators on legislation; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran developed a reputation as a steady leader in the ever-changing times during her service as chair while at first as new leadership boldly shaped NMSU and later as the Coronavirus global pandemic shaped the entire higher education landscape; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran worked with Senators to advance legislation on key issues related to student success, such as curricular changes and new program development that helped to meet the State of New Mexico's need for licensed teachers in the public education system; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran demonstrated her strength in working collaboratively in order to advance principles of shared governance and the preeminent and indispensable role that faculty play in forming and refining the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran provided invaluable service to incoming members of the Board of Regents and the

NMSU System administration during times of leadership transition, furthering their understanding of not only NMSU but of the local communities, region, and State; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran contributed invaluable service to the Office of the Provost by ensuring the faculty had a voice throughout the leadership transitions; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran, by holding the distinction of being a Branch Campus faculty member who was elected to Chair the system-wide Faculty Senate, helped demonstrate and define that NMSU is a system; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran, as a strategic thinker, good listener, and patient advocate of new ideas, helped make the NMSU System a stronger organization; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran supported NMSU's efforts to request the Education Retirement Bureau better handle beneficiary issues; change the student course evaluation process to remove quantitative items; revise the Faculty Grievance process; recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day; and improve the Branch Campus curricular approval process; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran listened intently, shared openly, and did so with grace, dignity and perseverance among the students, faculty and staff with who she collaborated; and

WHEREAS, Prof. Corran led, understanding the importance of the intellectual, cultural, and geographical diversity of the NMSU system and that NMSU is spread across a large and diverse state, focusing to do what is best to serve others.

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

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2020 while in regular session.

2. Proclamation Recognizing John Gratton for his Service to NMSU Carlsbad as President, Chancellor Dan Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu read the proclamation for John Gratton, which stated:

WHEREAS, John Gratton, Ph.D., President of New Mexico State University Carlsbad, has served as New Mexico State University since January 16, 2012; and

WHEREAS, as part of the NMSU system, NMSU – Carlsbad was established in 1950 as the state's first community college and was named the Carlsbad Instructional Center and in 1960 the center was renamed as a branch campus of NMSU; and

WHEREAS, the Regents of NMSU is the governing board of NMSU Carlsbad and through an agreement between the Carlsbad Municipal School District and NMSU Carlsbad, the local elected Board of Education for the Carlsbad Municipal Schools serves as an advisory board for NMSU Carlsbad; and

WHEREAS, Gratton built strong relationships with the Board of Regents, the local advisory board, City of Carlsbad, local businesses, including the energy and healthcare sectors, and Eddy County; and

WHEREAS, Gratton, as a past president of the Rotary Club and past president of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, has been recognized for his service to the community and actively engaged in the Chamber of Commerce, strengthened relationships between NMSU Carlsbad with businesses and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of the New Mexico State University System has said

“Dr. Gratton has developed a deep understanding of the unique workforce development needs in southeastern New Mexico, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that NMSU-Carlsbad is a strong community partner in addressing those needs through programing that responds to industry trends;” and

WHEREAS, Gratton, with the support of the Carlsbad community, was instrumental in launching the state’s third Early College High School program, which has created a pipeline of students prepared for success in college and the workforce; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Gratton, NMSU Carlsbad has created and expanded impactful and exciting new programs of vocational study in industrial maintenance, healthcare and other growing fields; and

WHEREAS, Gratton brought forward major campus improvements, including the courtyard renovation and the renovation of the science labs; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Gratton, NMSU Carlsbad focused on student access and student support, helped increase grant awards and revenue streams, expanded partnerships with business and fully engaged the community.

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

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2020 while in regular session.

3. Proclamation Recognizing Tim Hanosh of NMDA as the 2019 Veterinarian of the Year, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel read the proclamation for Tim Hanosh, which stated:

WHEREAS, Tim Hanosh, director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostic Services Division, has served as director since July 2011; and

WHEREAS, as part of the land-grant university system, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture falls under the purview of NMSU, and the NMSU Board of Regents serves as the state’s Board of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Hanosh oversees the division that conducts the important work of providing diagnostic analysis from veterinarians and agencies to help identify diseases; and

WHEREAS, under Hanosh’s direction, the Veterinary Diagnostic Services works closely with NMSU Cooperative Extension Services, primarily Extension Veterinarian and the NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte has said: “Dr. Hanosh’s dedication to serving our New Mexico veterinarian community with timely and accurate animal health diagnostics is a testament to his dedication to the state;” and

WHEREAS, Hanosh was named the state’s 2019 Veterinarian of the Year by the New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association which recognizes veterinarians who have rendered outstanding service to the profession, served as an outstanding representative of the profession to the general public and whose activities, civic involvement and lifestyle exemplify the type of professional person that all veterinarians can be proud of; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Hanosh, NMDA’s Veterinary Diagnostic Services Division became a fully-certified International Organization for Standardization (ISO) laboratory in 2018 for the first time in its existence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Tim Hanosh for his dedicated service and extends our congratulations for receiving this prestigious honor.

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of May 2020 while in regular session.

D. Regent Committee Reports

1. Real Estate Committee, *Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel*

Regent Chacón-Reitzel reported that the Regents Real Estate Committee met on April 27, 2020. The committee had a few informational items and a couple action items that are on the agenda for today. The committee took action to recommend approval of the Annual Capital Outlay and Five-Year Facilities plans. This is item H-2 that is before the board for action. Also, the committee took action and recommended approval of an Easement for El Paso Electric that will be necessary for work being done at the Doña Ana Community College Gadsden Center. This is item G-3 on our consent agenda.

The committee took action to approve an update to the MOU between NMSU Grants and the Early College High School Program that provided for the use of NMSU Grants gymnasium by the Early College High School Program for some additional time each week.

The committee was provided with an informational report about Agriculture modernization facilities that are being planned and this report will be delivered to the entire Board of Regents today as informational item I-2 on the agenda.

The committee also reviewed a list of upcoming real estate transactions, such as leases that are nearing renewal.

2. Audit and Risk Committee Report, *Regent Ammu Devasthali (No report)*

The next meeting will be held May 27, 2020. No report was given.

3. Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee Report, *Regent Debra Hicks*

Regent Hicks noted that the results of the last Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee meeting was able to be reported at the previous Board of Regents meeting, however there is an update since that time. Committee members were sent the Budget Adjustments and HED presentations on

May 8 as an informational item. Typically, these items are put before the committee for presentation and discussion, but these items on the agenda today have not been through that process.

4. Student Success Committee Report, *Regent Arsenio Romero*

Regent Romero indicated that the next Regents Student Success Committee meeting will be held on August 4, 2020. Regent Romero thanked Regent Sanchez, Provost Parker, Vice President Scott and Adam Cavotta for helping facilitate a planning session on May 6 as it was very informative. There will also be another planning meeting in mid-July when there should be results known about the special legislative session being held in mid-June. There were some conversations about potential topics including reentry plans and how that's going to affect not only the academic side for students but also the health and safety side. The intent is for this committee to be able to support that work moving forward. There are some additional potential topics for that August 4 meeting, which include discussion of tuition policy, increasing the student experiences related to how we can make students feel safe coming back to campus. Provost Parker will provide an Academics 101 presentation for the entire committee and then there will be discussions about how we can allow our entire community to really know more about net tuition and the strategies of net tuition moving forward.

The committee has a lot of work ahead. A planning session will be held in mid-July and the next student success committee meeting is on August 4.

E. Advisory Member Reports

1. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, *Chair Becky Corran*

Chair Corran noted that there is a summary report in the meeting packet that has links to all 21 propositions that the Faculty Senate considered this year. This is part of the ongoing conversation to think about Faculty curricular design and faculty senators are participating on an ongoing basis in those conversations.

Regent Sanchez mentioned that this was the first opportunity to fill out the new course evaluations and noted it was a great way to provide feedback to professors, beyond checking boxes.

2. Associated Students of NMSU Report, *President Evan Conner*

President Conner thanked the board and administrators for the opportunity while serving as ASNMSU President. Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel thanked President Conner for his service to ASNMSU.

3. NMSU Employee Council Report, *Chair Letty Gallegos*

Chair Gallegos reported that Employee Council meets later in the afternoon and there is no report for today.

F. Affiliated Entity Reports

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

Mr. Eschenbrenner reported on infrastructure plans for Aggie Uptown, noting that as of last week there was a meeting with the contractor and they're expecting a substantial completion date by middle of next week (May 19). That will include all the utilities that will be underground University Avenue, along with sidewalks and ADA ramps and paving. The remaining items to finish out the construction have final completion on June 19 will include two turn lanes on University Avenue, a multipurpose asphalt trail, signage, striping and close out documents. We're about a month away from wrapping up that project. It's been a fruitful project and hopefully bears fruit for the University soon.

Earlier this year the board approved a non-binding term sheet with Trilogy Health Services and Mr. Eschenbrenner has been in constant contact with Trilogy. The industry through this COVID-19 crisis has continuing to try and find ways to get through this crisis and manage future developments. Trilogy has indicated a pause for about another 30-day period, and they're going to re-analyze on a 30-day basis. In meeting with them, Mr. Eschenbrenner indicated that the project is still very high on their priority list. They see a tremendous pent up demand for their service and need here in our community and value this being their first university relationship and they are excited about the prospects. Also, Aggie Development has provided Trilogy with a ground lease draft and their senior leadership plans to continue working through their attorneys to review it. It is understood that they're moving forward with the ground lease and we want to try and get a basic general agreement to bring to the ADI board soon. Some of the challenges that they face, and not only just in the in the senior living community, but this is also going to happen in the retail office and casual dining space and several different sectors with this COVID-19 crisis is the beginning of several industry changes. One of the takeaways with Trilogy is how will future government regulations impact their industry and they're trying to get their arms wrapped around this. It was noted that less semiprivate rooms will be planned in the future. Communal dining areas may go away and they'll probably have to start redesigning their prototypes to adjust to smaller dining areas and they also have to adjust for prescreening rooms so if people want to come in and visit, they'll probably have to come to a screening room and get screened before they go in as well as any new residents as well.

This crisis had a slowdown effect on phone calls to the Real Estate office. One positive takeaway is that in the last week there were three different individuals reach out to the office to strike up conversation again, including one brand new contact. It's going to take time to work through this situation as everyone is still trying to figure out what the industry standards will be in the future. For example, if building office space, is there a requirement to have additional square footage for each employee? What will happen now with the seating capacity for casual dining inside the restaurant and what are the considerations for takeout food?

2. NMSU Foundation Report, Vice President Derek Dictson

Vice President Dictson reported about the emergency funds that have been raised to support the students and staff who are experiencing financial food and housing hardships. At this time, efforts in fundraising for those activities have generated 519 gifts totaling over \$87,000 with the largest beneficiary being the Aggie Cupboard with approximately \$44,000 in gifts and the Student Emergency Fund with about \$20,000 in gifts. 'Giving Tuesday Now', was a new National Day of Giving in response to COVID-19 that was held on May 5 and in that 24-hour period 173 gifts were made, totaling over \$20,000. Those donors supported 38 different funds, but most of the gifts went to the Aggie Cupboard, the Aggie Finish Line Degree Completion program, and the Student Emergency Fund.

The second update was about alumni engagement activities. This is typically one of the busiest weeks of the year for our alumni group. This year we're conducting our ring ceremony, outstanding graduate awards, the young alumni welcome activities all online. The alumni team is working to complete those and transition future events online as necessary. The outstanding graduates will have their acceptance speeches featured on YouTube and distributed on our social media channels and we also took a half page ad in the bulletin newspaper to showcase these outstanding students. The alumni team is providing support for a virtual commencement ceremony and is hosting a cap decorating contest where the winner will be determined by having the most likes on social media. We're also hosting the new alumni welcome and ring ceremony on May 21 and that'll be on the NMSU Alumni and Friends Instagram page. Visit the class of 2020 message board at support.nmsu.edu, to see that several hundred alumni and friends have posted messages of support for our graduates.

NMSU Foundation has also just finished a national benchmarking exercise that was conducted by EAB and our

advancement staffing, and operations were compared to dozens of universities across the US and a targeted cohort of 11 peer institutions. The data that we received from this benchmarking will help us guide our plans regarding our organizational structure, our staffing resource allocation, and fundraiser efficiency.

NMSU Foundation is also working on our new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the university. We have a working group, which includes Regent Chacón-Reitzel, Regent Devasthali, Chancellor Arvizu, Foundation Board Chair Phil Cook, Foundation Vice Chair Bobby Lutz and Vice President Dictson. We're going to be working toward the creation of a new MOU with the goal of hopefully proposing it to that board at your September board of regents meeting.

Vice President Dictson provided a brief update on the endowment noting that this has been a challenging year for all our investment portfolios and the NSMU endowment is no exception. Vice President Dictson noted that we fared fairly well in comparison to the broader market this fiscal year to date, our portfolio is down by about 7% calendar year to date, and we're down by about 11.7% and we continue to actively monitor our asset allocation in our investment strategy related to the endowment.

3. Arrowhead Center Inc. Report, Director & CEO Kathryn Hansen

Dr. Hansen reported on specific responses to the COVID-19 crisis, including pivots required for our K-12 entrepreneurship programs and our business acceleration programs. Some of the activities have, of course, paused, such as in person events, face to face client meetings, however most of our services and resources remained the same as before the COVID-19 crisis. In that, our clients are located across the state and our services and offerings have always been offered remotely. The biggest change we encountered was with our K-12 entrepreneurship programs and our inability to go into classrooms. We have pivoted and are delivering our content in online class settings and/or individual work from home. Of note is the sharp increase in views of our YouTube animated videos on entrepreneurship intended for elementary students. They've had 50,000 views since March 16. These videos were developed by the NMSU Learning Games Lab for us and are in both English and Spanish. For our business acceleration programs, due to the crisis we have extended the length of our programs to incorporate training on online marketing and sales as some businesses are pivoting in that direction. It is likely that some of our adaptations will remain with us as we monitor client preferences and our reach after the crisis. One outcome of note is the strengthening of relationships among our partners as we work to provide the best support to our clients during this time. We're having lots of discussions with government and private partners and have undertaken specific initiatives with the New Mexico Economic Development Department, City of Las Cruces, and organizations in the Border Plex, for instance, we have a video series featuring local business owners and how they're pivoting during the crisis and this is co-branded co-sponsored with the City of Las Cruces. Arrowhead is also doing specialized accelerators for companies going after Small Business Innovation Research proposals and this is sponsored by the New Mexico Economic Development Department. NMSU is also co-sponsoring a webinar series entitled "Regional Community Conversations", along with organizations from El Paso and Juarez focused on issues related to the crisis and regional collaboration in facing those issues. We were fortunate to have Chancellor Arvizu as a featured panelist on the first of this webinar series held in April. Another thing that we have seen is an increase in the number of applications for accelerator programs statewide. Businesses are desperate for any kind of assistance and we are figuring out how we can expand our capacity to meet the demand. On a positive note, Minerva Robotics is a company that was born in Mexico and is establishing a US Office and R&D operations in Las Cruces. It's focused on food robotics and has begun work with NSMU faculty and they will be sponsoring a graduate student in the fall. Finally, we have our annual board meeting coming up on June 10 which will include items on goals and metrics and our annual budget.

Regent Romero thanked Arrowhead for the work done with K-12 noting that these types of programs will be needed more in the future and requested to reach out regarding the entrepreneurship programs that

Arrowhead has to offer.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel recognized the agility of Arrowhead to assist the State of New Mexico during this crisis.

G. Consent Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Regent Devasthali moved to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second by Regent Romero.

A roll call vote was taken, and the votes cast were:

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

- 1. Disposition/Deletion of Property, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke**
- 2. Temporary Investments Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke**
- 3. DACC-Gadsden - El Paso Electric Company Easement, Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 4. Spring 2020 Degree and Certificate Conferral, President John Floros**

*Regent Hicks moved to recess until 9:45 AM with a second by Regent Sanchez.
Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.*

H. Action Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

- 1. Operating Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke**

Vice President Burke presented the request for approval of the operating budgets for fiscal year 2020 and 2021 which is part of the annual budget process. The university prepares original budgets for the upcoming fiscal year operating budgets that have been constructed based on the budget guidelines approved by the board at the previous board of regents meeting. Vice President Burke was pleased that they've been able to get the documents put together given the current work from home status that we're working under and just to point out that HED already did extend the deadline for submission of these documents because of the current work status of most of our employees from May 1 to May 15. Last year, there was a budget committee meeting about a week before the budget approval meeting when we brought a couple of employee benefits items for approval and reviewed the various documents that are similar to what is being presenting to today. The summary sheets had been distributed in a similar way to the way that they were distributed this year. But as Regent Hicks indicated, there's not a recommendation from the budget committee at this time.

For the overall budget for each one of the campuses, the total expenditures that the board is being asked to approve today for the Las Cruces campus are about \$551 million which is a 5.8% increase over last year or \$30.2 million. For a point of reference, \$13 million of that is the state appropriations that we received from

House Bill 2 in addition to our base appropriations from the previous fiscal year. Alamogordo is at \$17.4 million, Carlsbad \$16.6 million, Doña Ana \$77.5 million and Grants at \$10.2 million. The board is being asked to approve a total expenditure budget of \$672.6 million, that's a 5.5% increase or \$35 million dollar increase for the system and that represents \$13.8 million is represented within state of appropriation.

Dr. Burke displayed a slide that shows the format that HED requests the regents approve for each one of the campus budgets and it breaks the budget between the current funds are operating funds versus the plant funds. In terms of the overall expenditure budgets, 82% of the budget is for the Las Cruces campus on the expenditure side. That's the \$551 million previously mentioned and most of the budget or 89% is the current funds as opposed to the plant funds for construction renewal and replacement. Vice President Burke displayed a spreadsheet that is a comparison of the previous fiscal year approved budget to the new FY 21 Fiscal year budget and noted that the last three columns show what percentage of the budget tuition represents. As an example, \$121 million of the overall \$620 or 19.5% of the total and we're showing a 2.5% increase.

One of the other large components of the budget is the state appropriations and that's where the \$13.8 million increase that represents 36.3% of our overall budget and currently at a 6.5% increase and in the Las Cruces campus the state appropriation increase is \$11.6 million and there's not really any real significant differences in the budgeted amounts that aren't accounted for either in the increase state appropriation.

There is a downtick in sales and services in the comparative budget, most of that is auxiliaries as the previous two years had large freshman class increases that encouraged our revenue projections and we've adjusted that budget to be a little more closely matching revenues and expenditures. \$2.2 million of that drop is auxiliaries and then there's a decrease in sales and services on the ag research side, which probably has to do with the sale of livestock. A large portion of the budget is instruction and general or about 43.9% and then the next three components are research at \$110 million, public service at \$54.4 million and student aid at \$95.3 million are the other three largest components of the use or expenditure budgets and there's not a real big difference when the community colleges are added.

Vice President Burke displayed a table and graphs that shows a break out of Las Cruces campus on its own shows I & G at 40%, \$110 million for research \$52 million for public service, and student aid is a large portion of the system budget and the last several slices of the pie are auxiliaries, athletics and NMDA and their budgets, run just above \$20 million. Vice President Burke displayed the Las Cruces I & G sources and uses or budget guidelines document and what was approved at the last Regents meeting, more commonly this is called the central fund or budget within the university. There's new state money of \$2.3 million and compensation of \$5.3 million and we built the compensation of budget to match the amount we receive from the state and at this time we built the budget based on what was appropriated in House Bill 2 and we're anticipating a special session that most likely will reduce our budget significantly and require us to do a revised budget after and the timing of that may be the middle of June, and we happen to have a budget committee or Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee meeting scheduled on the 25th, so if that does occur, the timing for that meeting will work out well.

NMSU is required to submit a salary increase plan along with our budget given House bill 2 guidelines and it is essentially on hold so we're not planning to distribute salaries as of July 1 until we get the feedback from the legislative session. We also have built in student minimum wage increase of \$400,000 and a 3% blended tuition and fee increase that represents \$2.2 million dollars, and we have savings in our budget between utilities and a fringe rate adjustment of \$1.1 million. For the budget reduction and/or reallocation is \$2.6 million given the sources and uses, the state appropriated received, the tuition increased the board approved, and the other areas where we would like to set aside funds, it would require us to make a \$2.6 million budget increase, but we are covering the current year budget shortfall that was part of sources and uses for FY 20. Investment in scholarships with the 2.5 million needed last year of the scholarship program, strategic

investments in \$1.1 million. We basically got a balanced budget that we've built for I & G on the Las Cruces campus that has \$13.6 million of sources and \$13.6 million of uses. Just as an example, and what we might be looking at if we make an assumption that the 2.3 million of new money and the 5.3 million of the amount provided for compensation are reduced or eliminated, then both our sources and our uses would be reduced and we would present something to show how those could be changed in a budget revision that the board would approve probably later in the summer. If we're not providing a salary increase, given the guidance out of the special Session, then those two numbers would offset on the sources and uses and we would have to wait and see if there are any further cuts in terms of state appropriations, but instead of \$13.6 million on the sources and uses side they would be reduced by \$7.5 million so we would actually be distributing or asking for \$6 million in this particular that scenario of sources and \$6 million of uses.

Vice President Burke displayed information about the tuition and fee amounts, given the 3% tuition fee increase that the board approved. The hourly rate for residents at the Las Cruces campus would go from \$295 to \$304 or with change for about a \$9 increase per credit hour and the non-resident rate would increase \$10.70 per credit hour from \$356 - \$366. Graduate rates are roughly 5% higher on the resident side 8% higher on the non-resident side. The online rate, although it doesn't include fees that we sometimes charge as course fees on the Las Cruces campus, are about 25% above the resident in state rate. The full time flat rate for 15 credit hours, which is what our students are required to take as an example to be on the lottery scholarship, will change from \$3,905 per semester to \$4,022.20 or about \$117 that represents a 3% increase and then on the non-resident side the increases is about \$374.

Vice President Burke briefly highlighted several documents that breaks down the Las Cruces unrestricted I & G budget into categories, noting that 60% of the budget is budgeted for instruction and that is a favorable number in comparison to others in terms of how high it is. Additional charts were shown that breaks out Unrestricted current funds for the Las Cruces campus by line item, indicating that salaries and fringe at 80% but really the way we budget, most of Computer Services, student salaries are really captured within supplies expense so our real expenditures on salaries are much closer to 90% overall when considering the university as a whole. Additional documents about the community colleges sources and uses were shown and these are really what the board saw when approving the budget guidelines. Each one of the community colleges has a zero percent tuition increase and their sources and uses would adjust on the state appropriation side based on the special session legislation and these would need to be presented to the board again to construct a budget revision.

Chancellor Arvizu noted that compensation and new money for I & G is where there is uncertainty about what will happen with the anticipated goals of the special session to be to address FY 20 shortfalls, which aren't expected to effect NSMU, but the larger challenges is budget revisions for FY 21/22. It is anticipated the reserves will be used but the type of recovery, whether it's a an "L" shape they call it, which is a slow recovery or a U shape which is a fast recovery, will yield different estimates of what the budget shortfall at the state level might be going forward. And those numbers are somewhere between 1.8 billion and 2.4 billion for FY 21. Some large fraction of that can be covered by spending down the reserves and the reserve pool is something on the order of 25% at the state level and it is anticipated that the legislators are targeting coming out of that special session with the reserve somewhere in the 10 to 12% of the overall budget and it's in that context that what they will they will then decide how much of the Budget that's been appropriated HB 2 will be clawed back. It is noted as likely that compensation will either be zero or it'll be something that accommodates the increases in health care costs and contribution to pension plans. So those two things may be on the order of 1% plus or minus a little bit. They may decide to do that and essentially make employees whole relative to the expenditures and what they see in their paycheck every month. NMSU is not counting on any kind of compensation increase starting in July. In July, we will not provide an allocation for the compensation unless we know for sure that there is something that we can count on. Coming out that legislative session will kind of reboot and figure out where we are and if we need to, then we will make sure that the employees get what they're coming to them, but we're going to hold off on the on the spend rate. Which is what we're hearing

from the governor's office is, don't spend more than 50% of your expected budget in the first six months. So be very judicious about how cash flow is handled. It is not likely that we will get compensation or new formula money, which is the 2.3 million and 2.6 respectively and the overall budget deficit coming out of that scenario would be on the order of \$5 million. NMSU will need to start preparing for that sort of a budget reduction in FY 21 with an expectation that 22 will be even more challenging since there is no one time money to do adjustments as well. It is a bellwether of things to come and NMSU will accommodate whatever those changes are and make the necessary adjustments and there's a lot of planning that needs to be done for us to get ready for those outcomes.

President Floros noted what has communicated to faculty and staff is that there will be no decision made about the budget until later this year. We have also said that we're going to keep everybody on the payroll until the end of this fiscal year so that we don't have people worrying about their jobs. We do understand that we're very serious fiscal trouble in terms of the state budget. We may also be in very serious fiscal trouble when it comes to enrollment, which is another big chunk of our budget. We also understand that our budget is not very simple. It's not just state funds and tuition. We have a lot of other components, such as research and athletics. We don't have any of that data at this point and once we have the data we will start using our strategic plan as our guide to make appropriate moves and we will include as many of our faculty and staff as possible to inform that process and to move forward. President Floros wanted to make sure that the board are all getting the same information because there were a lot of different rumors flying around that we have already made decisions and we are already moving to do all sorts of things. Other universities have already made decisions, but they've made those decisions without information without data. We decided not to do that. President Floros informed the board about federal funding and the federal support that NMSU is getting for COVID-19. The whole system is going to get about \$14 million, half of it will have to go directly to students, so it's just passed through the University. The other half of about \$7 million will be for NMSU to cover some of the COVID-19 related expenses. The board will be pleased to hear that the \$7 million for the students have already been here, we're already starting providing that our students and about half of it has already been distributed. Several thousands of students have already applied for those money and the system is working very well. The other half isn't yet here and it will cover some of our shortfall in terms of the expenses we've experienced. For example, just the refund that we had to provide to our students for dining and housing and a few other related expenses amounts to more than \$3.5 million and that money will help us alleviate some of those shortfalls. President Floros noted that Dr. Burke did a good job of explaining quite a bit of our Budget and as the Chancellor said we're going to wait until we know what's happening at the state level to make decisions about compensation. We're going to wait until we know our enrollment numbers look like before we make some decisions about our budget and we're always going to use our strategic plan is our guide.

Regent Romero thanked the Chancellor Arvizu, President Floros and Vice President Burke for their work on making decisions, knowing that there is much uncertainty. For faculty and staff compensation, Regent Romero commented that it should be on the forefront that staff and faculty shouldn't take home less money next year as a result of benefit increases and insurance increases. Regent Romero eluded to future discussions about plans to address the budget challenges once there is more data.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel thanked the administration and noted the difficulty in preparing the budget during this time of uncertainty. It was further noted that the board will have some time this summer to meet again and is expecting more to come as more is known as a result of the special session.

Regent Romero moved to approve the Operating Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 with a second by Regent Devasthali.

A roll call vote was taken, and the votes cast were:

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

2. Annual Capital Outlay Projects FY 2020-2021, Interim Associate Vice President Alton Looney; University Architect Heather Watenpaugh

University Architect Heather Watenpaugh provided a presentation seeking approval of the five-year facilities plans for the entire NMSU system. Information on the current construction projects and recently completed projects was also presented. Some recent projects that have been completed within the last year and presentation of the five-year plans for all the community colleges, Las Cruces campus, Athletics, and NMDA were covered.

Juniper Hall was just completed for occupation this past fall and information was presented on the cost of the construction amount (Final Construction Cost: \$17,028,957) and end dates (Final Completion Date: 08/02/2019). It was noted that it is a beautiful facility and sits in the center of campus. On the third floor there's a fantastic cook's kitchen with phenomenal views of the mountains. Also, part of the revenue bond were some upgrades to existing residence halls and housing and some additional housing apartment style units work that was done as part of the scope of work. Devasthali Hall opened for classes for in the fall of 2019 and the academic portion was completed first so that we were able to make that start date for classes and then the University Art Museum opened in the spring of 2020. Our new art building sits on University Avenue with the main connecting corridor that connects University Avenue with the campus proper. There was also work on some demolition projects and we're very conscious of the space and how it is used. Dan Williams and the annex were removed, and we are currently in the process of removing Regents Row. Dan Williams was able to be removed with the general obligation bond funds. We are also in the process of removing Regents Row in the center of campus and Roberts Hall and which are at a little more than 50% complete. A big construction project that is under way for the DACC is the Gadsden Center expansion phase III, a \$6 million project and approximately 10,000 square feet facility with three classrooms, two chemistry labs, and one computer lab which is expected to open in August of 2020.

For the five-year plans for all campuses, the annual capital outlay process starts with meeting with the deans and VPs in October through December and we meet with every single Community college president and then we present down the line to the University Academic Council goes to the President's executive team and vice chancellor, then approval by the President, Provost and Senior VP for Administration and Finance. We recently took all this information to the Regents Real Estate Committee and today we're seeking approval from the Board of Regents. The reason that we present all of this at the May board meeting as their series of reports that were required to do for higher education department and DFA that occur during the summer for all building up to the summer hearings, which are scheduled for August 4 at the DACC Gadsden campus. Information from the summer hearings goes to add for recommendation to DFA and then to LFC. Depending on the year, this is a severance tax on year, these items could with the possibly have funding in July of next year for the projects that we're discussing today. Severance tax on projects focus on protection of the asset, utilities, and demolition and just a summary of what we received from this past legislative session approximately \$9 million in House Bill 349 per severance tax bond funds and going to the voters on November 3 (Election Day) will be approximately \$30 million for the NMSU system for general obligation bond projects.

For five-year plans, the intention is that as items get funded the other projects move up on the list. The top two priorities for the Alamogordo campus this year are the mechanical duct work and boiler feed line for their classroom building. And number two priority is the Classroom building infrastructure and the classroom building infrastructure, they need to fix the exterior stucco some concrete, electrical, plumbing, code compliance and safety. The Carlsbad campus has one top request for the 2021 severance tax bond legislative session and its information technology and other infrastructure upgrades, and this project would work to improve the electrical infrastructure replacement upgrade and replace the data center and campus infrastructure and classroom technology. DACC has two priorities on this year's severance tax bond list. The top priorities and creative campus media building and number two is classroom and lab renovations. DACC their top request is the creative campus media building, and this is a combined request with local funds were asking for \$1.5 million combined with \$3.9 million for local fun commitment. Would be a new facility located at Arrowhead Research Park approximately 15,300 growth square feet for a \$5.4 million project. And these are some conceptual renderings the second request is a classroom and lab renovations and safety campus improvements. This would be completed as outlined in the DACC facilities masterplan which identifies their capital needs related to classroom reconfiguration, furniture, room finishes, and instructional equipment for their technology systems. The Grants campus has one top request and it is the Martinez Hall Roof Replacement. There are several different sections of this large building on the Grants campus. This project would replace all the roofs, so that the entire roof would not have any current issues. Martinez Hall houses the classrooms, laboratories, and offices. It's an extremely important building on this campus and this request would replace the roof. There are four requests in the severance tax bond year for the Las Cruces campus. The first one is to repair tunnel 'A' sections. The second one would be a selective demolition, per the space plan, in this case it would be the Greek complex. The third request is the Ag Science Center improvements and the fourth request data center information upgrades. Campus wide, on the Las Cruces campus, we have a tunnel that runs throughout the campus and it supports the buildings has our steam, water, fiber, domestic water, gas and electricity. We've completed two structural integrity reports and we've identified the sections that are most critical for repair to keep these utilities functioning. We've got about 15,000 linear feet of tonal running throughout campus that were built in different stages and we started repairing the tunnels in about 2015 and we are currently on phase five. This would be a phase seven request. We are we have identified through our structural integrity report they the priorities are categorized. We are currently addressing category A. We have completed reports and Phase 1 - 4 for possibly \$3.6 million, we have a funded project and active projects totaling about \$4 million, all for section category A. Our number two request for the Las Cruces campus is demolition per our space plan and this would be for Greek complex including Greek East and Greek west. These facilities have been vacant since the spring semester of 2018. The third request is Ag Science Centers and we are requesting \$3 million for improvements throughout the state. We're looking to make upgrades throughout the state at the Ag Science Centers for health, safety and welfare to protect the asset infrastructure by focusing on renovating and minor upgrades. Athletics projects include ADA improvements at the Pan Am center, football video boards at the football stadium, Coca Cola weight training facility roof replacement, women's softball stadium lighting, and football locker room upgrades and addition. Improvements for ADA are important for the spectators as our facilities are a bit dated. We would like to make some improvements to allow better conditions at the Pan Am. For Coca Cola Weight Room roof, there's some need to make some improvements and replace that roof. The request for NMDA is building renovations and we are currently in schematic design for a new lab building that will address the major health and safety issues for the current facility. This phase three project for \$10.5 million would address what phase one and two could not by replacing the existing building with a state-of-the-art facility that meets today's current code and health needs.

Regent Devasthali asked about the Creative Campus and wanted to clarify if the amount of the General Obligation bond request. Ms. Watenpaugh indicated that is \$1.5 million as part of a \$5.4 million project. In follow-up, Regent Devasthali asked about what the local fund commitment represented. Ms. Watenpaugh indicated that the local fund commitment is the local bond that goes to the voters is \$3.9 project and that

goes to voters.

Regent Hicks asked if that local fund commitment is part of the City of Las Cruces commitment. Ms. Watenpaugh replied that the city of Las Cruces is in addition to that commitment, which will be a 70,000 square foot facility and that total was roughly \$12 million. There was some discussion about two different Creative media facilities. Ms. Watenpaugh clarified that the Creative Media that DACC is proposing is about 15,000 gross square feet and it will be part of a bigger complex that will include the Las Cruces Arrowhead Center, Cinespace and DACC and that will that total be 70,000 square feet.

Regent Chacón-Reitzel asked about what will be done for the Ag Science Centers in the future because the \$3 million would not cover all the needs. Ms. Watenpaugh indicated that there is an RFP and a design team is helping to prioritize the needs based on the funding available. Ms. Watenpaugh further noted that in the next two severance tax years on the five-year facilities plan there will be \$1.3 million in 2022 and then there will likely be additional requests. This is a drop in the bucket and we're prioritizing the needs for health and safety and infrastructure protect the asset type conditions.

Regent Hicks thanked Ms. Watenpaugh and the rest of the facilities team for going through the presentation and adding the additional information that she requested.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel thanked Alton Looney for his service as Interim Associate VP and express her appreciation for stepping up to the plate.

Regent Devasthali moved to approve the Annual Capital Outlay Projects FY 2020-2021 with a second by Regent Hicks.

A roll call vote was taken, and the votes cast were:

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

3. Transfer of Uncollectible Accounts Receivable to Inactive Accounts for fiscal year 2019 – 2020, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke

Vice President Burke noted that it is an accounting requirement, but it does impact the budget, so staff are requesting approval of the transfer of uncollectable accounts receivable to inactive accounts for fiscal year 2019/2020.

State law precludes the university for writing off uncollectable accounts, accordingly we request approval to transfer accounts deemed uncollectable in the amount of \$3.1 million to the reserve for inactive accounts. We have a very large account receivable that's offset by this reserve account for inactive accounts. The amount transferred is offset by recoveries from prior year transfers of \$832,000. Those are collections and a net impact of \$2.27 million to the reserve for inactive accounts and in addition we assessed about \$600,000 in deferred payment charges. The total uncollectable accounts transfers represents approximately 2.23% of the related tuition housing and other fee income. Looking at the last 10 years, the average percentage that's been charged is 2.47% so this year it's at 2.3%, but last year was a low in a range from 2.16% to 2.76% so we've done much better even this year than historically, but a little bit a couple hundred thousand dollars more

needs to be charged this year than then last year.

NMSU has a has a balance requirement for pre-registration of \$1,000. Given the pandemic and students were sent away from campus we've temporarily increase that amount. We collect unpaid balances internally with a small staff that's in our Bursar's office or university accounts receivable office for about one year and most universities don't have that internal collections period. We think it's a little friendlier to our students because otherwise, at the end of the year, and at some universities, pretty much right at the end of the semester accounts are turned over to collections. The university has an external collection agency that that begins collections once the accounts are turned over. We do have plans and will be implemented a more formal payment plan. We're not changing really the requirements or the expectations but our new payment plan will require a down payment at the beginning of the semester and for a student to sign up and keep in mind that the down payment can be the financial aid in the merit scholarships or other scholarships that students are receiving. The balance that's left will be charged in more of a formal bill on a monthly basis for each semester. This will give us an opportunity to, from a retention standpoint, intervene with students. We really don't have an easy way to do that within our databases for collections of what students owe and hopefully be able to intervene and perhaps provide assistance to help move students from the fall to the spring and fall to the fall semester. Although the goal is obviously to collect a higher percentage of the student charges. The goal is also to have a stream of data that allows us to intervene with the student and help them at a time. Maybe they need financial assistance.

Regent Devasthali noted a similar request last year and it came through the Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget committee last year. Vice President Burke responded that is correct, but this has come to the board as a separate item in the past. In the way that it's coming to the board now, and the finance committee it's been a pro forma request and notification to the board of the amounts that, from a financial accounting standpoint, we really need to write off, and provides the board the opportunity to monitor what we're doing and perhaps suggest interventions for changes to the actual collection processes themselves. In terms of the amounts they are specified through our financial accounting guidelines and our financial statements and audited situations.

Regent Devasthali asked if there have been any additional action taken to improve the collections process. University Controller Norma Noel noted that there is a difference between students that remain enrolled compared to students that do not remain enrolled. The students that do not remain enrolled enter the pre-collections process. For students, the process starts in six months after sending then the receive written notice. Enrolled students can set-up autopayments. There have been changes to decrease the amount of time that passes after a payment is not received. The is an ongoing analysis to see if there is a common factor to formulate preventative measures.

Regent Devasthali asked about a formal student payment plan and if it would be ready for Fall 2020. Ms. Noel noted that there is a plan to advertise the payment plan to students, which was delayed due to COVID-19. A Web site has been developed and information has been distributed to staff and students with more plans to reach out to students more in the future.

Regent Devasthali noted that there had previously been a suggestion to send notification of the payment plan availability to parents. Ms. Noel indicated that students must take action to allow parents to interact with their student account.

President Floros noted that many of the students enrolled at NMSU have difficult financial circumstances and limitations of working directly with parents regarding student accounts because of privacy regulations and the need for students to give that permission. President Floros went on to note that before the COVID-19 crisis started, NMSU have already decided to switch to a different system of collecting the money, which is a monthly notification and a monthly payment for all students so that they get used to a fiscal responsibility, instead of just giving them a bill and expecting to pay at the end of the semester. So that process is going to go

into effect this coming fall the timing, however, it probably couldn't have been worse time to start this process due to the crisis at hand. We're trying to figure out how we can work with that without necessarily reducing our enrollment even further because of financial issues. We understand that this is a serious issue financial issue for us university. We're fully aware of that and we're going to try to do the best we can to reduce that amount.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel indicated her support of the monthly bill option discussed by Vice President Burke. Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel asked if a student drops out and does not pay the balance, are they able to come back to school? Ms. Noel responded that the process pre-pandemic was to make sure their balance is below \$1,000 to register. Some assistance is available to help students. Vice President for Student Success Renay Scott responded that back in 2017 the Aggie Graduation Capstone Challenge started and focused on a population of individuals who may owe the institution money and wanted to return to the institution. Through that program funds are allocated to them to get their balance as low \$1,000. To participate in the program, they sign an agreement with Dr. Fowler in our Advising Center and commit to meeting with her on a monthly basis, sometimes more. Through the course of that process we get their balance down to under \$1,000 and let them register. As part of the program they must keep making payments. This program was put in place prior to having a payment plan. Through the course of the program, we have developed a 96% retention rate for those in the program and to date we have served 100 graduates our 100th Aggie Capstone graduate will graduate this spring. As a result, the average scholarship that we've given those students has been roughly \$3,000 and it has been a wildly successful campaign. Again, it's not for every student, but there is a program to participate in. However, those participants cannot have been in collections, so we usually get them back within a year, year and a half of having dropped out and then recover them and typically they pay off their balance.

Regent Romero moved to approve the Transfer of Uncollectible Accounts Receivable to Inactive Accounts for fiscal year 2019 – 2020 with a second by Regent Sanchez.

A roll call vote was taken, and the votes cast were:

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

4. Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) for fiscal year 2019 – 2020, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke

Vice President Burke noted that as an annual process of providing the university spend authority in relation to the State Auditor's Office the staff is requesting approval of budget adjustment requests or BARs for 2019/2020 or for the current year. On an annual basis, the university request approval for the Board of Regents to adjust our expenditure budget authority to align with our estimated actuals to adhere to the rules of the New Mexico Higher Education Department, State statutes and the State Auditor's Office. Those who serve on the Regents Audit and Risk Committee, may know that it could be an audit exception if we don't have spend authority in any of the categories that are included on these budget adjustment requests. Therefore, they're structured in a way that there's two-page documents for unrestricted funds for each one of the campuses and then there's two-page documents for restricted funds. For each one of the campuses, the budget office goes through the process, of estimating expenditures for each one of these categories. Looking

at the first couple of pages, the most significant difference or increase in request in both revenues and budget authority on the expenditure side is for the retirement of indebtedness. The increase is about \$28 million and that that's reflective of the bond refunding that we did earlier in the year. Otherwise, the adjustments just relate to providing enough spend authority in each one of those categories to follow state statute. If there were any significant exceptions, let's say on the Las Cruces I & G campus that that revenues and expenditures were significantly higher or lower than anticipated, we would inform the board at this time, but that's not the case. Although it is possible that will draw on our fund balance a little bit this year, last year we drew it down about \$400,000 it may be a bit more this year, but the process is to again allow us to have the spend authority we need to complete our expenditures and pay our salaries out for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Regent Devasthali moved to approve the Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) for fiscal year 2019 – 2020 with a second by Regent Sanchez.

A roll call vote was taken, and the votes cast were:

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

I. **Informational Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

1. **Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period March 13, 2020 through April 20, 2020, General Counsel Roy Collins, III**

General Counsel Collins submitted the summary of revisions in advance and they are contained herein as part of the record of the meeting. There were no questions about the summary from any board member.

2. **Update on Agriculture Modernization Facilities, President John Floros, Dean Rolando Flores, Dean Enrico Pontelli, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**

President Floros introduced the update by noting that the Ag Modernization projects started many years ago with a lot of preparation from the college. At the time the estimate was nearly \$75 million and that had to be divided into three GO bonds. It was later decided that this was probably not a feasible solution, so the leadership moved it two GO bond projects of \$25 million each with some other additional things to happen. The first GO bond was passed in 2018 as the Chancellor and President arrived at the university and we requested \$25 million we received \$25 million, but during that time, we also discovered that we have roughly a \$4.5 million shortfall, just for phase one of the project. Then we moved on to phase two asking for \$25 million, but knowing that we need more than that to complete phase two and instead of \$25 million we were actually allowed to go forward with only \$18 million, so the shortfall for the second GO bond, if it goes through as \$18 million, it will be roughly \$13.5 million for the second phase. The two phases together there is about an \$18 million shortfall for the ag modernization buildings and what we intend to do is to look through the buildings that we have on the list, look at some of the possibilities of big donors and maybe even naming opportunities to collaborate with the foundation, work with the two colleges that are affected, primarily the ACES college but a little bit of the rest of the university with Arts and Sciences being a component of one of those buildings, and decide how we can move forward, particularly if the second GO Bond gets approved and we have that money as well.

The first phase was a \$25 million bond that was approved in 2018. The total cost for that is \$29.5 million, which includes a 1) biomedical research building, 2) a Food Science Learning and Safety Center, which is primarily a meat processing related facility, a pilot plant with a few other attachments to it and 3) a feed mill facility which is something that we have needed for quite some time to do a lot of work in the in the animal science area and 4) is a small amount of other renovations for the infrastructure throughout the campus. That's where most of the money will be spent. The biggest component of that it would be the food science component with about \$13.2 million, then the biomedical research as phase one will have about \$8 million and the feed mill would be about \$2.45 million and other renovations at \$1.3 million. For phase two, which we're in right now, although we recommended how \$25 million, a recommendation came back for only \$18 million but the total cost for those for the buildings and Phase two will be \$31.5 million. There is a Student Learning and Public Outreach Center, which is a pavilion that a lot of things can happen. That's a \$12 million facility, Animal Physiology and Metabolism facility for about \$5.5 million and equine paddocks for \$670,000, the Water Conservation Rates and Ecology facility greenhouse for another \$650,000 and the second phase for the Biomedical Research Building which is another almost \$10 million and a few other innovations were \$2.8 million. When combined, out of the \$31.5 million total, we're only going to have in November, vote for the \$18 million of that amount. So the overall shortfall will be \$13.5 million for phase two and another \$4.5 million for phase one and that's how we get to \$18 million shortfall.

Dean Flores commented that the most important part for the phase are we are in right now, with the \$25 million, is what we call the Science Security and Safety facility. Eighty-eight percent of the beef that is producing in the state goes out of the state and then we buy it back and then all the value-added is kept

outside the state. One of the things that this facility will do is prepare students and others in the state to manage and run processing facilities for meat. Also, there is a very modest pilot plant for other food products that will be critical for increasing the value-added opportunities in the in the state of New Mexico. An investment that should have been done, maybe about 25 years ago, but it's better late than never. The biomedical facility is extremely important because we can make the connection between the food that we have and how is going to impact the individuals. Research is going to be conducted by some of the faculty in biology and some others in the college of art and sciences. The last part is the feed mill, and this is very critical. We have a very rudimentary feed mill on campus. However, when we see the size of the industry that we have, not only in terms of the beef, but also the potential for developing new feed products and the utilization of byproducts, this is extremely important. We are right now in the design process and when we have all these monetary restrictions that were from the original plan the size of the facilities will be reduced considerably. We are working with the architects and the engineering firms on potential for expansion at one point in the future. We're going to have an operation of functional meat processing food facility, but it will be reduced in size. In terms of the feed mill, we need to rely a lot on contributions from industry and this is also true of the biomedical facility. The guidelines that we got from the President are to make sure that we have something that is operational with the funds that we have.

President Floros commented further that the biomedical complex building was not originally part of the package, but it is intended to provide animals for research, from insects to other animals. As we move forward with the need for health-related research, there is a need to bring together additional resources for agricultural, health and medical sciences to become more competitive with NIH funding opportunities.

Dean Pontelli commented that Arts and Sciences is primarily involved through the Biology department and use of the animal facilities for captive bread animals but could also expand to an Insectary. This also contributes to collaboration between ACES and Arts and Sciences. Much NIH funding requires access to these facilities and these facilities will increase funding opportunities. Especially under the current circumstances, with virus research, this type of facility with help.

President Floros thanked the Facilities and Services staff, including Heather Watenpaugh and Alton Looney, for preparing for the presentation on the annual capital outlay projects and the Ag Modernization facilities.

Regent Romero asked if the Ag Modernization facilities are part of the 5-year facilities master plan and President Floros responded that they are part of the plan.

Regent Devasthali asked about previous requests and conversations about building a small animal lab at NMSU and if this is a related project. President Floros indicated that it is the same facility.

Regent Sanchez asked if Principle Investigators (PIs) have been identified to fill those facilities or if the facilities are being designed to recruit new faculty to campus. President Floros responded that there are already has been some work done to identify existing faculty that will use the facility, but it can be used to help recruit new faculty as well.

Regent Devasthali asked about the start-up funding for the PIs. President Floros noted that this is a serious concern and there are plans being considered.

Dean Pontelli emphasized that this facility is going to attract outside funding and potential faculty.

Chancellor Arvizu noted that they are taking a broader look at the relationship between NMSU and the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) to build a more robust relationship. Regarding start-up packages for

Pls, Chancellor Arvizu noted that equipment, as well as the facilities, are both important and this is something they are thinking about as part of start-up packages.

Regent Devasthali commented about conversations with the Foundation about these facilities as being something that may be within donors' sphere of interest for endowments and estate plans.

Vice President Dictson noted that a list of potential naming opportunities has been gathered and they look forward to visiting with donors about this building.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted that there are components of this topic that are of great interest to the university community and to the stakeholders out in the state as well. The Chairwoman noted that she has been on the beef Safety Research Committee at the national level and the beef industry for many years and she has seen the funding shrinking for animal science across the nation and the increase in funding for human health and it's always been a mystery because they are closely related. She further noted that our biomedical research opportunities are great, and it will attract more animal science funding and more human health funding and that is tied so closely to the animal health. She further noted that NMSU has been doing some of that research on campus for a long time with sheep that have implications for human health and there are many other examples.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel asked Dean Flores about the meat lab to address what ACES is doing now in respect to sufficiently teaching our students but also with the supply chain issues across the nation and in New Mexico, noting further that it has really come to light locally and if the state that had we had this infrastructure in terms of capacities of processing plants, it could have helped get some more product to consumers.

Dean Flores noted that over the years the meat lab was decommissioned because of safety but also because of the position for the facility was eliminated by the previous administration. The facility can be used but cannot be used for human consumption and with a \$15,000 in equipment and a qualified operator it can be operational. Regarding the academic programs and readiness in the college, there is a posting being filled that has a joint appointment with animal and range science and family and consumer science that will address the need for meat processing. Both candidates have the qualifications to run this type of meat processing facility. For the other programs in the new facilities, food safety, food microbiology, food bioprocessing are the areas of concentration that faculty appointment will focus on and these positions will start in August. One faculty position is a food safety microbiologist and the other is a bioprocessing engineer (which is a joint appointment in ACES and in the Engineering College). They are looking for a third position to fill expertise areas of water utilization in food processing and dairy. The umbrella program for this effort is the Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems (CESFAS). CESFAS is collaborative and all ACES faculty offer letters now include a requirement to participate in CESFAS.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel mentioned funding opportunities for faculty positions as part of the fund-raising efforts.

J. Report from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to the Regents of New Mexico State University (Board of Agriculture), Cabinet Secretary & Director Jeff Witte

Secretary Witte started by thanking Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel for visiting the Veterinary Diagnostic Services Center to present the proclamation to Dr. Hanosh and he invited the board and leadership to visit the facility as well. The VDS is part of an over \$100 million building and that is really a hallmark for the State of New Mexico and the ability for animal and human health to work together. Secretary Witte expressed pride in the work of Dr Hanosh and noted the work of the staff, who he described as a "great team", that was able to support

efforts to go from no accreditation to ISO accreditation, and that's not an insignificant leap.

Secretary Witte shared that NMDA is the leader of what the state Emergency Operation Center (EOC) calls its Emergency Support Function #11 (ESF11) for food and agriculture. NMDA had four staff members rotating out of the EOC on a continual basis, since they opened the EOC from day one and that operation runs seven days a week and many hours a day. Secretary Witte commended Marshall Wilson, Michael King, Nathan Abrahamson, and Jeremy Knowlton for their work in Santa Fe. They have been working tirelessly this pandemic response and have been heading up gathering food for those in need. Secretary Witte noted that NMDA received a call one night from the Secretary of Human Services, and he said, "I need food I need it fast. We're in terrible shape". Within about 30 minutes the team had accumulated two truckloads over 80,000 pounds of food delivered up to those in need in the Navajo Nation and other areas of the state. Through the pandemic NMDA has facilitated well over a half a million pounds of food on a continual basis being delivered to those that are in need. Secretary Witte noted he was proud that most of the food was New Mexico food. Sourcing it as much as can be from New Mexicans and that's been the case of New Mexicans helping New Mexicans through this crisis. The EOC has moved to a virtual EOC where everybody's still working basically in the EOC, but they're scattered like we are across their home area so now they're connecting via these kinds of technologies like zoom or otherwise on a continual basis, but just operating out away from a group gathering. So it's been a bit of a challenge, but it's also been an opportunity like, what we've seen here also, as part of our response we were tasked by the Governor to lead the COVID safety practice submission for the recovery team for dairy, ranchers, farms and livestock shows and we participated with other agencies processing grocery stores, farmers markets, and fairs. NMDA submitted our, what we call COVID Safe Practices (CSP) to the Economic recovery team that has led to what occurred yesterday, which was a partial reopening of the state. Of course in food and agriculture most of our businesses were continuing to operate, as essential businesses, but we still had to come up with safety practices because as we continue to open the state there's going to be risk involved with continued spread and everyone rolled up their sleeves and got busy. One of the important things, and Extension really helped with this, is the 4H and FFA programs of the state. One of the priorities for the Governor was maintaining somehow the livestock shows for the 4H and FFA kids so we submitted some practices for that and hopefully we'll have some semblance of the livestock show at the county fair, State Fair and regional fair level in the state of New Mexico. NMDA has also been providing guidance for soil and water districts, because we oversee them and their relationship, making sure they meet in a legal fashion. They're small and they are a local subdivision of government, so we work closely with them. We work closely with the farmers' markets and getting them open and keeping them open. We had to adjust our pesticide training and testing schedule because EPA requires in person training, so we had to open a new facility. All our facilities that we typically use were associated with the university campus, either in Albuquerque or elsewhere. We had to find alternate locations for those to take place. We have been working with a lot of the agents and the new companies that are creating sanitizer. If they are doing it in a certain way, it's got to be registered as a pesticide. If not, it's going to be registered under FDA. We've been helping them out, making sure everybody is legal and working with the plant and floral nursery operations to get them opened and operating. They were operating on a curbside basis and so that helped quite a bit. Another issue that we've been working on was connecting consumers to producers when it comes to food with the major meat processing plants g to connect local ranchers who might have cattle ready for processing but couldn't get them into market. We've been connecting producers and NMDA has set up a Web page, working with industry associations and others, and last checked, there were over 35 individual ranchers who had who had registered and are ready to sell product direct to the consumer. They must go through a processing plant and there are steps to do that and the personnel in college of ACES and Animal Science department put together a great document on how to make that happen. It's a great team concept and it's really opened an opportunity for the buy local movement. NMDA has additional information about COVID-19 and our response on our website. Secretary Witte also noted that this week we celebrate our students. With graduation coming on Saturday with the virtual commencement, at NMDA we're very proud of three of our students are graduating and really that's what that's what it's all about is helping these kids. Some of them are

going on to careers and some of them are going on to grad school, but it's really satisfying to see these three of our 17 kids are going to graduate and we really want to congratulate them.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted that she had been on the weekly calls with Secretary Witte and commended his efforts to work collaboratively with others in the state, including other cabinet secretaries.

K. Report from the NMSU System Chancellor to the Regents of New Mexico State University, Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu noted the ever-changing landscape for higher education and reflected on next steps for universities in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. While some dire predictions were noted as some colleges and universities are likely to close, it is uncertain how the situation will play out. It was noted that the “new normal will be very different than what we've experienced to date”. It was noted that some universities have already made plans to go fully online and not return to campus in the fall and these decisions need to be made at a local level. Some estimates for reduction in enrollment are from 10 - 30% across the nation, but it's not uniform at every institution. This will be an opportunity for institutions to evaluate their mission and who they serve and NMSU is fortunate that we have a strategic plan, which has already begun to stand the test of this new dynamic and the institution remains focused on the strategic plan as our guiding document. Chancellor Arvizu noted that as a result of this crisis, NMSU will come out stronger. The challenge will be working together, and we will need the support of everyone, not only in this room, but in the community as well.

Chancellor Arvizu noted expenses already incurred to respond to the crisis are being tabulated and the uncertainty that surrounds expenses going forward. This is going to change our calculus a lot in terms of how we do our budgets and it's very clear that we are going to be focused on our priorities. That does not mean that we're going to distribute cuts evenly across our enterprise. We are going to look at those things that are going to propel us for the future will make investments in some of those will have to offload others and that process is now starting to occur. We've been trying to communicate as much as possible. We've now we're entering our ninth week of the crisis and President Floros has led eight town hall meetings. That is going on at the various campuses across our system as well as our central planning that includes everybody in our system.

President Floros noted that we started the response to this crisis by giving our students an extra week for a spring break that allowed the university a two-week time to prepare for online education. Our faculty and our staff did a tremendous job of really transforming everything, every single course that we offer, to an online format. It's not the best and it's not really the way we would like to educate our students, but at least we help their students achieve their academic goals for this semester. For those that are graduating, we did a pretty good job in helping our students move on and a lot of good things were heard from our students, faculty, and staff. It was it was a tough process, but we succeeded. The evidence will show itself this Saturday when we have our virtual commencement and we celebrate with our graduating seniors.

We have also announced online classes for the summer. This summer we are also going to start to test several options that we have by allowing some small groups of students to come back to campus and monitor to see how things are working out so that when August comes around, we have tested several things and we understand how to react and handle situations, at least better than then we would have otherwise. For this fall, we have already publicly announced that NMSU will be open for face to face education and we are working through a lot of details right now and we have requested that every single unit come forward with a plan as to how they're going to accommodate students coming in this fall. Each unit might be a little different, but we did provide them with some general principles, and we did provide them with some general guidance. We also understand that many of those things are uncertain and it may change within a day or week or month or by August, so we will remain flexible and we will adapt as the information evolves. President Floros presented

some information about what our students think and what our faculty and staff think about coming back in the fall. We had a very large survey done for about 4,500 of our students and we asked them if they are going to come back in the fall and 92% of the students said yes, 6% said maybe, and only 2% said no. That's better than the type of retention we get during normal times. There's a lot of time between now and the fall so things may change, but as of a week ago, that's where our students are 98% of the students are coming back or probably coming back with 2% that said no. Of those are coming back, about half of them want to have their face to face meetings and the other half don't necessarily care about face to face meetings. Twenty-five percent of the total would like to have the ability to have face to face and online with the flexibility to bet to go back and forth and another quarter of them would only like to have online classes, but they still coming back. In other words, they would like to have online classes, while they're still here and they have all sorts of other experiences. National data indicates that when asking the students if classes are online this coming fall, would you come back, would you register, would you be a student this coming fall? The answer to that is 50% said yes 50% said no. The same question was asked in the town hall meeting last week and the answer to that question was 55% of our faculty, and staff said yes they want to come back, 12% said that maybe they want to come back and 30% said no they do not want to come back. President Floros noted that there are a lot of unknowns and the survey will be given again in the town hall coming up today and we'll see if we have any changes in that area.

President Floros noted that the number one priority is to provide a safe environment, but we're never going to get it down to zero risk. NMSU will take measures to provide a safe environment for our students to come back and a safe environment for our faculty and staff to come back. We are going to ask people that can do the work from home to do that and if you are sick don't show up for work. For students coming to class they are going to be doing certain things differently, like social distancing, one-way hallways, one-way doorways, a reduced number of students in our classrooms and in our laboratories. There is much being planned, and we are working through the process to have more concrete plans by mid-June and every unit is working towards that right now.

President Floros acknowledged the hard work of the leadership team, noting that every week for the last eight weeks the leadership took part in town hall meetings and they prepare for and addressed comments and questions. The leadership have been right there in front of our people and we try to inform everybody as well as we could. He didn't know of any other university that has done the type of communicating that we have done with this weekly town hall meeting and people seem to appreciate that. Today, we are going to ask town hall participants if they want to continue having the town hall meetings.

Provost Parker noted that the strategic plan has been invaluable. It helps every day when we need to discuss priorities for both tactics as well as resource allocation. Part of the plan includes becoming a much more data informed University and in her first 10 months now she have done a lot of work in the background, focusing on trying to build an infrastructure to better understand the productivity and outcomes that we're achieving in the academic sector. We've done a lot of work in understanding how we sequence our courses, the curriculum itself and the impact that that has on retention and graduation rates. We've looked at the productivity of our faculty in deeper ways than we have ever been able to do before. We've looked at our ability to project course demand to better serve our students in terms of delivering up the courses when they need them. Some positions were into undertaking this work and now, literally, seemingly almost just in time we have that broader the infrastructure in place, it is getting stronger every day and we are now beginning to get to the point where we are now looking at individual programs. With the ability to work on making improvements, but also, this will be very helpful now as we move into a situation of needing to be careful with our resource prioritization. That work will continue in the coming year, and we will be able to undertake that work in much more sophisticated and informed ways than we may have been able to even just a few years ago. Specifically, our faculty converted 2,365 sections to online in two weeks or less and now we've gotten our students to graduation and it was really a team effort. Provost Parker commend the deans and their college leadership for

all the effort they put into getting our students through that and we are now focusing on fall and how we will return to campus. The deans have drafted plans, we will need to adapt for the pandemic environment. We will be adapting face to face delivery and where it will be achievable and that will include having strategies for the labs, the studios, the production sections, the capstones, the performance sections where the experiential component is necessary and will have to occur on campus. We also have a plan for managing large sections. That will be probably based on a hybrid model where some students are on campus and others are not. That work is underway, and we are already working on implementation. A big concern is that the students fall schedules, for which they have already registered, should be disturbed as little as possible. There is concern about retention and changes shouldn't be made unilaterally to the schedule to accommodate some of these adaptations. It's our intent to, in partnership with Vice President Scott and her advising team, reach out to students who might be impacted by minor or even major schedule changes and work with them to be sure we can get them into the best position possible and then, and only then, implement those changes to the schedule. If we must take a large section and divide it up or something like that, and that's going to require evaluating or reevaluating the original schedule for about 4000 sections. We have a project plan and we are working with the college leadership to go through that process and do that work as quickly as we can so that we are fully prepared for the academic delivery in fall. We also are going to have to work very closely with ICT and with facilities to make any adaptations to the actual physical plant or technology to support the adaptations that the faculty seek to make.

Vice President Scott reminded everyone that goal one is about increasing student success and social mobility has two main objectives. The first objective talks about diversifying, optimizing, and increasing enrollment and the second objective talks about increasing student learning, retention, and degree attainment and our team, all of us, everybody at the university, are laser focused on those two objectives. Before the pandemic we were up 100% in international students who had been admitted to NMSU in undergraduate programs. We were up 20% in admitted students at the domestic, here in the United States, both in state and out of state and we have increased 10% in admitted students that were transferring into New Mexico State from other community colleges, not counting our branch campuses, certainly that was happening as well. On the graduate level, we were up 46% in international applications for graduate education. When we talked about diversifying enrollment, we became very aggressive in our international recruitment, particularly with our neighbors in the South in Mexico. Graduate applications from in state, were up at 5% applications from students at NSMU looking to continue in graduate education were up 22%. From the recruitment side things were looking very good. Retention had increased as we had reported earlier from last fall to fall of 2020 and, as President Floros stated, about 92% of our students, even now, want to come back. After the pandemic and here are some of the things that we're hearing that caused me a moment to pause. So many of our agencies who tell us about it and talk to us about whether international students can come to the United States to study are unsure whether they are going to be able to come. Maybe a visa is granted on our side of the aisle, but maybe on the other side of the ocean at their home country, they're not granted a visa. Where we were really being aggressive. We're just not sure if international students will come. However, that's where working with the provost and offering online opportunities to begin is a strategy, we're using to try to help those students realize their dream of a NMSU education. When we work with out of state families and students, many of them share with us, they're just not sure. They all tell us they want to come; they have put deposits down on higher levels than before, and Yet they don't know whether their states will allow them to come to other states. And again, there's just so much unknown. Registration is open and as of today, the other side of the whole enrollment picture. Here's where we sit the system overall today is down 16.5% in registering for the fall, we are currently 1,850 students less than a year ago registering for fall classes. Many of those students tell us they want to know more, and they're and uncertainty is keeping them from making commitments. There's not necessarily good news for the main campus, per se, it. However, at the main campus we are down 8.5% overall, which is a little less than the overall in the system and yet, that number is part of it. It's about uncertainty. Today, the numbers could be down as much as 5-8% prior to the pandemic. The figures shared with the Chancellor the President were

looking to be up to 2-3%. Vice President Scott didn't want to make any predictions because there is plenty of time to work strategically to get students here. Summer enrollment on the main campus, despite being mostly remote is up 3.3% for undergraduates. This indicates students want a higher education and they want it from NMSU. Things aren't looking good. The numbers likely reflect uncertainty that students have about what will happen in the fall. Vice President Scott indicated that there is reason to have cautious optimism because the student success team and the entire university team is going to work very hard to get students here and prepare this campus for a safe, wonderful, quality education in the fall.

Vice President Cifuentes reiterated the incredible work that has been done by Vice President Scott and her team have been incredible help to us on the graduate side. The numbers are quite good on the application side. It was announced that as of the 12th of May we have 1,949 applications that is compared to a total of 1,960 in all of 2019. While we have lower enrollment at this time there is the potential to recover in the summer and as VP Scott said, we're excited that the number of in state applications and in-house applications are up. The obvious elephant in the room is going to be the yield and our strategy to address that is fourfold we're going to focus existing resources on making sure that students are close to completion, get what they need in order to be able to get to graduation, going to have an aggressive summer campaign of calling students, we're going to target the online graduate programs, particularly the professional programs, and as VP Scott said we're going to push and support creation of online courses that are going to help us capture the international and out of state students who cannot be on campus next fall on the research side. It was also reported that, owing to the delays that resulted in reporting because all of us went to a stay at home environment, the numbers provided on April 15 we're under reported. As of today, we are at 90% of the goal that we set for this year for funds requested by our faculty and in fact, we have already met the goal for funds awarded at this point we're at \$89 million. Kudos goes to the faculty who, in spite of everything they were asked to do over the spring with online teaching and all the added work, are still submitting proposals as reported to the board at the last meeting our expenditures are tracking with but we're expecting them to slow. However, we're about to publish our return to research plan which will be on the website on Monday and provide it to the faculty, Vice President Cifuentes will give Adam Cavotta the link so the board can look at that information. Today we have several members of TriCore research labs in Albuquerque who are in Foster Hall in our biology building looking at a laboratory space that we have set aside to initiate on campus COVID-19 testing capacity.

Regent Sanchez asked if NMSU students and faculty researchers will be working with TriCore or if TriCore will be just using NMSU facilities. Vice President Cifuentes indicated that TriCore will be working with NMSU biomedical faculty with training opportunities available for NMSU undergraduates. The reason NMSU is looking at a potential public private partnership is because NMSU is not really set-up to handle a lot of the HIPAA and CLIA requirements that would be need to be met in order for us to do this kind of testing, but external third parties can and so by creating a public private partnership we can take advantage of our research expertise and their expertise in in handling the external requirements for this kind of testing.

Regent Sanchez asked if among graduate programs there are any issues noted for students seeking to enroll in graduate programs that have taken undergraduate courses online (as a result of COVID-19 restrictions) that would normally have provided laboratory training considering that often this experience is not preferred or allowed by the admitting institution.

Vice President Cifuentes didn't have any specific details to share but he speculated that there will be local response to this issue. A specific focus of the plan, as undergraduate and graduate researchers return to campus, is to provide for laboratory use by students performing research. The logistics of scheduling the students' lab use is something that still needs to be determined.

Chancellor Arvizu noted that it was still uncertain what will happen to any one individual institution and it's very clear that higher education is going to be challenged to reinvent itself and, in other ways, to show that it adds value. He expressed confidence that NMSU is in a position that allows us to continue to flourish, even under these very challenging circumstances. The things that we have going for us are the affordability of the institution and excellent programming and that we have a mission that focuses our attention. Our location essentially provides a lot of opportunity for distancing because we are not in an urban area. We need to continue to be very explicit about what our plans are as we learn, and we can be definitive about what it is that we provide in terms of services. Going to fully online is not the wave of the future for all higher education. There's going to be some mix of online and we must do more than we have been doing in the past and we're showing that we can do that. Chancellor Arvizu noted that NMSU must position itself to respond to the circumstances with the research enterprise and to become an R1 institution, considering the highest priority items that we are going to both seek funding for and ultimately make significant statement in the academic communities. We were approached by the state operating laboratory for testing of COVID-19 to help stand up capability in southern New Mexico. This has precipitated a conversation with Dr. Cifuentes and several key faculty who have put together a White Paper on how we're going to approach testing in the southern part of the state. The public private partnership is going to be one of our highest priorities and we will be seeking stimulus funding for COVID-19 testing to help get that started and then that will be a catalyst for attracting additional money. Chancellor Arvizu is working with Vice President Dictson regarding how we can make sure that we provide our system priorities to the NMSU Foundation, so they know what's highest on our list. Among those priorities will be scholarships that we know we've had challenges funding previously, testing capacity and specifically this more robust approach it relates to the Ag Modernization facilities that the board has heard about today. There's a way that we're going to pivot to go at be able to not only stand up a capability but allow us to go after external funds that will be forthcoming in this new environment. The government plans on spending \$250 billion on COVID-19 testing or things that relate to testing and testing infrastructure. We need to position ourselves to receive some of those funds and compete for those awards. We think, with our new facilities and new capabilities, we will be able to do that very well. Consistent with that, we also have another significant critical infrastructure project that we're working on and it has to do with setting up the critical infrastructure for our energy-water nexus, which many recognize is a key element of our Produced Water Research Consortium. That we are collaborating with the state on and oil and gas in the eastern part of the state. We have another proposal that's called the Integrated Digitally-networked Enterprise Accelerator Laboratory (IDEAL). The IDEAL, critical infrastructure, energy/water lab would be another ask that would be making to help set up an infrastructure that will help us position for the future. Chancellor Arvizu noted that he will be presenting to the to the Board of Regents, a list of our system wide priorities to get the board's endorsement so that we can take these to various donors in various venues and hopefully get the additional support from our sponsors and private sector partners.

L. Announcements and Comments, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

1. "Gun's Up" – Good News for NMSU!

Chancellor Arvizu acknowledged that Secretary Witte and his wife Janet are celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary today. Chancellor Arvizu also thanked President Floros and Athletic Director Mario Moccia for working to keep Chris Jans as the NMSU basketball coach for another year, noting that he had been courted by a number of programs. Chancellor Arvizu also commended our leadership team, including President Floros and everyone in the meeting today, have done an outstanding job of pivoting and addressing the needs that were

totally unanticipated, to get us to where we are. In addition, Chancellor Arvizu thanked the frontline workers, those who are part of our custodial staff, part of our health care workers that are dealing with students, the people that are making sure that our students, who are still on campus, are getting their dining services and overseeing the dormitories and our proctors, mentors and advisors are doing tremendous work. It is impressive that our staff and faculty have endured all these new rules and working from home. Chancellor Arvizu also recognized the students, especially those who are graduating this year, who have been marvelous in terms of accommodating these changes. No one anticipated this, we would not have opted to have this kind of an outcome at the end of the semester, but they did a tremendous job. Chancellor Arvizu and President Floros participated in a celebration with NMSU Native American and Black Programs students yesterday in an uplifting and emotional event that caused him to reflect on the reasons why we're here, to serve the students, especially the underserved, and they're going to serve us extremely well going into the future. In closing, the Chancellor again acknowledged his appreciation for the staff and the support from the Regents as well noting that they have been marvelous in helping us get through these challenging times.

Regent Romero congratulated the students that are graduating in the class of 2020, noting that he was very proud of every single one of them, especially with changes and how we're approaching the celebrations for these students. Regent Romero challenged the graduates moving forward to remember that once an Aggie, you're always an Aggie and as they move out into the next adventure in life, they think about how they are going to be able to come back and improve on this culture and improve on our university, but also to be able to go out and improve our entire state. Regent Romero also thanked President Floros for the town hall meetings because they have been very informative and an opportunity to make sure that he is caught up on what's going on the NMSU campus. He said, "I love the transparency. I love the communication that's happening" and he went on to thank the entire leadership team for the town hall meetings. Regent Romero noted that when it comes to having stable Internet access across the state, he thanked Chancellor Arvizu and the rest of that and the NMSU leadership team for stepping up and very quickly addressing access to the Internet for thousands of more students across the state.

Regent Sanchez thanked the faculty that helped student be successful this semester, noting that as a student, it was challenging, especially with some of the higher-level courses, and every single one of his professors made it possible for him and everyone else in those classes. Regent Sanchez congratulated the students graduating this semester, noting that he has a cousin who's graduating from NMSU, his second oldest sister Francesca is graduating with her master's degree from NMSU this semester and he also has five friends from five different colleges who are outstanding graduates graduating this semester as well. Regent Sanchez said he was extremely proud of all of those people and his family both blood family and friends family, that he met here at NMSU.

Regent Devasthali thanked administration and the whole leadership team for the amazing job that they all have done keeping the university going under the most difficult circumstances. She also thanked the faculty and the staff for being so flexible and pivoting the online instruction in such an effective way and providing the kind of instruction that was absolutely necessary for our students. She congratulated the graduating students including our graduate students who are receiving are PhDs, who unfortunately, the board will not see being hooded by their professors. Regent Devasthali noted that it is bittersweet because one of the highlights for Regents was sitting there on that stage and watching our students walk by and celebrating their accomplishments.

President Floros commended the housing staff that stepped up and they've done a lot of wonderful things. He noted that at some point during the crisis we had more than 750 students still staying the dormitories and that took a lot of effort from our staff. President Floros also commended the health and wellness center staff as they've been extremely busy and very brave all throughout this crisis. President Floros also commended the Student Success staff. As was noted through the numbers from Vice President Scott, if we didn't have the crisis,

we would be probably be about 3%, if not better, ahead of last year. Doing all of this remotely, trying to recruit from afar, trying to advise students from afar, it's been very difficult for our staff and kudos to them for really stepping up to the challenge and doing it much better than expected. President Floros also recognized the efforts of the IT staff who have been very inventive and worked very hard to get accomplish enhanced Internet access and have been very creative about where we can find Wi Fi. President Floros, recognized the finance and registrar's staff for working on securing the CARES funding and distributing it to students as soon as possible.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel congratulated the graduates and noted that NMSU ran a fine half page ad in the Albuquerque Journal that she saw on Wednesday, and it says, "Even though we are unable to celebrate your accomplishments together. Just know that your journey and achievements have brightened NMSU".

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel told graduates to, "go forth and prosper and don't forget where you came from. We need you to come back home." She also noted that the commencement is the highlight of the Regents' year and to have the honor of being at and celebrating the students' big accomplishment will be missed, but we know that you will do good things in life.

M. Upcoming Board of Regents Meetings, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel referenced the upcoming meeting dates and noted that the board has one meeting scheduled for September 11, with hopes that it'll be at NMSU in person. There will be another meeting on October 22 - 23 for the Board of Regents Retreat and another meeting December 2 for the Regular Board of Regents meeting. As mentioned previously in the meeting, due to COVID-19 and the special legislative session in June, the board may need to schedule some special meetings this summer.


1. Proposed Dates (all meetings to take place at NMSU Las Cruces campus unless otherwise specified):


- **September 11, 2020** – Board of Regents Regular Meeting
- **October 22, 2020 – October 23, 2020** – Board of Regents Retreat
- **December 2, 2020** – Board of Regents Regular Meeting

N. Adjournment, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Regent Sanchez moved to adjourn with a second from Regent Romero. Meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.

Meeting Minutes Approved on July 17, 2020 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.


Dina Chacón-Reitzel
Board of Regents Chair


Luke Sanchez
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer