



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 18, 2020 at 8:00am**

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 Mathew Madrid, Faculty Senate Chair Julia Parra, 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 Ruth A. Johnston, Ph.D., Senior Vice President Andrew Burke, Ed.D., General Counsel Roy Collins III, J.D.

**MINUTES**

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

**A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Kabel Brooks of the NMSU Army ROTC led the pledge of allegiance.

*Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel* thanked Mr. Kabel Brooks for leading them in the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked him to tell the Board a little about himself, the degree he is pursuing, and why he is in the Army ROTC. Mr. Kabel Brooks stated that he is a Criminal Justice Major with a minor in Military Science. He stated that he is in the Army ROTC because he firmly believes that NMSU provides the best education in the state. The ROTC program at NMSU is one of the oldest in the nation. Since he was a child he has always wanted to be in the Army as an officer, which is achievable at NMSU.

**1. Introductions**

**Introduction of Henrietta Williams Pichon, Interim Dean of the College of Education, Provost Carol Parker**

Provost Carol Parker introduced the Interim Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Henrietta Williams Pichon. Dr. Williams Pichon has been with NMSU since 2013. She came to us as a distinguished teacher and scholar. She has a PhD in Educational Administration from the University of New Orleans. Previously, she served on faculty at Rowan University in New Jersey and Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Dr. Pichon has a distinguished record of scholarship, including numerous publications in peer reviewed journals and service to numerous national organizations. She has a distinguished record as an administrator prior to serving as our Interim Dean and as Associate Dean.

Provost Carol Parker asked if she would make a few remarks. Dr. Pichon stated that she looks forward to working with everyone. She is excited and delighted to be here. She has been with the university since 2013 and it has been a good experience for her. They will be looking at new opportunities within the College of Education, including re-imagining teaching and learning, mental health services, and physical services.

**Introduction of Luis Campos, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Services, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke**

Senior Vice President Andrew Burke introduced Luis Campos, the Associate Vice President for Facilities and Services. He joined NMSU in May, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with concerns about sanitation, space, classroom, and office area to make ready for the fall semester. His customer service emphasis and collaborative management style serve NMSU well as we operate in the new environment. He will represent NMSU at the state level as well, given his recognized facilities planning, construction, and sustainability expertise. He grew up in Deming, NM and graduated from Deming High School. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in architecture from the University of New Mexico. He has a three-decade career in Facilities Management that encompasses planning, budgeting, capital, construction and renovation, maintenance and operations, real estate, and safety and security. He began his career as an architectural intern at NMSU's Architectural office and worked on masterplan initiatives. He then, moved on to work at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, where he began construction of a new campus that consisted of 140 acres on undeveloped land. From there he was employed at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque, where he was the Executive Director of the physical plant. CNM is the largest community college in New Mexico with seven sites ranging 1.8 million square feet and approximately 22,000 students and 1000 staff. He expanded the campus footprint, campuses on the west side, Rio Rancho Workforce Center, and Advanced Technology Center. He renovated over 1 million square feet. Within the last four years was the Statewide Facility Manager for the Administrative Office of Courts.

Senior Vice President Andrew Burke asked Mr. Luis Campos to make a few comments. Mr. Luis Campos stated that he is honored to have the privilege to work with this wonderful group of people who are dedicated to student success.

**2. Confirmation of Quorum, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Mr. Adam Cavotta to confirm the Quorum and take roll. Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed that the following Regents are present in the Board Room at NMSU.

Regent Romero – Present  
Regent Devasthali – Present

Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed that the following Regents and University Officials are in attendance online:

Regent Sanchez – Present  
Regent Hicks – Present  
Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Present  
Chancellor Arvizu – Present  
President Floros – Present  
Vice Chancellor Johnston – Present  
Vice President Burke – Present  
General Counsel Collins – Present  
Provost Parker – Present

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

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel moves for the proclamation for Woods Houghton be included and the next item on the agenda due to Woods having an appointment. She asked if any other members have modifications as well. Regent Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Regent Sanchez seconds the motion. Mr. Adam Cavotta did a roll call vote on the motion.

Regent Romero – Yes  
Regent Hicks – Yes  
Regent Sanchez – Yes  
Regent Devasthali – Yes  
Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes  
Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed 5 votes in favor. Motion Passed.

**4. Proclamation Recognizing Woods Houghton for his Service as Eddy County Agriculture Extension Agent,  
Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel stated that it was an honor to make a proclamation in honor of Woods Houghton. She gave her comments before reading the proclamation. She stated that she has a long history and family that has made that career. She's known him for a long time. She started her career with Cooperative Extension Service. She knows the value of those jobs. Woods Houghton started in the county after she left. Woods Houghton had a wonderful and long career. She stated, "The world is a better place because of you. I understand the servant heart that extension people and that long-term dedication extension people have. I know you've given everything to this job. I agree with you, the hay is a little taller. The cotton is a little fuller and we've had much bigger acorns." She read the proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, Woods Houghton, as Eddy County Agriculture Extension Agent, has served with distinction for the past thirty years; and

**WHEREAS**, he has earned two degrees from NMSU including Bachelors in Range Science with additional studies in Wildlife Science, Ecology and Animal Science and a Masters degree in Veterinary Entomology, with Interdisciplinary programs in Range Science and Agricultural Education and went on to become a board-certified Entomologist; and

**WHEREAS**, he worked forty-two years employed at New Mexico State University conducting research, extension, education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure at NMSU he has also served as De Baca County Extension Program Director and Research Assistant, including conducting research as a Student Research Aid; and

**WHEREAS**, he served on NMSU Faculty Senate and NMSU Employee Council when it was known as the Advisory Committee on Administrative Policy; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as President of the New Mexico Association of County Agriculture Agents and also as President Elect, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer of the New Mexico Association of County Agriculture Agents; and

**WHEREAS**, he served and continues to serve on numerous committees that benefit the broader agricultural community of the State of New Mexico, including Board of Directors Southwest Entomological Society Association of Professional Entomologists, the Technical Working Group on Water Quality for the New Mexico Water Quality Commission, New Mexico Interstate Streams Agriculture Water Conservation Committee, Regional Water Planning Committee, County Land Use Planning Committee, Eddy County Farm Service Agency (ASCS) Committee, Eddy County Fair Board, Pro-Ag Activities Committee, Farm/Ranch and Sportsman Relationship Committee, Carlsbad Sportsman Club, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Carlsbad, Penasco, and Central Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern District Director of the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, Leigh Ann Marez, has said,

“Woods Houghton has truly exemplified the mission of the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service through his long career as an Extension Agent by providing local community leaders with research-based knowledge and information, education programs, and professional development training to grow and empower communities, develop entrepreneurs, build and promote leaders, and enhance human and social capital;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Associate Dean and Director of the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, John Boren, has said, “Woods exemplifies a true Extension professional through his continued commitment to extend research-based information to improve the lives of New Mexicans and their communities.”

**NOW**, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Woods Houghton for his dedicated service and wishes him great success in his future endeavors.

Proclaimed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel called the Associate Dean and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service, John Boren, to take the floor.

Mr. Boren commented that it is an honor and privilege to provide a brief remark about Woods Houghton. He stated that Woods has exemplified a true extension professional through his many years of continued commitment to provide research-based information to improve the lives of New Mexicans and their communities. John Boren stated that he has worked with Woods Houghton for over 24 years. He values his friendship, commitment to serving his constituents and improving their quality of life. He thanked him for all he has done for the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service, The College of Aces, NMSU, and the state of New Mexico. He wished him the very best in his retirement.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Leigh Ann Marez, the Eastern District Director, to make a few comments. Ms. Marez stated that he is a service-oriented individual. She thanked Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel for recognizing him. When working in Extension, the individual has many different roles and responsibilities in the community at all times. He has been a true representation of NMSU and Cooperative Extension work. She has served as his administrative role for a few years. Prior to that, she served side by side with him as a county agent. He has been a mentor in her career. She appreciates the recognition to him for his long-term service at NMSU and the Extension Service.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Woods Houghton to make a comment. Woods Houghton is humbled by everyone’s comments. He appreciates NMSU allowing him to serve the people of New Mexico. Being a county agent is what he was meant to do and will miss it. The greatest joy is that he had four DVMs and PhDs come up through 4-H, which he is proud of. His career at NMSU began in 1964 as a 4-H youth. He appreciates the Board of Regents and everyone else to recognize him and wishes everyone the best.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel wished him a long and healthy retirement and thanked him for his service to NMSU.

Regent Hicks made a comment. To his more than 30 years of service at NMSU and work at Eddy County and De Baca, she stated that it is a pleasure to honor him today. She met him years ago in De Baca county. He is recognized today for service to the counties he served in and the state of New Mexico. They are grateful for his efforts.

##### **5. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Associate Vice President Justin Bannister if anyone signed up for public comment. Mr. Bannister stated that there was one person signed up for public comment. Mr. Bannister reminded everyone that public comment is provided so that members of the community have an opportunity to give input to the NMSU Board of Regents. Each individual is asked to state their name and keep their comments to three minutes. He will let you know when you have thirty seconds remaining. The individual who signed up is Ms. Jamie Bronstein.

Mr. Bannister gave the floor to Ms. Bronstein. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel greeted her. Ms. Bronstein stated that she has been teaching at NMSU since 1996. This is the first time that she has ever felt moved to speak at a Board of Regents meeting. She is concerned about the lack of two-way communication between the central administration, especially the President, the Provost, and the Faculty. Communication has been top down. Faculty have concerns that are not being addressed. As an example, last year Faculty Senate passed Proposition 17-1920, a memorial and support of a university wide tenure clock extension, where due to the pandemic, which is a disaster for people's careers, faculty could have, without any explanation of grounds, asking for a tenure extension be given a tenure clock extension across the board. This piece of legislation had to go through all aspects of shared governance, including Faculty Senate, where it was approved. It was vetoed by the President without any explanation. In the interest of shared governance, it would be great if there could be an explanation from the President about why legislation or memorials that come through the Faculty Senate are vetoed. Secondly, we are being threatened with 6%, 9%, and 12% budget cuts. We, the faculty, have already borne the brunt of these cuts through the rollback of raises that we were promised. We haven't seen any willingness on the part of the administrators to accept even a symbolic cut to deal with the crisis that the university is facing right now. These issues are creating a real crisis of competence toward the administration by members of the faculty. I urge the Board of Regents to take these concerns seriously because faculty are at the forefront of the university's Land Grant Mission. We are the boots on the ground. We're imploring you for your help to guide the administration to be more dialogic with the faculty to listen to our concerns because right now morale is about the worst I've seen. She concluded her comment and said thank you.

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

### **1. Special Meeting August 27, 2020**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to approved minutes.

Regent Hicks motioned to approve. Regent Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote taken by Mr. Adam Cavotta.

Regent Romero - Yes

Regent Hicks – Yes

Regent Sanchez – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed 5 votes in favor. Motion Passes.

### **2. Special Meeting September 2, 2020**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion a approve or amend the minutes.

Regent Romero motioned to approve the minutes. Regent Hicks seconded the motion.

Roll call vote taken by Mr. Adam Cavotta.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Hicks – Yes

Regent Sanchez – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes  
Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes  
Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed 5 votes in favor. Motion Passed.

**3. Confirmation of Prior Closed Executive Session, September 2, 2020**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Mr. Adam Cavotta to confirm Prior Closed Executive Session.

Mr. Cavotta reported that the Board of Regents met in a Closed Executive Session at 11:19am on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, which was conducted virtually via Zoom. The Closed Session Meeting was held to discuss the content, the competitive sealed proposal solicited, pursuant to the procurement code during the contract negotiations process and accordance with NSA 1978 section 10-15-1 subsection 8 of New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Those members who were present please certify that only matters of that nature were discussed.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Hicks – Yes

Regent Sanchez - Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel - Yes

**C. Conferral of Posthumous Honorary Degree**

**1. Posthumous Honorary Degree, *Provost Carol Parker***

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Provost Parker to proceed with the honorary degree. Provost Parker stated that it was her honor to request approval for NMSU to confer a posthumous honorary doctorate degree to Mr. Jim Hendy. Mr. Hendy was a student in the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program. He tragically passed away on May 16th, 2020 as a result of an aggressive illness that prevented him from completing the last part of his studies. At the time of his death, he had completed all his coursework, passed comprehensive exams, and was working to complete his dissertation. He was a dedicated leader and beloved educator in the Las Cruces Public School System. He served New Mexico students over the last two decades. Mr. Hendy was loved by the community, his colleagues, and his students. The News Center published a beautiful tribute about his career and contributions. This honorary doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Administration would fulfill his dream and is a measure of the true impact he had on the community and his students. Based on the enthusiastic, transformational, and productive effect of his life's work and with the recommendation from the Faculty, Department Head, and the Dean of the College of Education, she is requesting that he be ordered a Doctorate Philosophy Educational Administration Posthumous Degree. With your permission I would like to acknowledge Dean Pichon from the College of Education and a statement that the Department Head, Dr. Azadeh Osanloo, has provided. Dr. Osanloo could not be with us today, but Regent Romero will provide her statement on her behalf. With your permission, she would like to proceed in asking Dr. Pichon to offer some remarks.

Dr. Pichon stated that she is honored to be a part of the process of offering the honorary degree to Jim. As she indicated earlier, she was new to Las Cruces, New Mexico in 2013. Her husband is a high school mathematics teacher. She had reached out to Mr. Hendy. He responded to her that he would be willing to talk with her husband about teaching opportunities in high school mathematics. She shares this story because he did not know how she arrived in New Mexico, nor that she was affiliated with NMSU at all. He was unaware that she was a faculty member in the department in which he had been working on his degree. He opened himself up to them and shared all his experiences and guidance for her husband to find employment, which speaks volumes about the individual being honored through the honorary degree. When we think about principalship, there are some things that we look for in great principals. Mr. Hendy embodied all of those. He was highly visible and would always be seen in the hallways at the school. He was an effective listener and problem solver. He was an empower worker, fair, consistent, and a great mentor and role model to his students and administrators coming through the pipeline. She is honored that we're able to have this opportunity to offer him this degree.

Regent Romero gave his comments. He stated that Mr. Hendy was a very important person and impactful in his life. He is honored to be a part of this process. He was very influential in the community. He was a great leader and educator. He is sitting with the family today to say what a great friend, husband, and father he was. He was very impactful to many people. He has had countless conversations with teachers and students who have crossed paths with him. Everyone has powerful stories of how they were influenced by him. He's always the first person to welcome you into the room, conversation, and make you smile. He was always the best person to make you want to be a better person. He was a wonderful mentor to him. He made him a better principal. He still has an influence him to make himself a better leader within the state as a superintendent. He thanks Mr. Hendy for all that he's done to impact the world of education and community to make it a better place. Your impact will influence the community for years and decades to come.

Regent Romero has a statement from Dr. Osanloo. The faculty voted unanimously to support this posthumous degree. He is honored to shepherd in this process. Dr. Hendy was a dedicated, transformational, and cherished educator in the Las Cruces Public Schools for over a decade. He was beloved by the community, colleagues, and his students. This honorary doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Administration peacefully and thoughtfully closes the loop on the legacy of an outstanding education leader, who made a difference in our community. He thanked Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel for allowing him to say a few comments and representing the faculty today. He is very honored to close this and call him Dr. Hendy from

now on.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Mr. Adam Cavotta to read the resolution.

Mr. Adam Cavotta read the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State University shares with the family and friends in the loss of Mr Jed Hendy; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hendy was a student in the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program at New Mexico State University and completed all his coursework and successfully passed his comprehensive exams and was in progress toward completing his dissertation; and

**WHEREAS**, the faculty of the Educational Leadership Program and the Dean of the College of Education have recommended Mr. Hendy be granted a posthumous degree; and

**WHEREAS**, the Provost has reviewed the recommendation and supports the granting of a posthumous degree to Mr. Hendy.

**NOW**, Therefore, be it proclaimed an official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University hereby approves granting the posthumous Doctor of Philosophy and Educational for Administration degree to Mr. Jed Hendy resolve this 18th day of September 2020 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked that members of the Board raise their hand if they move to adopt the resolution as presented. Regent Romero made a motion. Regent Sanchez seconds the motion. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Mr. Adam Cavotta to take the roll call vote.

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Hicks – Yes

Regent Sanchez – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed 5 votes in favor. Motion passed.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel stated that we have family members in the Board of Regents Chambers. She asked Regent Romero to present the resolution to the family that is present. She thanked the family for being there to honor his legacy and be a part of his ceremony.

**D. Awards and Recognitions, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Chancellor Dan Arvizu to proceed with the recognition proclamation.

**1. Proclamation Recognizing Sonia White for her Service to Employee Council as Chair, Chancellor Dan Arvizu**

Chancellor Arvizu stated that it is an honor to present this proclamation to their dear friend Sonia White. He will begin by reading the proclamation.

**WHEREAS**, Sonia A. White, as Chair of NMSU Employee Council, has served with distinction as an advisory member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents from February 2019 through March 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, she kindly and emphatically welcomed both Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu and President John D. Floros to campus on behalf of NMSU employees by addressing the assembly that gathered for their inauguration and investiture; and

**WHEREAS**, she continually demonstrated a spirit of joy and laughter, ever engaging faculty and staff in celebrating their accomplishments including line dancing with everyone from executive leadership to student employees at the Employee Appreciation Picnic; and

**WHEREAS**, her signature policy achievements includes incorporating union-eligible employees into the membership of Employee Council, which allowed for broader participation of all employees; and

**WHEREAS**, she deeply engaged with administration in helping to form and move forward the action plans of NMSU LEADS 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, she served on the University Naming Committee, University Administrative Committee, and on many other committees representing employees' perspectives; and

**WHEREAS**, she continued her work by joining executive leadership in visiting the NMSU Community College campuses to further the connection between all NMSU system campuses;

**NOW**, Therefore, be it proclaimed in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Sonia White for her dedicated service and wishes her great success in her future endeavors.

Proclaimed this 18th day of September 2020, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if Sonia had any comments. Sonia thanked everyone for allowing her to be the voice of NMSU. She is honored and blessed to have met several great people. She has been at NMSU for 20 years and it was an amazing experience. She thanked the Board of Regents, the NMSU Employee Council and all the employees for allowing her to be the voice. Chancellor Arvizu thanked Sonia and stated that if possible, the Regents who are present might take a photo.

**2. Proclamation Recognizing Tina Byford for her Service to NMSU Foundation and NMSU Advancement,**  
*Chancellor Dan Arvizu*

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Chancellor Arvizu to proceed with the Proclamation for Tina Byford.

Chancellor Arvizu proceeded in reading the proclamation.

**WHEREAS**, Tina Byford, retired on December 31, 2019 as interim vice president for University Advancement and interim president of NMSU Foundation having served with distinction; and

**WHEREAS**, she has served NMSU since 1988 serving in various roles, including as the Chief Operating Officer for the NMSU Foundation, in the university's Business and Finance Department, as Senior Investment and Chief Financial Officer of the NMSU Foundation and twice called upon to serve as NMSU's Interim Vice President for University Advancement in 2013 and again in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, she helped lead and worked diligently toward the completion of NMSU's comprehensive fundraising campaign, Ignite Aggie Discovery, an all cash campaign that raised over \$125 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, NMSU System Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu has said:

“Dr. Tina Byford has worked tirelessly in her 32 years of service to our great university supporting many of our accounting and fundraising efforts. I personally want to thank her for stepping in to serve as the interim vice president for Advancement when I first arrived at NMSU. Funds raised during the most recent fundraising campaign go to support our students through scholarships, help our faculty with research and provide some critical infrastructure to our campus. On behalf of your Aggie family, we welcome your contributions and thank you on a job well done and we look forward to seeing you at Aggie sporting events”; and

**WHEREAS**, she chaired the University Naming Committee who reviewed and made recommendations regarding proposed namings to the NMSU System Chancellor and Board of Regents; and

**WHEREAS**, she oversaw the process and worked with the NMSU System Chancellor and the Board of Regents on the Honorary Degree Selection Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, she was recognized as a “Woman of Influence” by Albuquerque Business First in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, as an alumni she earned her master’s degree and doctorate from NMSU;

**NOW**, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Tina Byford for her dedicated service and wishes her great success in his future endeavors.

Proclaimed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020, at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel invited Dr. Tina Byford to make a few comments. Dr. Byford commented that when she and her husband moved to Las Cruces, they were looking for a city to raise their children in. They had been living in Baton Rouge, but it was too big for them. They felt like Las Cruces was a perfect place for them to be. They originally planned on living in Las Cruces for five years. They fell in love with the state and NMSU. They have been here 32 years. They have three children and had their last child in Las Cruces. Their youngest is in graduate school at NMSU. Dr. Byford discovered her love of higher education at NMSU and received both of her graduate degrees here, which was a pleasure among itself. She appreciates the administrators, in particular, Chancellor Arvizu, who gave her those opportunities. She especially appreciated the people she worked with during those 32 years. Additionally, the people on those teams who helped them achieve the great things that they did. She appreciates the award and honor. She thanks everyone from the bottom of heart.

## **E. Regent Committee Reports**

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

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel gave the Real Estate Committee Report. They met twice since their last meeting, June 25<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>. In those meetings the committee recommended approval of the Las Cruces Main Campus I 25 University Avenue Interchange and Campus Entry Project Proposal, The Las Cruces Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities University Project Proposal, and the Las Cruces NM Department of Agriculture building renovation. These are items H-3 through H-6 in the consent agenda. The presentations and materials are in the meeting binder. That concluded her report. She called Regent Devasthali to provide the Audit

and Risk Committee report.

## **2. Audit and Risk Committee Report, Regent Ammu Devasthali**

Regent Devasthali announced that two Regent Committee meetings have been conducted since the last update. The Regents Audit Committee met via Zoom on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the external auditors KPMG, represented by John Kennedy, lead partner. The Audit Entrance Conference of the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. With the identified scope of the audit, required inquiries, risk assessment, materiality considerations, and involvement of other specialists the timeline was presented for discussion, along with new accounting standards, planned communication, and COVID 19 considerations. A brief internal update was provided and a few items for discussion. IDEA development is not expected to be required to have an audit for 2020. The Regent Audit Committee met again. She held their regularly scheduled meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Three areas were represented. Query Act was presented by University Police Department Chief Lopez. Chief Lopez presented the 2019 clearing statistic and informed the committee of the status of related efforts, including creation of the Clearing Compliance Team, submission, and approval of required policies and key areas. Movement of timely warnings to beyond compliance, Drug Free and School Communities Compliance are good, and some improvements on student travel that were paused due the pandemic. The Human Resources update was provided by Dr. Gena Jones, Assistant Vice President. The update included the positive impact the I 9 verify implementation has provided. Dr. Jones provided information on COVID-19 impact, which included recap of the efforts put forth by the university from the start of the pandemic. A description and impact of activities included various and timely communication, training, and development ready plan external influences and employee feedback. Dr. Jones concluded with future considerations such as throw rollout of an alternative work plan and suggested methods to managing the risk of COVID-19 impact on the workforce. Next, Dr. Laura Castille, Executive Director of Office of Institutional Equity gave an update about the Title IX Regulation Changes, which were released on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by the Department of Education. The new regulations took full effect on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The new rules and regulations are in place. The reporting obligation has not changed. The Title IX Team will have to grow to include a pool of advisors, hearing officers, and appeal decision makers to comply with the new regulations. This will have an impact on the budget. A summary of internal audit annual activities was provided by Chief Audit Officer, Melinda Cantella, and the meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting, which will include the exit conference by the external audit from KPMG, will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. That concluded her report.

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

Regent Hicks reported that they had two meetings most recently, which were on June 25<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>. At their most recent meeting, they had presentations on the following items: the Non-ING funding request, tuition revenue in the scholarship outlook, tuition and fees structure with differential tuition, and budget reduction plans. The Non-IMG funding request that has been approved through the consent agenda. They received the variance on that. They were due back to the state on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The action of the Financial Strategies Performance and Budget Committee a draft was submitted, and they received a variance for approval by the Board today. Their variance extends through today's meeting. They went through the Non-IMG funding. They had a presentation from Ricardo regarding that. It was helpful for the new Regents, who have not necessarily gone through this process of ING for the next several years. Many topics were discussed. They discussed the state's mandate that we would be presenting at least a 5% reduction in our budget. Those will be addressed by the administration, the President and the Chancellor. Regarding action items, they asked the staff to look at tuition and fees, as well as differential in and out of state tuition. Those are proposals or information coming back to the committee for review, then a presentation to the Board of Regents for discussion and action. She expects those to be forthcoming for our next meeting. The recommendation from the Financial Strategies Performance and Budget for Non-ING funding was approved as presented.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked Regent Hicks for her report and entertained questions. There were none. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Dr. Parra to give her report from Faculty Senate.

## F. Advisory Member Reports

### 1. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, *Chair Julia Parra*

Dr. Parra reported that in their September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Faculty Senate passed three propositions as emergency legislation. This past summer, they began the anti-racism and anti-discrimination task force to do their part in addressing the elimination of racism and discrimination at NMSU. The task force developed proposition 2-2021, a memorial to support the elimination of systemic discrimination at NMSU. In summary, it is a call to administrators, staff, and faculty to eliminate all forms of racism and discrimination from the university and build a culture committed to diversity and equal opportunity. A series of goals and recommendations were provided, and it was again approved as emergency legislation. Aligned with this proposition, the task force next steps include identifying accountability for proposition goals and recommendations, creating additional propositions as needed. Next, there were two additional memorials that were passed. She noted, as part of the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee and Senate discussions that started in July, they have noted that communication and collaboration between NMSU Faculty Senate and NMSU Administration is a two-way street. Thus, Faculty Senate put forward these two propositions to continue conversations where they envision new frameworks and ways to operationalize communication and collaboration. The propositions passed emergency legislation. Proposition 1-2021 is a memorial requesting increase faculty participation in budget reduction discussions. She noted, that in the lining with this proposition, they are working with President Floros and Provost Parker to set up the faculty based Advisory Council on Budget and Restructuring. That committee has been meeting and is working towards continued conversations and participation. Further, a memorial for 2021 was passed, requesting that NMSU US Central Administration include the Faculty Senate in designing and implementing a central sentimental testing program for a COVID-19. There were faculty who would like to be more engaged in this process. In aligning with that, they have some actions to do that. She noted, that they have some ongoing upcoming activities. The Senate Leadership Committee will be meeting monthly with Provost Parker. Faculty Senate will be collaborating with Provost Parker to share and discuss NMSU initiatives, such as curricular analytics. We will follow up with an update. There have been concerns about certain projects, for example, a digital learning initiative project. They are going to continue working on our communication between administration and faculty. They have some things going on in recognizing concerns with communication. They are in conversations to restructure Faculty Senate to improve their structure that provides expertise and can quickly create conversations.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked Dr. Parra for her report and asked if anyone had any questions for her. Regent Romero stated that he had a comment. He stated that he thinks it's wonderful that they have had conversations about racial justice issues here at NMSU. He would like to point out that we have three representatives at NMSU, which are a great group of people, to be part of the governor's racial justice committee. He suggested aligning conversations that they have in their committee with what is being done at Executive Branch, so they can have one voice and continue to talk. Dr. Parra responded by agreeing. They are geared to welcome and support the new leader and possibly Vice Provost for the ID Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity. Together, we can all work towards changing the culture and creating a new day for NMSU in this area.

### 2. Student Success Committee Report, *Regent Arsenio Romero*

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel apologized for skipping Student Success and that his report is no less important. She asked Regent Romero to give his report. Regent Romero stated no apology necessary, then proceeded with his report. He was able to get some valuable information as this was his first committee in Student Success as the

Chair. They went over some very important topics. He stated that they went over the same topics as Regent Hicks. He thanked Provost Parker for describing academic responsibilities, academic organizational structures, and initiatives of Academic Affairs, noting the important role of shared governance. Data was presented about account proportions of regular and temporary faculty appointments across the NMSU system. They had some in depth and lengthy conversations regarding tuition policy. He thanked Vice President Burke for providing information on differential pay. Also, they had a conversation about how to communicate that to NMSU students. There was a presentation of charts, which displayed the net price that students pay. There was a discussion about how to advertise this so that NMSU students know about the opportunity at NMSU through marketing and communication. There was a focus on students with lower expected family contribution of family income. The net prices are more competitive than any other university in New Mexico. Overall, 68% of NMSU students receive almost the full Pell Grant amount, meaning that many of the students are in a lower income band, which NMSU can support. He thanked Dr. Holmes for providing an update on the return to campus. It's been in session for a few weeks and it has been a success with our students coming back to campus. They ended with a conversation about what is going to be the charge the Student Success Committee and to talk about what the future is going to look like, specifically with some of the realities that we have right now with the pandemic, budget issues, student need, and program. They have started refining that. They wanted to make sure that they focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, which is the essence of NMSU's culture, particularly as we move forward in the COVID-19 pandemic, tracking progress with education and successes and was the alumni by advancing policy discussion on that topic. We also discussed identifying resources and best practices to meet students where they are at, including peer facility, facilitating programs, such as the Math Success Center to pay more direct attention to success for graduate students. They want to take advantage of the location and unique position of NMSU. Also discussed, the community colleges in the system and the statewide outreach that system has, creating pathways between the community colleges and university, opportunities for digital learning and entrepreneurship, and focusing on the workforce of the future and their needs and the gaps that we have in using branches to provide a practical education, but also can provide a bridge to higher education. That concluded his update and is open for questions.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there are any questions for Regent Romero. There were no questions.

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

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Chair Gallegos to proceed with her report for Employee Council. Chair Gallegos thanked Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel and members of the Board. She reported that the NMSU Council continues to be involved in the various rapid response tiger teams that are working on keeping all our students and employees safe through this pandemic. She recognized Dr. Johnston for her tremendous leadership in the endeavor. They are involved in various committees and action teams that have emerged from last year's climate survey and are excited about the work and action items that are being developed from these groups. They look forward to working out some of these actions with the administration. In early August the Employee Council submitted a list of recommendations to the administration related to budget reductions and they will continue to work through their individual units and system committees in the most important task. They are currently soliciting nominations for both the Roberts Memorial and A Mountain Awards that recognize outstanding staff. Given the current situation and all the work everyone put in this spring, they anticipate several nominations. They hope to recognize all the nominees in some way. He thanked everyone and stood for questions.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there are any questions for Chair Gallegos. There were none.

### **4. Associated Students of NMSU Report, President Mathew Madrid**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel apologized for skipping President Madrid and stated that his report is no less important. She asked him to give his Associated Students Report. Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed that President Madrid is not on the call. Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed the RSVP for attendance. Mr. Adam Cavotta stated that it is possible that he is having technical difficulties. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel addressed President Madrid stating that they will fit him into the agenda if he is having technical difficulties.

## **G. Affiliated Entity Reports**

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

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked President & CEO Scott Eschenbrenner to give his report for Aggie Development Inc. She thanked him for sending his highlights of his report prior to the meeting and gave him the floor. President & CEO Scott Eschenbrenner thanked Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel for the opportunity and stated that his report will be brief. He gave an update on construction for Aggie Uptown.

Those of you who are in the area, see that we've got almost all the paving done. Most of the work is done. They are getting down to the final details and the close out of the project. Just a few items remain, but they are nearing completion on the project. He will provide an update with their partners with Trilogy Health Services. He had an opportunity to visit with Peter Massey, their Vice President of Development Construction late last week. They have a non-binding letter of intent from the company to provide senior healthcare housing on Aggie Uptown. They presented a Ground Lease Proposal to Trilogy. At this time, Trilogy put on all their construction projects on hold. Their board continues to analyze and review this on a 30-day basis. They continue to assure us that this is one of the projects that is very high on their priority list and is excited to move forward in working with NMSU. They've had a lot of interest in Aggie Uptown. There are four potential tenants that were vying for some spots in Aggie Uptown, in February. He reaches out to them and visits with them. He is fairly certain that they'll pick up one or two of those but will have to wait for things to return to some sort of normalcy. The final item to report is that they have been working with Dover Cole partners for an update to the Aggie Uptown master plan. They've done some great work. They've also done some great work with Arrowhead as well. They look forward to bringing the completed project to the Board of Regents and rolling it out to the Las Cruces community. He concluded his report and stood for any questions. Regent Hicks asked if he had any photos of Aggie Uptown. He responded that he would provide those. She went on to say that she will be there for Aggies in Paradise and would like a walkthrough. He replied that he would be honored to do that. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked him for his report.

### **2. NMSU Foundation Report, *Vice President Derek Dictson***

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Vice President Derek Dictson to give his report. He thanked Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel and proceeded. He thanked Tina Byford and Woods Houghton. They both mean a great deal to him and his family in their careers. Tina has been a great mentor and counselor as he has started his new position. He stated that he submitted to the board a report, which he hopes they found informational.

He stated that he would like to highlight a couple of items, then take questions. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation's portfolio that was valued at \$190 million dollars. The one-year investment returns were -0.69% and year to date returns were -5.8%. They continue to actively monitor and setup the allocation and investment strategy through this turbulent time in the markets. Their fundraising totals for the FY 20 Year were \$17.8 million dollars. This was 2% lower than the previous fiscal year and 4% lower than the trailing 4-year average. They were relatively pleased, given the unique situation this year, as to where we ended. They are continuing to figure out how to adopt their entire business model around fundraising, given the situation that they are facing today. They had a

data security event earlier in the year. We contracted with an information security firm to conduct an independent forensic investigation of that and it's been completed. No evidence of data theft or misuse has been found. They have the full report available should anyone be interested in seeing it. Giving Tuesday will be held on December 1st this year. This Day of Giving will be hosted on NMSU's official crowdfunding site that makes a statement website. They're planning to host a virtual Homecoming the week of October 19 through 25. They will have a week of virtual events around homecoming. They're 2020 distinguished alumni will be highlighted. They provided a list of the 2020 distinguished alumni in the report, as well as the James F Colm Memorial Award for Service and the Young Alumni Award for service recipients. The dinner that we typically hold in the fall is going to be rescheduled, hopefully to the spring of 2021.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Regent Hicks to go ahead with her question. Regent Hicks stated that she has been involved with Texas Tech and their Foundation as well. She asked if he has been making any face-to-face calls with donors. He stated that face to face visits is rare right now. He has a couple of donors who have requested to pass a check or have a personal conversation. To the extent that those are being held, they are being approved through supervisor channels. They are making sure that they are wearing masks and doing appropriate separation for the safety of our donors. Regent Hicks also asked if he would share the data security event with the Risk and Audit Committee, then Ermelinda can pass it on to them. He stated that he would and that he is on the agenda for the October meeting.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Mr. Adam Cavotta let Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel know that President Madrid is on the call by audio only due to the quality of the Xfinity spot. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel acknowledged that. Before moving forward, she commented to Vice President Derek Dictson that she is pleased that they are planning on having a spring Distinguished Alumni Banquet and Event. She is glad that is not cancelled. It's a beautiful event and wonderful opportunity to hear stories from their distinguished alumni, it's always heartwarming. She encourages all Aggies and interested people to attend the event and dinner. It's a wonderful way to honor our alumni and very heartwarming. She is looking forward to participating in the spring.

### **3. Associated Students of NMSU Report, *President Mathew Madrid***

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked President Madrid to give his report. President Madrid apologized for being late, but nonetheless the following is a brief report about everything that NMSU has done during the fall semester. So far, they've distributed over 1,500 facemasks to students via NMSU golf cart that they have access to. They've been driving around campus and passing them out as they see students who need them or ask students who may need a few extra to avoid social gathering. Also, they've been holding voter registration drives periodically through residence halls and other locations on campus. They have a voter registration event planned for National Voter Registration Day, which is on the 22nd of this month. Pete's pickup, which is our golf cart service that takes students around campus during the late hours of the evening, is fully operational and has been giving those services to students throughout the fall semester. Crimson cab services, which is our taxi service that takes students around the City of Las Cruces, have been expanded to be 24/7 for any reason, during the day. Prior to this expansion, daytime use was limited to only doctor's appointments and job interviews. But now, students can have access to that any time for any reason. The student Regent application is up and is being distributed amongst the student population. It closes on October 1 at 5pm, at which point the interview process will take place with Chancellor Arvizu and President Floros. Homecoming, movie nights and other things like that are being planned and have been held regularly to provide students with a way to get involved safely and hopefully avoid them leaving campus for any reason and of course, to slow the spread of COVID-19. Homecoming is being planned both virtually or with a mix of virtual events and in person. There's a lot more on the way.

He concluded and stood for questions. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if anyone had any questions for

President Madrid. She then gave the floor to Regent Hicks. Regent Hicks stated that she had an update. She neglected to ask for a report from the Higher Education Regents Coalition. We are asking all universities to provide the HRC with their processes and procedures for the appointments of Student Regents. She stated that she knows they're just going through the process but requested that they take the time to write it down as they do. She understands that they have some policies that are written in place. What they are trying to do is come up with a combination of what everyone is doing in order to put together some best practices. Not to direct anything, but to have it out there from the overall Coalition's perspective. She thanked him for his report. President Madrid responded that Regent Sanchez reached out to him regarding that and he will help him out in any way that he can. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked him and gave the floor to Regent Sanchez.

Regent Sanchez asked President Madrid to speak on the podcast that they have been doing. Regent Sanchez thinks that this is a wonderful way to reach students and have a platform for different items to be discussed among the student government and for students to tune in. President Madrid stated that over the summer it was his idea to put together a podcast or virtual radio show of sorts that allows ASNMSU an extra layer of communication between them and the student body, which is more personal and organic. Over the past few months, they've seen that students have been inundated with e-mails, social media posts, and things of that nature. Having a podcast allowed them to put that personal touch and communicate important information to students in a way that they usually don't get communicated to. They're also using this as a way to bring a spotlight to important issues, not only on campus, but around the community. For example, the most recent episode of podcasts, which launched on Wednesday, featured County Clerk Amanda Lopez Askin and Deputy County Clerk Lindsay Bachman. In that episode they obviously spoke about voting and voting initiatives, as well as how to get engaged with elections, update registration, and all of that for students. There's a balance that they're going to try to find between being informative, while also being entertaining, that way students can still be engaged while getting the benefit of information. It is a work in progress, and they are very excited. He gave kudos to his PR team for putting it together and spearheading the initiative on relatively short notice. They've gotten very good feedback from the student body. He opened the floor to anyone who would be interested in being on an episode and to let him know. Regent Sanchez stated that he would love to join him on an episode to talk about the Student Regent position while the applications are open. He stated that he listens in and gave him a job well done. Regent Romero stated that he thinks the podcast is wonderful. He hasn't had a chance to listen in but will do so. He will support them in any way that he can. He stated that the Regents may want to be participants. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked President Madrid and stated that it's wonderful that the students are so innovative. At this point, with all the challenges, being creative with communications is going to save the day. She said, "We applaud your efforts to find new ways to reach our students." She thanked him for being with them at the meeting and for his good report.

#### **4. Arrowhead Center Inc. Report, Director & CEO Kathryn Hansen**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel called Director & CEO of Arrowhead, Dr. Kathryn Hansen, to give her report. Dr. Kathryn Hansen thanked her and the members of the Board for the opportunity to share a few highlights. She stated that they have been working with their partners to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the current environment of COVID-19. They are active with K through 16+ entrepreneurship programs in a venture, which serves students grades K through 12, held online in summer camps. They had middle school participants from New Mexico, Texas, and several other states. They also had participants from Mexico, a result of holding this online. They had some greater exposure there. Innoventure is leading the Las Cruces Business Pitch Competition to be held in October. This is a pitch competition for elementary through high school students. They have several community partners supporting this competition, including DACC, the Las Cruces Chamber, the City of Las Cruces, The Bridge, and Cruces Kids Can. It is a great community effort. They can continue to support their university student entrepreneurs through Studio G and the American Indian Business Enterprise Centers online delivery of business advising, curriculum, and other resources. During FY

2020 student ventures created or retained 278 jobs, while 292 new ventures join Studio G, which was a 30% increase over FY 2019. Also, Studio G was highlighted in an article on colleges producing the most startups by Forbes magazine in June, which brought national attention to NMSU and student entrepreneurship. They are planning an NMSU System Studio G Pitch Competition this fall to advance student entrepreneurs and promote Studio G from a system perspective. They are participating in an exciting new initiative in the College of Engineering, which promotes entrepreneurship and product development among Capstone student teams. Their engagement with NMSU Commute with New Mexico communities is growing through their emphasis on place-based entrepreneurship. They seek to advance Entrepreneurial Opportunity and activity based on regions or communities, unique local characteristics. A cornerstone of this model is assessing existing resource, assets, and needs, which Arrowhead leverages with community partners. Arrowhead held an Agribusiness Accelerator in Las Vegas and General Business Accelerators in Deming and Taos since the beginning of 2020. A Farmington Biz Sprint is planned for October/November. The sprint will highlight COVID recovery for businesses. They're partnered with San Juan College on this initiative. They're staging two eight weeks sessions for Las Cruces based businesses affected by COVID-19. The sprints will focus on best practices in business management and e-commerce training. A statewide sprint is in process for clean energy startups with products or services in this area in partnership with the College of Engineering. They are a team member on a recent award from the Department of Commerce to create a Minority Business Development Center in New Mexico. This is led by the city of Albuquerque, and the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. Arrowhead will be delivering statewide sprints as part of this award. In terms of efforts in the border region, we are collaborating with regional partners on a Border Plex sprint, a five-week bilingual cohort-based business venture builder for Border Plex innovators. They're partnering with governments in Chihuahua and Sonora with Arrowhead providing support to Mexican entrepreneurs. They're also partnering with Orion Startups, an accelerator and venture fund tied to tech to Monterey University in Monterrey, Mexico. In terms of diversity inclusion, they continue to emphasize it and make their services accessible to populations traditionally underserved. One example of this is our recent Women's Entrepreneurs Mean Business Conference that was held online. They had over 200 participants. It went well. Next, they're seeing developments in Arrowhead Park. They received a \$1.25 million infrastructure grant recently from the Economic Development Administration that will provide new roadways and a park wide wastewater conveyance system to meet future development needs. Next Tetrad Property Group has finalized negotiations with Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) to lease approximately 7,000 square feet and a new office building, which will also house Arrowhead Center. This commitment by BCOM will trigger the beginning of design in October with groundbreaking targeted in February of next year and occupancy by year end. Also, they're working with others on campus to provide Genesis Center Space to establish water research lab supporting critical water research here at NMSU, led by Dr. Pei Xu. They are strengthening our relationship with the College of ACES to enhance entrepreneurship and economic development through their respective statewide programming and emphasis on economic and community development. They want to leverage their relative strengths, assets, resources, and talent with a special emphasis on rural community and economic development. Lastly, they have an upcoming Audit Committee meeting on October 2 and a Board meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>. She thanked everyone and stood for questions.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there are any questions for Dr. Hansen. There were none. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked Dr. Hansen.

#### H. **Consent Items**, *Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel*

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion on the Consent Agenda as presented.

Regent Devasthali moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Regent Romero seconds the motion. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Mr. Adam Cavotta to take the roll call vote. Mr. Adam Cavotta proceeded with the roll call vote:

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Hicks – Yes

Regent Sanchez – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

Mr. Adam Cavotta confirmed 5 votes in favor. Motion passed.

1. **Non I&G Budget Requests for FY22**, *Assistant Vice President Ricardo Rel*
2. **Temporary Investments Report for the Quarter ended 06/30/2020**, *Senior Vice President Andrew Burke*
3. **Las Cruces: Main Campus, I-25/University Avenue Interchange and Campus Entry**, *University Architect Heather Watenpaugh*
4. **Las Cruces: Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities**, *University Architect Heather Watenpaugh*
5. **Las Cruces: NMDA Building Renovation and Addition**, *University Architect Heather Watenpaugh*
6. **Right of Way Usage Agreement with NMDOT**, *Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner*
7. **Amendment to the Bylaws of Aggie Development Inc.**, *Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner*
8. **Amendment to 21.18.3 NMAC Commercial Feeds**, *Cabinet Secretary & Director Jeff Witte, Assistant Division Director Agricultural Production Services Katie Laney*

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to take a 10 minute break. Regent Hicks made a motion. Regent Sanchez seconded the motion. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there were any objections. There were none. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel announced they will break until 10:00am.

### **BREAK (10 MINUTES)**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked Mr. Cavotta if everyone had returned. Mr. Cavotta confirmed that Regent Romero and Regent Devasthali were in the Board Room, Regent Hicks, Regent Sanchez, herself, Chancellor Arvizu, President Floros, General Counsel Collins, Provost Parker, and other university officials are online. Mr. Cavotta reported that she is ready to proceed when she would like to call the meeting back to order. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked Adam and called the meeting back to order.

#### **I. Action Items**, *Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel*

**There were no action items.** Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel proceeded with informational items.

#### **J. Informational Items**, *Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel*

##### **1. Appointment of Labor Management Relations Board**, *Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel*

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel informed the board of the reappointment of the Labor of Management Relations Board members pursuant to the provisions to the New Mexico State University Labor Management Relations Resolution as amended March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The following individuals were hereby appointed to serve on the NMSU Labor Management Relations Board commencing September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Recommended by NMSU System Chancellor and appointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents Fermin Rubio and recommended by AFSCME Local 2393 President and appointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents, Larry

Patrick Martinez and jointly recommended by Martinez and Rubio and appointed by the Chair of Board of Regents, Peter Gregware. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked and congratulated them for their service to the university.

**2. Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period April 21, 2020 through September 8, 2020, General Counsel Roy Collins, III**

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked General Counsel Collins if he would like to add any additional comments to the summary he had submitted. General Counsel Collins stated that he did not have any additional comments and that Lisa Warren could log in to provide any information if needed. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there were any questions from the Board. There were no questions.

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

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte stated that he submitted his report, then commended Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel and Adam Cavotta for how well the Zoom meeting is being done.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte recognized Mr. Steve Baca who was recently hired as Assistant Division Director and will be supervising the Pesticide Program. Steve comes to the position with many years of service to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and will be a good asset to the administration team. Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte stated that they have been in the process of applying for grants, which are detailed in the report. A grant in the amount of \$100,000 from EPA and another grant in the amount of \$135,000 from USDA for the state market improvement project that they are working with farm table groups. The grants are good opportunities for building capacity, especially during this time of budget cuts.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that they have submitted their plan to USDA to implement the USDA Farm Bill 2018 program. They are expecting approval within the next week or two. Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte states that hemp growers are receiving questions from bankers, USDA, and NRCS. This will clarify answers to those questions. Interstate Commerce issues will also take care of that. There is confusion between the 2014 and 2018 provisions of the Farm Bill. They have decided to move them forward.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that there was a reduction in the amount of hemp grown in New Mexico. In their first year, they had 7500 acres, whereas the second year they had 2000 acres. This was expected because the market for hemp products was saturated across the country. There were around 5000,000 acres planted in the country. Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte stated that the National Hemp Group reported a couple of days ago that the country could have been supplied with about 250,000 acres. The production was double. Hemp will continue to be a good crop; however, it is not a 'getting rich quick' crop that everyone was hoping for.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that there were around 4 million square feet of greenhouse growth licensed this year, which is comparable to what we had growing last year. He believes that it will stabilize around that. There will be several good opportunities in developing additional marketing programs. They will provide options for producers in that value-added arena around oil and fiber.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that they continue to have a healthy soil program, which is

a very popular program in the state of New Mexico. They are in the process of receiving applications for grants this cycle and will be awarding those soon.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that they have been active with several memorials, including the legislative memorials and one unclean and harvested produce project. During COVID, it came to bear that local is preferred, but market diversification is key. Only 6 % of their producers were direct marketing according to the census to the consumer. That left a lot of produce in limbo when the service industry, food service, restaurants and schools, goes dormant. They are looking at options for that.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that they will have an Organic Advisory Committee meeting. They will be looking at some public and private partnerships to enhance their organic inspection program.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that there are many virtual activities currently happening. The Battle of the Salsas is one of them. They are nearing selection of the final group. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will be awarded on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. They had a virtual Green Chile Recipe Contest. The winners are listed in the report. Additionally, they had virtual green chile roasting videos. Also, they are doing virtual inbound trade missions. They are not currently doing outbound. They are working with the Western United States Trade Association on these bounds.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte reported that they are still active with COVID related activities, such as the Emergency Support Functions Units Six and Eleven, Food and Agriculture Support Functions of the state Homeland Security Department and food procurement stories distribution. They are still monitoring the wildfires. He conducts weekly calls with the industry to keep everyone updated. After talking with the National Weather Service, they are expecting a drought and low water levels next year if La Nina takes hold like they expect it to. He stays in contact with the governor's office on the CSPs. There was an additional rollout yesterday with corn mazes and similar activities.

Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte opened the floor up for questions. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked him to describe some of the healthy soil projects that they are working on. Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte stated that he they are instituting cover crops. They are looking at educational opportunities that are eligible for healthy soil projects and expanding the knowledge of what it is that protects our soil that enhances that for our future. They had \$1.1 million dollars' worth of applications for several hundred thousand dollars' worth of projects. They worked with USDA and RCS on some of those funds as well. He will put together a summary report and get it to Adam, who can share it with the Board.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked who applies for those resources and the funding is state resource. Cabinet Secretary and Director Jeff Witte answered that they have state funds that come through the legislature. They had NRCS USDA matched some of those funds. Individual producers can apply for those funds directly through their local soil and water conversation district. Tribes, pueblos, land grants and acacias are eligible. The process is that the producer applies through an eligible entity, then the eligible entity submits the application through NMDA.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

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

Chancellor Arvizu reported that Vice Chancellor Ruth Johnston will give an update about return to campus and

President Flores will give further information about other topics.

Chancellor Arvizu reported that what has been dominating their attention is return to campus. The safety of students, faculty, and staff are their top priority. Additionally, to prepare being able continue manage the mission objective and academic progress in all phases of the land grant mission that demands, requires, and expects, which is to focus on student success and making decisions through the lens of a student. Recognizing that research and the efforts that will be involved are going through transition during these difficult times. Lastly, outreach, working with our communities, and to be a piece of the solution as everyone tries to get back to some sense of normal.

Chancellor Arvizu reported that he's been involved in several different workshops and various panels. The President's Science Advisor, Dr. Calvin Rogan Meyer has put together a workshop on clean energy and has invited captains of industry and stakeholders in transition. They participated in a couple of National Academy Workshops on transition to discuss what this means for research and critical infrastructures. A couple of themes are emerging, which are relevant to what NMSU is doing. Such as, the state support for higher education is going to continue to decline. That is happening across the nation. New Mexico gets some support from the state government. New Mexico is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country, relative to the percent of the state budget invested in higher education. In normalizing that, based on how much of the wages earned in that state are allocated to Higher Education, only Wyoming beats New Mexico slightly. This means there continues to be a significant amount of state support. They are also seeing a decline in state support over time as it continues. Unfortunately, New Mexico depends greatly on the revenues coming from oil and gas. The pandemic precipitated that as an economic crisis. When the economy was limited, the context of that oil and gas decreased dramatically, as did the investments and revenues that had been generated from that. This is happening at a National level.

Chancellor Arvizu stated that the Strategic Plan that has been in the works for the last two years is more important than ever. It leads NMSU to 2025. It provides the needed direction. They've identified the key performance indicators and measures that keep them on track. They're trying to be very careful and respectful of what the strategy is and aligning their efforts according to that strategy. The President of Environment has modified the Strategic Plan in its pace, which has now been accelerated. They have more challenges than they thought they would have. Consequently, they must be innovative and creative in what they do.

Chancellor Arvizu reported that he has two titles that put him in the mix of those discussions at the state level. He is the Vice Chair of the Council of University Presidents and the Vice Chair of the Higher Education Departments Advisory Board. They have been meeting frequently. He had a meeting with the HED Advisory Board this week. They have had numerous meetings with the Cup Leadership, which is all seven comprehensive institutions in the state, including three research institutions. They are focused on return to campus and budget reductions. What is clear to him is that the incremental change from what has been done previously is not sufficient to meet the financial challenges that they're faced with. Meaning, in some cases, that they need to make additional investments in gaps for what will help achieve the strategy that is outlined in the Strategic Plan. When in cut mode, it's important to not make cuts that cut off your future benefits because of a short-term issue. They need to think more long term.

Chancellor Arvizu stated that they obviously have short term cash flow issues and a longer term systemic, which is how do they continue to maintain a sustainable enterprise focused on the strategic objectives of making sure that they follow the Strategic Plan. One being student success, which is highly important. This includes recruiting, enrollments, retention, and completion. Then following those, especially as our focus has been in being an exemplar in social mobility and recognizing that many of our students are economically and

otherwise culturally challenged. That's true for most of our students. That component is necessary, as well as seeking research and scholarship excellence as they move forward. They're not going to compromise on those but will do things a little different in that context. One of the things that they've done over the past few weeks and months is start looking at how to integrate the system more directly so that it provides synergy in ways that they've not been able to capture in the past.

Chancellor Arvizu announced that they decided a few weeks ago to change the governance structure of the three smaller campuses, given the extreme challenges that they're facing in the community colleges, the branch colleges, not just in New Mexico, but across the entire country. Something that they did not anticipate, relative to COVID, was that every time there is an economic recession typically, they see enrollment increase because students take on opportunities to go back to school and strengthen their skills. In this environment where they've got the pandemic, which was precipitating the financial crisis, the conditions are different. It's clear they're starting to learn what those conditions are. It's clear that traditional and non-traditional students have not been able to continue their education. They've seen a precipitous drop in the 2-year degree institutions, community colleges, and branches.

Chancellor Arvizu continued by stating that the key point is that in our three branches; Alamogordo, Carlsbad, and Grants, they have focused on how to be more supportive of those communities. They've had town hall meetings and met with community leaders. These communities are extremely stressed. The main thing that they need is economic development. They also need the university to provide an upscaling and necessary curriculum for people to go back to school so they can obtain better jobs in their communities. Many of those communities are suffering from job loss from extractive industries. Therein lies an opportunity with the work that Arrowhead is doing. They're expanding into not only our state, but in El Paso and Juarez. Arrowhead is doing a phenomenal job with putting together programs. It became natural for to marry those programs with the economic goals and direction of those communities. Each of these communities are very different. There are a different set of business case operational issues and a variety of other things that make the situation unique. Because of that, the approach that they have taken as an administration is that each campus takes care of their own activities. They have the broader framework of the Lead 2025 Strategic Plan, then they are tailored to each region. He's had several conversations with the LFC, members of the LFC, and legislators who are associated with those campuses and the broader topic of higher education. The governor has named Stephanie Rodriguez, who is the primary point person for COVID, as the Acting Secretary of Higher Education. Items that will be on the agenda for the Higher Education Advisory Board are return to campus, budget reduction, funding formula, dual credit, and elevating the value of higher education in a way that can be communicated to the broad constituents and residents in New Mexico to encourage them that seeking a credential or degree is an economically important investment to make. The statistics are clear. If you have some level of post-secondary education, you will get a reward for that over your lifetime.

Chancellor Arvizu went on to report that the other item that will be on the agenda is how the state will deal with broadband. Unless they have the technology and connectivity in the communities, they can't take advantage of those new technologies and approaches as part of the new and post COVID world. He loves the idea that Director Hansen has connected with the Dean of Aces, Ron Flores, and his team on everything that relates to extension and putting extension together with economic development outcome. It is a very popular concept and notion. It is one that the LSC would love to see made a more centered focus. Many other people he has briefed on those processes seem to be extremely receptive of them, so much so, to the point that they'd like them to bring in all other higher education institutions to ask how they are going to approach budget reductions in the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. They want to make sure that there is consistency across higher education.

Chancellor Arvizu reported that on October 18<sup>th</sup>, he will be presenting on what NMSU is doing and how that

relates to the broader issues that New Mexico's higher education strategy and approach. It will hopefully educate the legislature and higher education officials, so that they are able to understand how higher education fits into the economic development of the state, how higher education can help with workforce development bringing in new resources in a variety of other things. They've gotten some grants that are attracting and retaining underserved populations and how to reach those in the rural setting. There is research that they can collaborate significantly in Carlsbad with some of our partners in business, industry, and executive industry. They're looking at a variety of projects with tri-state as an EPRI, the electric producers Research Institute, in Grants. One of which being, how do you create jobs in a community that's had a huge displacement of economic development, relative to closing coal plants and opening of mobile renewable plants. They are also looking at vertical farming and ways they can address the energy, greenhouse gas, emissions, poverty and food security issues as it relates to underserved low-income populations. There are some technologies that they can start to deploy that will drive economic development and address some of the other societal and systemic infrastructure issues.

Chancellor Arvizu stated that they'll begin to put themselves in a positive financial track by attracting external resources, in this case, federal resources by partnering with industries for which they have domain expertise and critical infrastructure: energy, food, egg, water, and IT. Also, others that relate to a variety of their national security missions, space commercialization of space missions, health missions, and critical infrastructures. The federal government is going to spend a lot of money. This is true in a bipartisan way. They've heard from Administration and those involved in the election process looking for new and creative ideas. The Federal Government will be focused on helping us repatriate some of our critical industry supply chains, which refer to agriculture, energy, and health. They'll take advantage of PSL, NMSU's agriculture heritage, the role that NMDA's role, agriculture station, experiment stations, and space grant. Also, that they are Hispanic serving and otherwise an institution that focused on social mobility and being of extremely good value, in terms of costs for our many underserved students in the region. They have a strategy that hangs together through partnership with business and other players in technologies of choice such as energy, water, and food. Partnership is the key point, especially in the private sector and other research providers, in going after federal money in ways to attract private sector money to compliment the work and investments that the state provides us as well.

Chancellor Arvizu reported that enrollment has been a challenge this year. They were on a very different trajectory prior to the COVID pandemic. Now that they've gotten through returning to campus and census numbers are in, one thing is clear. As a system, NMSU has seen a decline. Not as big as some, but still a significant decline. Head count is 7% lower. Student credit hours is 5% lower, which means that students who are on campus are taking more classes. The number of students on campus is 0.5% lower, which is roughly 69 students. One of the key factors in terms of the drop in enrollment is the number of transfer students from community colleges. This explains most of the drop, which is 95 students. Our first-time freshmen student population is lower. The number of graduate students is higher. The number of student credit hours on the main campus is higher by 0.6%, meaning that revenue from enrollments is up this year relative to where they were last year. They were on a trajectory of about 30% increase, but that obviously created major challenges for all institutions in the state. They'll have those numbers in the next few weeks.

He turned it over to Vice Chancellor Johnston to provide an update on return to campus, then he will turn it over to President Floros to talk about where we are relative to the updates at the main campus. Then he will say a few final remarks before giving the floor back to Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel.

Vice Chancellor Johnston reported that they have put together a collage of pictures that were taken around campus. She spoke about return to campus through those pictures. In the middle picture is the President of ASNMSU. He is wearing a mask. Students have been good about modeling that and wearing masks. There is

a picture of a faculty member teaching while social distancing. In the upper corner there is a picture of workers giving out free supplies, which are paid for by the Cares Act, to departments and students. There is a picture of the band. They were some of the first to come back to campus. They do an amazing job. They fill us with Aggie Pride, especially in the afternoons around the horseshoe. In the upper left there is a picture of their lead scientists doing wastewater testing, which is a new technology that helps indicate the presence of the virus. We have put up tents for academics. They provide shade for teaching outdoors. It is better to be outdoors. In the lower right, there is a picture of some testing being done. Also, a picture of the Chancellor talking to students and faculty through acrylic barriers. They are doing everything that can be done to keep density down and to protect everyone. The partnering throughout the NMSU campus has been amazing.

Vice Chancellor Johnston announced that they have an Active Response Team that meets weekly. We talk about every aspect of what it means to prepare our campus. At this point, things are going very cautiously. We have no current positives on campus with residents, nor employees. We are doing testing every week. Aggie Health has been offering a-systematic testing. We can get results back fairly quickly. Athletes get tested every week in batches. Next week we are hoping to test ourselves.

Vice Chancellor went on to announce that there will be a Town Hall next week on Tuesday to talk about the research, apps, and wastewater so that the entire community can understand what they're trying to do to help protect the entire campus. She has been thoroughly impressed with the community. People are willing to engage and are volunteering. They want to help across every single aspect of facilities, dining and being outdoors. The community members have been a part of that as well. They've worked very closely with the town. Because they're trying to make sure that everybody stays safe. They have had little problems here and there. People are willing to let them know when they don't like something that's happening. They immediately address that through an email that is triaged. Every week they send out a newsletter that gives updates, as well as updating the ready report and plan so that people can know exactly what's changing at any given time. They are beginning to plan for Spring Semester. They are engaging new people in planning for that because they know they're going to have different challenges. The weather won't be quite as nice to be outside. It could be a little bit colder. They could have more flu cases. They need to anticipate in different ways. Las Cruces and NMSU are doing an amazing job. They are always vigilant. They have a group that meets every Wednesday to review the latest of the science and what's happening. At any given point, just like many universities around the United States, they must be ready to pivot. It's great leadership, students, faculty and staff as we go through this very challenging time. Because of the Strategic Plan, they're able to do things that they probably wouldn't have been able to do. It's catapulted them into having to do things differently.

Dr. Johnston gave President Floros the floor. He stated that they have done a tremendous job responding and planning ahead in terms of COVID-19. They put a lot of effort into keeping the faculty, staff and students safe; as well as helping students get through this very strange time and continue their academic progress. He gave kudos to faculty and their leaders, staff and their leaders, and NMSU students. He asked the police chief and his officers to take some unofficial numbers on compliance. Up until Labor Day, NMSU had over 99% compliance on wearing masks and social distancing. After Labor Day, that number dropped to the low to mid 90s range. They are making an additional effort to get back to 99%. There have been no incidents on campus in the last three weeks.

President Floros announced that because of the issues with COVID-19, they are amid deciding what to do after Thanksgiving. Options include, do they close the university after Thanksgiving and let everyone go home to continue online, or do they continue to bring students back and continue as is. They sent out a survey to everyone in the university late yesterday and within a few minutes they had complaints from many people stating that they couldn't get through or they couldn't vote. The reason was because they had gotten so many

responses that the system basically had to shut people off. Within about an hour they had more than 1000 people vote. By almost midday they had more than 3000 people that had voted. They don't have the results yet. They're going to look at them next week. It's important for us to get feedback and listen to the voices of the faculty, staff and students. He gave kudos to the leadership and the faculty, leaders in our boy council, leaders in terms of students and student association.

President Floros reported that they hold own Hall meetings every second week. There is much that they communicate through Town Hall meetings as there are many questions taken from people. People have pleaded that they do not stop having Town Hall meetings. It is a great form of communication between them, as leadership and administration, the people within the university, and beyond the university. They have significantly shifted Town Hall meetings. They are now using data and data related issues to educate the university and include responses from faculty, staff and students as part of data related activities. They began that with a budget related Town Hall a month ago and continued Town Hall meetings thereafter. At the end of August, they held another one that addressed student success and how that relates to the data. Next week the Chancellor is facilitating a COVID testing related Town Hall meeting. The Town Halls serve as a good method of communication, educating, and drawing upon their responses. They're working closely with the Employee Council and students to get people more closely involved in decision making. For example, the Chair of Faculty Senate speak regarding changing the faculty structure. They're trying to include Faculty Senate in major decisions; however, sometimes they must move quickly, and they can't wait. At times Faculty Senate won't meet for a month to three months. They're going to adjust their structure to where they have designated people who can work with it in a direct manner. They are doing similar things in Employee Council. They want to have a more cohesive way of communicating up and down.

President Floros continued to report that they collected data last year and have analyzed it. He presented a few examples. First, they now have the capability to do student related analysis with their data, which is called Navigate. It will collect information and analyze in ways they couldn't before. Data from ABC Insights is related to administrative efficiencies. They are looking at different data that pertains to administrative units and how they compare to others. Data from Grey Associates, which pertain to our academic program, analyzes how the academic programs perform internally and externally. There are large amounts of data that they have been collecting for many years from a Delaware study, of which they are a part of. The data is being used to break the Strategic Plan down to specific items and metrics, then move those metrics forward with the help of our employees, students, and many people that carry out those activities. Everything that is done is informed and comes back to data. There is much anxiety among people because sometimes data doesn't always tell you what you want it to. Many people don't understand what the data means. This is a change in culture in that data has never been used nor communicated this extensively before. It's difficult to change that culture. Some people are beginning to understand what this means for the university and are embracing it. They are working hard to turn the university around. When the NMSU history is shown over the last 10 to 12 years, they have lost students, resources, tuition money, research related issues and dollars, and economic development activity. Much was lost that should not have been lost. Now they are turning things around. They have not had a drop in terms of students. There is no major university in the state that did not drop significantly. UNM dropped 3%. Other universities dropped by 7% or more than 10%. Considering the pandemic, budget issues that the state has handed us, as well as the fear and anxiety that they've had to deal with, the university has responded extremely well. It's primarily because of the students, staff, and faculty exhibiting their leadership and support on several occasions.

President Floros reported that they have been talking about equity, diversity, and inclusion. They have begun a search for the next Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. They have gotten input from faculty, staff, and students. Their goal is to have a set of finalists by the end of the year, then hopefully conduct the interviews in person on campus early next year.

Finally, President Floros reported on the budget. He has requested three different scenarios for budget cuts in all units, including academic and non-academic, from people with budgetary responsibility. One plan would show a 6% budget cut, another would show 9%, and the third would show 12%. They have received almost all plans. The deadline to receive them is September 15<sup>th</sup>. The 6% is a fairly painless way to cut a unit budget. Most units can cut some parts of their budget without a huge pain. The 12% plan is on the other end of the extreme. It will be very painless for most units. It will be very drastic and could take six months to a year or longer to achieve. Enrollment numbers are better than was anticipated. Now that they have the plans, they will put together a Strategic Budget Realignment Initiative as an umbrella initiative. They have a small coordinating group to agile and can meet often. The group will work closely with the Budget Committee, Faculty Advisory Group, Employee Council, Strategic Planning, and several law groups. They will coordinate those meetings and communication. They will review the plans that will begin moving major accomplishments forward. They will come to us with suggestions and recommendations on the budget. They hope that by the end of the year that we will have decisions made and actions pertaining to the budget beginning to move.

Chancellor Arvizu stated that because of uncertain and unprecedented times all institutions are looking at their local conditions in both short and long term to develop a strategy on how to move forward. This is what leadership is about. To focus on what is the best way to provide a long-term sustainable future and to do it in a way that will allow us to grow, flourish, and be a catalyst for change and economic development in New Mexico. Also, to demonstrate that under extremely challenging conditions. They can still make progress that the residents of New Mexico can be proud of. The investment that the state has made in this institution and is ultimately a part of the solution. It happens because of the commitment and competent, dedicated, and passionate individuals doing their craft to the best of their ability. Anytime you make change there will be disruptions. There will in fact be people who will not agree with what is being developed and promoted. When the regions appointed me and John in this relationship to support the change at this institution, they had one thing in mind. They cannot continue to do the same things that they've always done and have a different outcome. They are trying to demonstrate that in this new model that they were pioneering that they are going to offer the opportunity demonstrate that by making this investment. To move in this direction with this model there will be a better outcome in the future. He is confident that we will be able to demonstrate that. He is proud to be part of the executive team. He is proud of the leadership and what they are doing. He is also proud of the responsiveness of the students, faculty, and staff approach that will serve us well for the long term. Gave floor back to Madam Chair.

#### **M. Announcements and Comments, *Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel***

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel commended everyone for their hard work and outreach. The mission of the Land Grant is academics, research, and extension. The economic development work that they're doing at the community emphasizes the importance of that extension role. She's pleased that extension, which has always had a responsibility and has done well with economic development over time, will have a partnership with Arrowhead. She's glad that the Ag Enterprise and The College of Aces are working with Arrowhead because she thinks that if at any point in our history that we need to step it up with our state and local communities, it's now. Our status needs that kind of leadership, education, information, and economic development. She commends everyone for that. She thanks President Floros for his presentation, in particularly the power of data. The university is doing well in mining that data. They're not able to address or change what they don't know. Data helps us determine that. She thanked President Floros for speaking on that.

Madam Chair commended Dr. Johnston on including wastewater testing in our testing protocol on campus. There are very few universities in the country doing this. There are some advantages that she would like Vice Chancellor Johnston to address regarding the purpose of wastewater testing and what they are able to determine from said testing.

Vice Chancellor Johnston asked that Chancellor Arvizu answer the question. Chancellor Arvizu invited Chairwoman and members of the Board to watch the more detailed discussion about testing next Tuesday in the Town Hall meeting. There have been several universities, University of Arizona being one of them, that were the first to demonstrate that wastewater testing is a great surveillance instrument to identify active COVID in the community. They were able to demonstrate that by doing that, they can interrogate a dorm or wherever they've tested to ensure that they get a full understanding of where that positive is occurring. Wastewater tests are very sensitive. There is a significant amount of viral loading in fecal matter. It is not a new technique for COVID and has been used for other infectious diseases. It's been tailored to identify COVID through PCR testing. With the governor's help we just got Thermo Fisher System which allows them to make those kinds of measurements. The Thermo Fisher System is going to be employed for that purpose on our campus. It is a sensitive test. It will not determine who or how many, but even if there is one positive in a dormitory or unit, it will detect it. It will be used as a surveillance mechanism. They have been approached by the governor's office and local city officials. He reported that he has also talked to the mayor. They will have a conversation with the city manager as well regarding how they might support some of their surveillance activities in places, such as daycare centers. When the schools re-open they will try to sponsor and support them in the interrogation process in possibly elementary schools. They've postponed face to face classes in the school system. They are very active in investigating this surveillance tool. It seems to be very promising and they'll have more details when we talk about this next Tuesday.

Regent Hicks reported that there has been an issue with broadband over the last three weeks. There have been several webinars hosted by Dallas Fed discussing about the status of New Mexico and that actual cost per mile, among other things. She would like to have a sideline conversation with the Chancellor about what NMSU is doing, unless the rest of the Board of Regents is interested in that as well. She would like to go more in depth. It is something that the Higher Education Regions Coalitions is looking at as well.

Chancellor Arvizu responded by stating that it is a topic that he has heard in many conversations, such as with Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales, the Majority Leader Senator Worth, the LFC Chair Patricia Lundstrom. In those conversations and with many others, such as with the DFA and the executive, everyone is talking about broadband. New Mexico is challenged in broadband and is probably one of the least mature in this country. It is a big investment. It is a priority in terms of legislative agenda items. He's not sure if there are many creative ideas coming forth yet. It is foremost on everyone's mind. They'll give you a briefing of what NMSU is doing and what they could potentially contribute as this topic unfolds. It will be a major component in the next legislative session and early next year.

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

Madam Chair asked for an update on "Guns Up" - Good News for NMSU from Regent Romero.

Regent Romero gave a "Guns Up" to some faculty and staff. They have been here every day since the pandemic started without waiver. They ensure that this campus in this community is safe and secure, day in and day out. He recognizes the Food Service Personnel who are here every day making sure that our students have a safe meal and that they are fed every single day. Even though there is a pandemic, they are here every

day to make sure that they are doing what they need to do to ensure that our students are ready to learn. He also gives a shout out to faculty around facilities and custodial staff. They are ensuring that our campus is safe, secure, and sanitized and in good working order every day. He thanks all the facilities and custodial staff. Lastly, he gave a shout out to their technology personnel. They are the ones keeping the lifeblood moving on the campus so that learning can continue in every class. Guns up to everyone.

Regent Hicks gave a Guns Up to the Board of Regents and to Adam. Adam has done a remarkable job in bringing himself up to speed with Zoom and making sure our Board of Regents meetings and calls go off without any glitches. She also gave a shout out to the Board for embracing technology and making sure that we have collaborative and appropriate meetings.

Regent Sanchez gave a Guns Up to everyone at NMSU during challenging times. He gave a special shout out to professors who are doing hybrid classes. As a student taking online classes that's discussion based and engaging, professors are going out of their way to accommodate students both in the online setting and face to face setting to provide the best education possible. Another shout out to Aggies Without Limits. They have done relief work in the community despite the COVID pandemic. They model what Aggie student leaders are and what they do for the community. They are starting a construction project this weekend on a bridge in Alamogordo for the community. They are putting their knowledge skills and knowledge from the classroom to use, as well as doing community work. They show what student leaders are and working in the community, despite the pandemic.

Regent Devasthali gave a Guns Up as well. She gave a Guns Up to the administrative leaders, especially to Provost Parker. She also gave a Guns Up to VPR for the work they have done in putting together a search committee for the Vice President of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity. She was impressed with the team that they put together, the process, and the transparency.

Madam Chair gave a Guns Up to the Albuquerque NMSU Learning Center that is located on CNM Campus. She thanked them for allowing her to use the location to conduct meetings.

President Floros gave a Guns Up to the faculty. They have put much effort into teaching, as well as the work that they have put in to transform classes into hybrid or completely online. He also gave kudos to faculty who have put much effort into creative activities and research. They received updated numbers that there will be an increase in grants and contracts due to this effort. It is a tremendous accomplishment during a year with a lot going on.

#### **N. Upcoming Board of Regents Meetings, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel announced the next regular Board Meeting will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. It will be determined if the meeting will be in person or online. If additional meetings are necessary, they will be scheduled.

##### **1. Proposed Dates:**

- **December 2, 2020** – Board of Regents Regular Meeting

#### **O. Adjournment, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

Regent Sanchez moved to adjourn with a second by Regent Hicks. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.

**Meeting Minutes Approved on December 2, 2020 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.**



Dina Chacón-Reitzel  
Board of Regents Chair



Luke Sanchez  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer