



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 21, 2020 at 8:30am**

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

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

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

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

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

**MINUTES**

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

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

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

In order to comply with the New Mexico Attorney General's guidance for virtual meetings being held as a result of restrictions related to the Coronavirus response, Regents Chief of Staff Adam Cavotta took roll of all Regents and University Officials. The following Regents and University Officials were present.

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

It was also noted that the additional NMSU staff were in attendance: Adam Cavotta, Mike Vaughn, Evan Conner, Becky Corran, Letty Gallegos, Renay Scott, Luis Cifuentes, Lisa Warren, Scott Eschenbrenner, Jeff Witte, Kathryn Hansen, Derek Dictson, Heather Watenpaugh, Gena Jones, and Alton Looney.

A quorum is confirmed.

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

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

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

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

**1. Emergency Meeting March 11, 2020**

Regent Devasthali moved to approve the Emergency meeting minutes for March 11, 2020 as presented, with a second by Regent Hicks. A roll call vote was taken.

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

**2. Regular Meeting March 9, 2020**

Regent Romero moved to approve the 1Regular Meeting minutes for March 9, 2020 as presented, with a second by Regent Sanchez. A roll call vote was taken.

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

**3. Regents Real Estate Committee Meeting February 27, 2020**

Regent Devasthali moved to approve the Regents Real Estate Committee Meeting minutes February 27, 2020 as presented, with a second by Regent Hicks. A roll call vote was taken.

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

#### **4. Special Meeting January 24, 2020**

Regent Sanchez moved to approve the Special meeting minutes January 24, 2020 as presented, with a second by Regent Devasthali. A roll call vote was taken.

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

### **C. Committee Reports**

#### **1. Updated Committee Assignments, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

A couple of updates to committee assignments were announced by the chair.

For the Regents Audit and Risk Committee, Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel announced the appointment of Dr. Mary Jo Billiot as the voting member for faculty from College of Business, Accounting & Information Systems Department. She will replace outgoing voting member Dr. Cindy Seipel. Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel thanked Dr. Seipel for her many years of service to the committee and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

Next, Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel announced a change to regent members for the Regents Student Success Committee. Regent Arsenio Romero will assume the role of chair of the Regents Student Success Committee and Regent Luke Sanchez will remain the other regent member. Regent Debra Hicks will be rolling off the committee. Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel thanked Regent Hicks for her service to this committee.

At this time, all other Regent committee membership will remain the same.

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

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted that the Regents Real Estate Committee met twice since the last committee report on December 5, 2019. The committee met on January 24, 2020 in Santa Fe and we voted to approve a lease on the DACC Espina campus which will be occupied by Ben Archer Health Centers. The Real Estate Committee also met on February 27, 2020 and discussed the feasibility of student housing at NMSU Carlsbad as an informational item and voted to recommend approval of the KRWG Tower Lease to Luna County that is item E-1 on the consent agenda.

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

Regent Devasthali noted that the New Mexico State University Regents Audit and Risk Committee met

Thursday, February 27, 2020 with a full agenda.

Dr. Andrew Burke SVP for Administration and Finance presented on the status of the Composite Financial Index. The current composite score is 2.55 which excludes unfunded pension liabilities and it places NMSU within the no reviews zone. In addition to the good score for 2019 NMSU's score has steadily increased over the last five years, which is very good news.

Norma Noel, NMSU Controller, provided an update of financial accounting rules which have potential impact for NMSU in 2020/2021. Some of these have already been adopted early by NMSU. Established report of audits conducted by external agencies during was provided including audits that were completed and are currently in process or awaiting a final report. The committee was reminded that this is the last year that KPMG will be NMSU's independent public accountant and external auditor. The 2021 audit is scheduled to be placed out for bid during this calendar year.

Katrina Doolittle, Executive Director for Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management provided an update on Enterprise Risk Management implementation and loss prevention and loss control activity. This included loss control initiatives, along with results reported to the state's risk management department.

Norma Grijalva, Chief Information Officer, John Roberts, Chief Information Security Officer and Carlos Lobato, Chief Privacy and IT compliance Officer, provided an overview and update about cybersecurity. The report also included an NMSU proactive and comprehensive approach to build awareness of IT security amongst students, staff and faculty.

The audit committee will meet again on May 27 when KPMG will conduct their annual entrance conference.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel asked Regent Devasthali how long KPMG has been the auditor, to which Regent Devasthali responded that it has been five years.

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

Regent Hicks noted that the Regents Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee met on Friday, February 28. There were several agenda items, with the first item being the budget introduction. The committee went through the strategic investments, as well as the student fee review and the next items for the agenda were discussing the strategic investments that were proposed in the 2019 budget process and what the status of each of those were. We then went on to discuss the legislative results. Funding mandates and the athletics debt with regard to the budget itself. Although it was an informal discussion, there was consensus with only the public (community) members that a tuition increase would be acceptable.

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

Regent Romero noted that he was excited to be part of the committee moving forward, noting the importance of the committee to the students of NMSU. Regent Romero asked Regent Sanchez to make some comments about the future directions. Regent Sanchez noted that it was an honor and privilege to be chair of the committee over the past year and is looking forward to working with Regent Romero on the committee moving forward.

### **D. Recurring Reports**

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

Chair Corran noted that she submitted her report in advance and stood for questions. No questions were asked regarding the report.

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

President Conner noted that ASNMSU, as a result of the Coronavirus response, had to suspend most operations. ASNMSU has been working very closely with the Dean of Students Office to provide programming via social media for the students to maintain their engagement levels and feel like they're still a part of the community, even though they might be outside of the state outside of Las Cruces, or even outside of the country. Last week we held the ASNMSU elections where a new president and vice president were elected. President Conner announced that Matthew Madrid will be the incoming ASNMSU president and Tiffany Florists will be the incoming ASNMSU Vice President.

In February, the student fee review board met and conducted its preliminary recommendation to the President and Chancellor and we had meetings communicating those recommendations.

Regent Hicks asked regarding a question ASNMSU asked about previously regarding student fee use. President Conner provided some context and indicated a review of student fee proposals from previous years revealed bonds repayments were made using student fee funds and he asked the Chancellor and President to provide details and subsequently meetings were held about the topic and information was received regarding the matter from the Chancellor and President.

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

Chair Gallegos noted that Employee Council Executive team wanted to express appreciation for all of the employees who are working through the pandemic, particularly those that remain on campus, including staff in Facilities and Services, such as those custodians that have been sanitizing buildings, the Aggie Health and Wellness Center, Aggie Cupboard, employees in Taos Cafeteria, Resident's life, and dining services, first-responders and all essential employees. Chair Gallegos also thanked ICT academic technology for helping faculty move their classes online and to the many student employees who have gone above and beyond for their units, noting that students should not forget to put this experience in their resumes. Chair Gallegos further thanked the administration for their leadership through pandemic response, specifically noting weekly town hall meetings conducted by President Floros to help keep the university community informed and promoting kindness during this challenging time.

Regent Romero commented that he wanted to thank everyone at NMSU for what they have done, including Facilities, first-responders, IT staff, and all faculty and staff for making transition to online learning. Regent Romero also thanked the Chancellor and President for their leadership.

**4. RESERVED**

**5. NMSU Foundation Report, *Vice President Derek Dictson***

Regent Sanchez asked about the submitted written report from NMSU Foundation/Advancement and wanted some additional details about money raised to help students through the pandemic, noting specific questions about eligibility for funds.

Vice President Dictson indicated that they are working with the rest of administration on distribution of the funds and they are considering sending a regular report to each of the areas that can distribute the funds, ultimately with the Foundation wanting to hear back from the departments so they can share stories of how funds were used by the students.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel asked about the comprehensive review referenced in the report, specifically about the staffing component, when it would be complete and what the process includes. Vice President Dictson indicated that they are currently going through an internal review of current staffing and that should be complete in about a month. A national review is being conducted currently and the staff have completed a

survey that will be returned by the end of April. This data will be compared to a 10-university cohort that the university benchmarks against. This should be available by May.

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

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

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted that she has joined Secretary Witte on conference calls for the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and the entire Ag community who are working toward keeping the supply chain operating and thanked Secretary Witte for his leadership.

Secretary Witte noted that facilitated the delivery of several hundred thousand pounds of food to different tribes, nations, and pueblos that that are at ground zero for the COVID-19 virus outbreak right now.

NMDA is doing what they can to make sure commerce is open and agricultural is being addressed. NMDA is on constant calls with USDA over some of their programs. About every three days or every other day NMDA coordinates calls with the EOC, and NMDA has staff in the EOC. Secretary Witte further noted "I've got a bunch of heroes working for me. So thank you for recognizing that and we're here when you need us."

**E. Consent Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

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

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

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel Yes

Motion passed.

**1. KRWG Tower Lease Renewal – County of Luna, Special Assistant to the President Scott Eschenbrenner**

**2. Las Cruces: 250,000 Gallon Water Tank Replacement (Revised), University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**

**3. Amendment to Collective Bargaining Agreement between NMSU and AFSCME Local 2392, Article 12, Sections 2B, Associate Vice President Gena Jones**

**F. Action Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel**

**1. Tuition and Fee Rates & Budget Guidelines for FY2020-2021, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke**

Vice President Burke noted that given the state appropriations were approved ahead of the pandemic and subsequent economic consequences, the presentation of sources and uses was based on what was known at the time and may be subject to reconsideration going forward as more information comes forward.

Vice President Burke noted the budget approval process, which includes goals to balance Instruction and General sources and uses for each of the campuses and community colleges. This includes sources and uses and tuition recommendations for the community colleges. Also, when the budget is brought forward to the

board for approval in May it will include state of appropriations and other revenue for all functions of the university, including research public service, and student aid, auxiliaries, athletics, and the Mexico Department of Agriculture. What is being sought is to have the board make a recommendation and have approved a tuition fee increase. This year staff are asking the board to approve a dollar amount for compensation, student fees, strategic investments, and a compensation plan as required by House Bill 2 and there is also language in House Bill 2 requiring NMSU to balance the athletics budget, which we will be brought forward to the board in May. Auxiliary rates are either approved by the board through fiscal year 2021 for housing or are contractually obligated, as in the case of dining and staff are not planning to bring any increase in parking rates to the board for next fiscal year.

A summary of sources and uses was presented and an overview of the previous year budget approval, which included a 6% tuition increase. This left a \$3.9 million budget shortfall. A presentation of student fees and the functions and units that are funded by the student fees, including health services, special events, and some ICT functions was presented, noting that a 4% increase is being requested for student fees.

Cost comparison data comparing NMSU to other regional and peer universities showed New Mexico state are inline with the balance of the state, with tuition and fees being a little lower in some cases and a little higher in other cases.

A 2.3 % average increase in tuition was noted over the past seven years. There was also some analysis data presented about the cost of the scholarship programs.

President Floros, took the floor and referenced a chart which detailed the tuition and fees and average aid for the past ten years, noting that average aid is greater than the tuition and fees for each year. Additional data was presented which provided details about the average aid received by students based on income level. It was noted that the data continued to show that average aid outpaced tuition and fees each year for the past ten years.

Additional comparison data was presented by President Floros, depicting net price comparisons across different New Mexico universities subdivided into charts for different levels of income. It was noted that NMSU is the most or second most affordable of all other universities in the state, considering also NSMU is a research university and also has extension and outreach activities that it is responsible for performing, in addition to teaching.

Vice President Burke continued and presented a summary of budget considerations was presented which detailed compensation expenditures, scholarship investments, outstanding budget shortfall, and strategic investments equally a total budget need of \$4.8 million dollars, which was less new money from state appropriations for the previous legislative session.

A chart comparing different tuition increase levels of 0,3,4,5, and 5.5 percent was displayed and discussed.

Vice President Burke presented another chart as it is required to forward a compensation plan through HED and ultimately DFA to authorize our state appropriation for July. The plan was drafted assuming the \$5.3 million in appropriations is available and it would be providing a 4% salary increase for faculty and staff who earn \$50,000 and less and a 3% increase for faculty and staff who earn over \$50,000, including and a 1.5% COLA and a 1.5% merit increase. Executives including the Chancellor, President, Provost, Vice Chancellor and Vice Presidents would receive 0% increase. This is the plan that would go forward for approval with our budget.

Vice President Burke also presented each of the community college sources and uses documents that included tuition and fee rate proposals.

Chancellor Arvizu took the floor and noted that the budget process is weighing heavily on everyone's minds. Chancellor Arvizu noted that the meeting today was postponed in an attempt to get better information, but

there is still a lack of information that might help inform the State of New Mexico budget projections. NMSU is operating under the previous appropriations bill, which is assumed to change this summer. Chancellor Arvizu noted having conversations with Senator Smith, Senator Neville, DFA, HED, and the Council of University Presidents (CUP) seeking guidance about the budget. It was noted that in addition to the public health crisis, the oil and gas market is seeing lower prices for a barrel of oil due to various global factors. The expectation is that the deficit will continue to grow and there are anticipated significant budget adjustments at the state level and the financial picture has a negative outlook. It is unlikely that new funding for compensation increases will be maintained. While reserves could be used, it is uncertain how the legislature will choose to make adjustments. Also, I & G appropriations from the funding formula are unlikely to be maintained. If there is an appropriation for compensation, then NMSU must use those funds for compensation and this is reflected in the NMSU budget proposal. Given all of the assumptions and uncertainty, the recommendation is for at least a 5% tuition increase.

President Floros took the floor and noted that it was important to plan for the worst case and we hope for the best. It was noted that the amount of a 3% tuition increase would not cover the amount of money that would be paid out to students as aid in institutional funds. If nothing else changed, there would still be a need to handle the budget deficit, which was a residual from the budget process from last year in order to moderate the need for tuition increases over a single year.

Vice President Burke noted that the staff have concluded their presentation and he asked the board to consider the 5% tuition increase proposal for NMSU Las Cruces, 0% tuition increase for all the Community Colleges and the budget guidelines as presented.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel noted that the staff made clear that NMSU is the best value. Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel went on to ask the Chancellor about the status of the federal relief funds for COVID-19.

Chancellor Arvizu responded that NMSU has several different types of money that the federal stimulus packages have provided and the lion's share of it for higher ed comes from the CARES Act. Roughly \$14 billion at the federal level. And what that was after it was translated to at the institutional level is about \$14 million to the New Mexico State University system. Fifty percent of that is required to go directly to students. NMSU is close to or has received the funds and it will be distributed to students quickly. Seven million will be allocated directly to students and the other \$7 million that's not yet arrived. There are a few odds and ends of other funds that will be coming in as well, but 14 million is what NMSU can expect university system wide. Expenses that NMSU has been accruing as a consequence of the COVID-19 response, both the online expenses, such as moving to an online curriculum, as well as making sure that NMSU employees and staff and students are safe and the extra expenses that we've spent, both as an institution and students on their own are what that stimulus package is intended to fund. NMSU already knows that even at \$14 million is not enough to cover all of the expenses that are accruing and we're continuing to spend money that we did not anticipate, both what the students are spending plus what the institution is spending. One of the major expenses is to refund students that have paid for either dining or for dorms that they have not been used. That's money that is being spent that needs to be recovered in some way. The refunds are something on the order of \$3 million. The stimulus money will help with expenses that were not anticipated from our various budgets on the various campuses. The funding is going to be inadequate to fill the gaps that that NMSU has added through additional spending.

There are much smaller amounts of funding distributed to the Governor and HED that they can distribute. NMSU expects to get additional money and then maybe a forth stimulus package can help overcome some of the expenses, on the research side as well as agricultural extension, and other expenses that the administration has had to incur just to make the transitions. The stimulus packages are extremely helpful. They're not enough relative to the budget of the institution and there are still are going to be some additional gaps in both FY 20 as well as FYI 21 that need to be covered in some way. It is not yet clear how that will be done, but much of that conversation has not yet taken place internally, because we simply don't have the

numbers yet.

President Floros took the floor and noted that there is a process to distribute the \$7 million of funding to the students who have proven need. About half of the other \$7 million will be going to refunds for room and board. Additional costs include extra sanitization.

Vice President Burke took the floor and reiterated what the Chancellor and President noted, adding that there is not much guidance about how the institution can be reimbursed for the intuitional share of the funding. This is a common issue among all higher education institutions as they look for clarity about how to use the funding. Vice President Burke noted that there seems to be some mention of an expectation that the institution continue keep faculty and staff employed through the process in order to receive the funding.

Regent Devasthali commented that there is not enough information to make a decision and noted the state appropriation of \$2.3 million and the \$5.3 million are uncertain and may be unlikely. It is assumed that the revenue projection will yield a certain dollar amount. How do we know that there will not be a drop in enrollment? Regent Devasthali further noted that as one looks at the situation for how the students are going to pay for the increase, particularly in a climate of job losses and economic downturn, how can we be sure about how that will affect their decision to enroll?

President Floros noted that tuition in one matter and the enrollment is another matter. There was hope that NMSU would be coming in at 2 – 3 % increase in enrollment, before the pandemic, further noting that even now the numbers are looking up, but the numbers do not reflect the effects of the crisis. There is no model that can predict this unprecedented situation and the decision to go forward with the 0% increase project was safe, but not conservative. In was also noted that students that come to NMSU receive support for tuition and that “we pay them” giving students more than tuition and fees based on the federal, state, and other support that NMSU provides. If students don’t have to pay dormitory and food, they will make money. While not true for all students, it is true for a majority of students. This is the way NMSU has operated for the last 10 – 12 years and NMSU will continue to operate that way. President Floros emphasized that, in general, students receive more aid than the cost of their tuition and fees.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel asked President Floros if there is a gauge of enrollments for the summer sessions, which she stated would be online. President Floros noted that summer sessions will be online and noted that Vice President Scott will present information about summer enrollment later in the meeting.

Chancellor Arvizu noted some information about student loans for incoming freshmen, including comparisons to other institutions. NMSU average student loan for a freshman is \$1,734, compared to Northern at \$2,500, New Mexico Tech, New Mexico Highlands, and Eastern New Mexico is at \$5,000 and UNM and Wester New Mexico are at \$6,000. For average institutional aid for freshmen, NMSU provides \$8,800 in average aid and the only other institution are Western New Mexico at about \$7,000, New Mexico Highlands at about \$3,500, UNM is about \$3,000, Northern New Mexico is \$1,700 and Eastern is less than \$1,000. Chancellor Arvizu closed by say that NMSU provides a “high quality education at the lowest cost in our region. I think that is really what we're after, and hopefully we've got statistics to validate that. That is in fact the case.”

Regent Sanchez discussed net price from a student perspective and noted it was a compelling argument and he personally receives aid and has benefited from it. Regent Sanchez shared that he doesn’t believe that students know about net price. The students will hear about the tuition increase and they won’t hear about net price and this should be shared with the students so that they understand what tuition increases go toward funding.

Regent Hicks asked for clarification on the average aid and if that included freshmen that live in the dorms (and must do so). Chancellor Arvizu noted that it was the average aid whether or not they live in the dorms. Also, Regent Hicks asked if the average of \$1,734 student loan included students that live in the dorms and Chancellor Arvizu responded that it is for all students, whether or not they live in the dorms. There was

technical difficulty and the Chancellor dropped off the Webinar. President Floros continued to state that these averages are across all students and also responded the Regent Sanchez regarding promotion of net price to students and noted that this was not done in the past. It is the intent that students and prospects would understand net price going forward so they can make comparisons based on the choices they can make for colleges.

Regent Hicks asked for a recap of the strategic investments before acting on the matter. President Floros noted that \$2.4 million of which \$1.2 million went to student success to work with an outside company on recruitment, retention and planning for the future. This includes software, consulting support and other services. President Floros discussed the acquisition of services that helped to engage middle school students and noted an increased interest from Florida prospective students as examples of how strategic investments have been helping the enrollment and recruitment for NMSU. Research incentives from including start-up packages and other research expenditures totally \$500,000 were not expended and only \$100,000 was used due to anticipated budget shortfalls. Another \$350,000 was allocated for chief diversity officer and it was delayed due to budget issues and \$150,000 was made in software and faculty. This includes Zoom, which was purchased before the crisis started.

Regent Romero was interested in what students know about net tuition and noted that part of his job as a superintendent is to make sure high school students are prepared for a career or college. Regent Romero asked how do students know that NMSU is the best deal for and what do guidance counselors know about this metric? Also, how do students know about if they meet the requirements, such as standardized test scores and credits? Also, what types of aid are part of the net price and are these forms of aid in jeopardy as a result of potential changes? What are the details for ERB and benefits so that faculty and staff won't make less money next year? In other words, what is the minimum increase that would be needed to offset costs of increased retirement and benefits contributions?

President Floros responded that NMSU is working with high schools and counselors to talk about the benefits on an NMSU education. At this time, because of the pandemic, only GPA is being used and the SAT and ACT is not being used. In some cases there are NMSU specific test being used. There is an effort to reduce these hurdles. With respect to future aid being available, NMSU will honor the commitments that has made to students and only changes to academic performance thresholds have been changed. Regarding compensation, Vice President Burke responded in summary that benefits are federal or ERB. There is nothing known at this time that ERB is increasing. For health insurance, NMSU is on the state's plan and there is normally about a 5% increase on premiums which is about \$100 per year range.

Chacón-Reitzel asked about students on Federal Pell Grants and if those grants will be increased or decreased? President Floros noted that there has been no information about decreases, but it's not known what the Federal government will do. Regarding benefits, it might be about 3% based on what is being discussed at this time. President Floros also noted that summer session numbers are going to be very preliminary because registration just opened.

Chancellor Arvizu addressed Regent Romero's question about compensation and he said DFA had calculated that a 1% - 1.5% increase in compensation would make up for any increase in benefits and deductions.

Regent Devasthali had been dropped from the call and the meeting paused until she could rejoin.

President Floros repeated some information about the Pell Grants that Regent Devasthali missed, indicating there was no information that the Federal government will cut Pell Grants, but the outcome is not known.

Regent Sanchez shared his thoughts and what he has heard from other students about the prospects of a tuition increase, indicating that students believe that NMSU is a good value. At the same time, there is concern about whether or not classes would continue online.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel commented that she shares the concern about how instruction will be delivered

and noted the overall uncertainty that surrounds the fiscal situation in the state, citing unemployment as a major concern. There was then concern raised about what students and families can afford for college.

Chancellor Arvizu noted that he shared the chair's concerns and that the lack of clarity about what will happen going forward makes it difficult to make a prudent decision. Chancellor Arvizu noted that the total cost of attendance is the metric the administration is focusing on with respect to considering the student's perspective. In order to meet the mission and expectations, there should be sound financial platform to stand on, and since the state's funding of higher education is unknown, NMSU may need to do what other states have done through furloughs and reduction of the workforce as this is the only available method to balance the budgets if new revenue cannot be achieved.

Regent Hicks asked Chancellor Arvizu about his conversations with the CUP. Chancellor Arvizu indicated that the other New Mexico institutions were planning an increase to tuition and some have already done so.

President Floros noted that other institutions charge different tuition rates and it is sometime difficult to judge. Also, he noted that the plans are to open classes up as face-to-face for fall semester, although different in some ways and NMSU would need to respond to changing circumstances as needed. President Floros reiterated that nearly 3.5% of tuition increases would go back to students in aid packages and if tuition was not increased by at least that amount, then the institution may not be able to distribute the same amount of aid as was planned.

ASNMSU President Evan Conner noted regarding the student fee increase request that there are many areas that support students funded through this student fee. The benefit of the funding is that it also employs students and the minimum wage increase has made it necessary to increase fees to maintain the level of quality, which he indicated has significantly increased during the time he has been a student at NMSU. President Conner cautioned against changing direction too quickly and endorsed a 3% tuition increase, based primarily on the uncertainty of what will happen in the future. President Conner also noted that a recent poll indicated that students valued most their training in their area of study, resources that were provided, and the quality of their education. It is important to maintain the expectations of students and it would be detrimental to reduce the capabilities of the university in delivering services.

President Floros announced the summer enrollment numbers, at 50 days before summer census in 2019, NMSU is 1.9% less in headcount and 1.5% higher for student credit hours. For fall semester the enrollment is minus 20% in headcount and minus 18% in student credit hours, although fall is still far away.

Regent Sanchez proposed a 3% tuition increase. Regent Hicks seconded the motion.

Regent Devasthali noted that she was not prepared to vote for a tuition increase, but she was compelled by the points made by ASNMSU President Conner and student regent Sanchez. Regent Devasthali noted the reduction in oil and gas revenues and noted anticipated cuts in the state budget. Regent Devasthali indicated that the best that can be done is to protect the most vulnerable segments of the Aggie family and would support a 3% increase because the students support it.

The motion was clarified as a 3% tuition increase for NMSU Las Cruces.

Chancellor Arvizu noted that if the motion on the floor passes that there would be a \$2.6 million deficit and if the legislature removes new money appropriated in the previous legislative session the deficit could increase to \$5 million. This level of deficit would most certainly require layoffs. Chancellor Arvizu further noted that once the tuition is set it cannot be changed.

President Floros noted that the administration also had to struggle with a lack of information when putting together the budget proposal. President Floros noted that nobody wants to raise tuition and everyone wants to preserve and increase educational quality. President Floros reiterated that once the tuition is set, it cannot be changed.

Regent Hicks noted that a special meeting can be called once the legislature meets in special session and the board can make adjustments to the budget, including Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) throughout the year. Regent Hicks agreed that once the tuition decision is made it cannot be change.

Regent Sanchez clarified his motion to include and a 3% increase for NMSU Las Cruces, a 0% tuition increase for the community colleges, and approval of the budget guidance as presented.

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

Regent Romero Yes

Regent Hicks Yes

Regent Sanchez Yes

Regent Devasthali Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel No

Motion passed.

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

**1. Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period November 13, 2019 through March 12, 2020** *General Counsel Roy Collins, III*

General Counsel Collins provided the informational report in writing in advance of the meeting and was included in the regents' binder. The board had no questions for General Counsel.

**2. Chancellor's Report, Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu**

Chancellor Arvizu started by thanking the campus community for how they responded to the crisis and particularly thanked executive leadership and how they rose to the occasion and managed through the crisis to transition into an online learning approach and everything that goes along with that move. Chancellor Arvizu also thanked the state delegation, Legislative Finance Committee, Cabinet Secretaries, Legislators and, County Manager, City of Las Cruces leadership and other universities in the community in New Mexico and in Texas. The system has risen to the challenges. There are heroes all across the NSMU system.

Chancellor Arvizu noted that the number one principle is the safety on the students, faculty and staff. The second major principle was that students would be able to continue to make academic progress. The mission has not changed. The third principle is to capture the lessons learned in the transition and in the face of this crisis there were many changes have been made that will be helpful going forward. This was done based on the work of many that stepped up and carefully and methodically put the changes into action.

Chancellor Arvizu also noted the kindness of he has seen all around campus and the way that NMSU students, faculty and staff have stepped up to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and how talks are underway to build capacity at NMSU as a testing facility. NMSU has many people and capabilities to help the state respond to the crisis.

**3. President's Report, President John D. Floros**

President Floros praised the faculty, staff and students at NMSU for their work over the past month during the crisis.

President Floros reviewed the activities of the last month, including the decision to go on spring break early

and later closing the campus to most everyone except essential employees and students that had no other place to stay. Buildings at that time were locked down with access cards and remain that way today and can be changed quickly as needed.

Communication about the response to the crisis included Town Hall meetings on a weekly basis and the meetings continue.

On March 30 classes went online and the transition occurred, and everything went better than expected. Students still living on campus had access to take-out meals and Aggie Cupboard continued their work to provide food for students, faculty and staff that experienced food insecurity.

A virtual commencement is being planned and summer classes will be online. Room and board will be refunded to students, which is about \$3.5 million.

Aid from CARES Act for students of about \$7 million and a process is in place to deliver the money to students. Classes will resume in the fall as face-to-face classes. The classes may be conducted with less students in class and other measures to keep students, faculty and staff safe.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel asked about how the CARES Act funding and how it will be distributed. President Floros responded that NMSU is going to respond in line with Federal government guidance and will distribute aid based on need as determined by expected family contribution. Some funds will be reserved for other special needs. Students will complete a short form in order to receive the funds that provides some information about what needs the students have that the money can be used to address.

#### **4. Provost's Report, Provost Carol Parker**

Provost Parker recognized the important role of the NMSU LEADS strategic plan as being import in advance of the pandemic. In implementation of online conversion, the Provost recognized the work of Academic Technologies and ICT who achieved something ex acknowledge the work of the staff in the Academic Technologies division which manages our virtual instruction in our online environment and also the staff of ICT as those two units achieved something extraordinary to be able to facilitate thousands of faculty suddenly moving their courses into a virtual environment and in many cases where they have never done that before.

The registrar reported that 2365 courses were converted from face to face to virtual in the span of less than two weeks and when classes resumed. Crisis management strategies are underway, and the deans and the department heads did an amazing job of troubleshooting and addressing individual concerns that were coming forward from the faculty or attempting to accomplish this. The Provost also commended the students, faculty and staff for their work through the transition.

Work toward ensuring quality delivery at all times is the focus and in the coming weeks and months work will continue to determine how to open our face to face class environment.

There will be a number of strategies that we have to take both physically and pedagogically. Provost Parker expressed confidence that NMSU will be able to resume our on-campus work and barring any other unforeseen emergency that he evolved between now and then.

Regent Hicks applauded the efforts of the administrations, faculty, and staff to transition to online instruction. Regent Hicks also asked how many people are on campus, including students, faculty and staff. President Floros responded that there are 750 students in the dormitories and other students come in to use the computer labs periodically. Limited numbers of graduate students have returned to labs to continue research. In general, everyone stays home unless they are essential employees, such as employees in the campus health center, and about half of the Facilities and Services staff.

Vice President Scott responded to some earlier questions regarding registration and enrollment. Registration started one week ago, and all services are being conducted online. Student appointments are higher than the number of students registering. This year, registration opened a couple weeks later compared to last year and are expected to increase. Vice President Scott speculated that a number of students are waiting to register for the fall, more information about whether or not the classes will be online or will be in person in the fall. Our student body in general is recruited in design for a brick and mortar delivery of education that tends to be their preference. Those that prefer the online delivery are already part of NMSU Online.

The heavy time for recruiting individuals is in the fall and NMSU is recruiting students in high school as early as 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, grade and we continue to do those activities. So we have plenty of time for messaging.

Vice President Scott further noted that Strategic investments around enrollment last year have really paid off and may have helped us prepare for a moment than we never anticipated. This has helped recruiting, not only in New Mexico but also in other parts of the United States. A really robust communication plan has paid off, noting that year over year NMSU is up 12% in applications and up 21.5% in students accepted and an increase in 10% in the number of students who've already registered for orientation as well as being up 384% in the number of students who've registered for orientation and have already paid. Transfer numbers are down slightly, and NMSU work with transfer students primarily at community colleges and with those being closed we are trying to figure out how best to reach them.

Vice President Scott further noted that, initially, international student applications were up 100%. NMSU has been in touch consistently with international prospective students and it was noted that they really want to come, but federal government has suspended all immigration to the United States in response to the crisis. As we move closer to the fall, everyone so far that we've talked to have indicated that if they can't come in the fall, they still want to come in the spring term. We'll continue to build those relationships.

Vice President Scott continued noting that recruiting has moved online, and a virtual tour of the university is available to those who can't come and visit.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel noted that she attended recruitment events in Albuquerque and thanked Vice President Scott for the work of her team that put on the event.

Regent Sanchez asked about admission requirements and whether they have changed for the graduate school. Vice President Scott noted that for NMSU the standardized test have been optional for some time and also noted that Graduate criteria for admission varies by program. Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Cifuentes responded that there are many requirements and a significant number of programs have waived the requirement temporality due to inability to take the GRE.

Regent Hicks noted the use of temperature-detecting cameras in Albuquerque and Chancellor Arvizu responded that he has also looked into the technology that Electronic CareGiver supplies.

Vice President and Dean Cifuentes reported that, as of the third quarter, targeted awards for FYI 20 are about 90%, which is good and on the other hand, in terms of requested funds, are about 60% and that's not unexpected because there have been significant delays in the agencies taking requests for new awards. To handle the stay at home order NMSU has developed a method for accepting exceptions on research and over 60 requests have been received. The majority are coming primarily to maintain research animals and field work and from the biology department. Coordination with the Deans and department heads and environmental health and safety and facilities is being done to ensure that the protocols are being followed.

We're looking for plans for research on campus, such as monitoring temperature, preparing for the stimulus funds in phase four and white papers have been requested from faculty of staff and over 30 white papers have been submitted and we're going to share that with our federal relations consultants Louis Burke and our

congressional delegation. In addition, NMSU developed an even more condensed version that will be sent to Blue Cross Blue Shield that are focusing on our health related proposals. The Vice President for Research is also talking to people around the state to see if we can do something in supportive improving connectivity in rural areas, particularly tribal lands.

On the Graduate School side our fall applications are up about 23%, but international students make up about half that increase and they're not going to be here next fall. In response, with approval of the deans and the college's they're going to put graduate programs with high international enrollment online so that students can get started on those programs with the hopes that they will be here in spring of 2020. It's fortunate that we took on the EAB adult learner recruitment initiative we hope that that will make up for some of the losses in international enrollment. Just two weeks ago 38,000 prospective students were targeted by that initiative and we're looking to see how that response comes back. There are also opportunities as some schools close and their graduate students will be looking to continue their studies.

Vice President and Dean Cifuentes announced that the New Mexico board of finance today just passed our newest professional master's program and that's going to be a very popular program.

COVID-19 has reenergized concerns about stipend levels, tuition, and cost of health care for our graduate students that was made clear by ASNMSU resolution 33 that called upon our administration to consider increasing benefits for graduate students. Vice President and Dean Cifuentes meets with graduate students monthly and did so this month virtually and they expressed the same concern. Vice President and Dean Cifuentes is requesting, if available, that NMSU include a 4% raise for our Graduate Assistants and that NMSU aggressively identify sources of tuition support. Vice Chancellor Ruth Johnston and Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Luis Vasquez are chairing a graduate student health care taskforce about how to address that concern.

Vice President and Dean Cifuentes commended the graduate school for their hard work during the crisis and that of the graduate faculty for helping students on track for completing their studies.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel ask for more details about EAB. Vice President and Dean Cifuentes responded that the initiative is intended to recruit adult learners that are changing jobs or are seeking career advancement. EAB helps NMSU to recruit targeted adult learners for NMSU graduate programs both online and face-to-face.

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

##### 1. **“Gun’s Up” – Good News for NMSU!**

Regent Romero praised the faculty and staff for their efforts during the response to the pandemic, including Facilities and First-responders.

Regent Devasthali recognized Meg Long of the NMSU Aggie Cupboard for her hard work during the pandemic to manage to Aggie Cupboard to keep serving the community.

Regent Sanchez recognized students that were leading projects to help the pandemic response by making face shields and hand sanitizer, both in the Aggie Innovation Space and the Chemistry Department. Regent Sanchez also recognized Aggie Cupboard for their continued support of the NMSU community through this crisis. Chancellor Arvizu recognized faculty and staff but also highlighted the virtual transfer of a \$400,000 donation from the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) for scholarships for NMSU students on the pathway to attend school at BCOM.

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel thanked the NMSU Albuquerque Center for making their facility available to attend these zoom meetings. Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel also thanked the New Mexico Cooperative Extension offices in the Agricultural Experiments Stations throughout the state and all the counties for making their offices ready to assist students with the internet access so our students and other students across the state can have access and continue their studies.

ASNMSU President Evan Conner thanked ICT for their efforts to provide a seamless transition to Zoom for students and faculty to take classes online as well as WiFi access on campus.

Vice President Dictson thanked the 276 donors and friends of NMSU who have donated \$51,000 toward emergency funds.

Regent Hicks praised ASNMSU for preparing for the tuition fees and budget responses for the NMSU Board of Regents. The analysis provided great detail and they were very diligent in their efforts to make sure that the board was addressing the students concerns.

Regent Hicks requested additional budget information for the tank replacement related to the budget differences. Interim Associate Vice President for Facilities and Services Alton Looney responded that he would provide that information.

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

Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel announced the next meeting date on May 14, 2020 and noted other dates on the upcoming Board of Regents calendar.

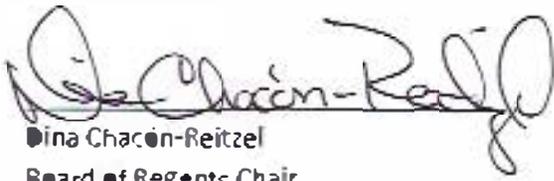
**1. Proposed Dates (all meetings to take place at NMSU Las Cruces campus unless otherwise specified):**

- **May 14, 2020** – Board of Regents Regular Meeting
- **May 27, 2020 at 10 AM** – Regents Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- **June 10, 2020 at 1:30 PM** – Arrowhead Center Board of Directors Meeting
- **June 25, 2020 at 10 AM** - Regents Real Estate Committee Meeting
- **June 25, 2020 at 2 PM** - Regents Financial Strategies, Performance, and Budget Committee
- **August 26, 2020 at 10 AM** - Regents Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- **August 26, 2020 at 2 PM** - Regents Financial Strategies, Performance, and Budget Committee
- **September 11, 2020** – Board of Regents Regular Meeting in Alamogordo
- **September 11, 2020** – Board of Regents meeting with NMSU Alamogordo Advisory Board in Alamogordo
- **October 22, 2020 – October 23, 2020** – Board of Regents Retreat
- **October 28, 2020 at 10 AM** - Regents Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- **October 28, 2020 at 2 PM** - Regents Financial Strategies, Performance, and Budget Committee
- **December 2, 2020** – Board of Regents Regular Meeting (Previously December 10, 2020)

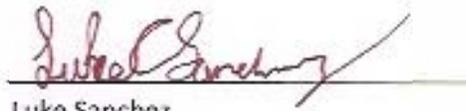
Before adjournment, President Floros thanked the Regents for making a difficult decision today regarding tuition and noted the difference between a 3% increase in a 5.5%, which was requested, is less than \$100 per student per semester.

**J. Adjournment, *Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel***

Regent Devasthali moved and Regent Sanchez seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM.



Dina Chacón-Reitzel  
Board of Regents Chair



Luke Sanchez  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer