



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF
REGENTS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2021 at 2:00pm**

Regents of New Mexico State University

Chair Dina Chacón-Reitzel, Vice Chair Ammu Devasthali, Arsenio Romero, Neal Bitsie, Christopher T. Saucedo

Non-Voting Advisory Members - ASNMSU President Mathew Madrid, Faculty Senate Chair Julia Parra, Employee Council Chair Joseph Almaguer

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

A. Call to Order, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel called the meeting to order at 2:22pm

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel welcomed and introduced Dzaki Sukarno to sing the United States National Anthem. Dzaki became an overnight singing sensation after appearing on American Idol. The 20 year old Las Cruces native is an up and coming country singer who landed an audition on the popular reality TV competition and earned a golden ticket to advance to the Hollywood round after belting a cover of Kane Brown's "Good As You" before the panel of celebrity judges. Americans may just be starting to get to know Dzaki, but he is no stranger here at NMSU, where he is majoring in Agricultural Business and serves on the university's Air Force ROTC.

Dzaki stated that he was appreciative to be there and for their support. Dzaki stated that it was an honor to sing the National Anthem for them.

1. Introductions

Introduction of Regent Neal Bitsie, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel introduced the new Regent, Neil Bitsie. Regent Bitsie is a fourth year student at NMSU pursuing a Bachelor of Science and Engineering Physics with a supplemental major in Applied Mathematics and a minor in Aerospace Engineering. Regent Bitsie expects to graduate from NMSU in 2022. During his time at NMSU, Regent Bitsie has served as the Chief Elections Officer for ASNMSU and helped implement ASNMSU's first fully online election. Regent Bitsie also served as ASNMSU Supreme Court Associate Justice. Regent Bitsie is an active member of Sigma Phi Fraternity, Atomic Aggies, ASNMSU Rotar Rak Club, ASNMSU Engineering Student Council, Aggies Without Limits, Hall Council, and other campus clubs and organizations. Regent Bitsie participated in the Rotar Rak Club's Spring 2019 Guadalupe Mexico Orphanage Project. In 2017 Regent Bitsie earned the Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America. That same year he was recognized for his efforts to improve the lives of shelter animals and was part of a project that built over 100 dog beds, increased adoption rates by 10%, and improve water quality of several shelters. Regent Bitsie is the 15th person in his family to attend NMSU. Regent Bitsie encourages all Aggies to become involved in the NMSU community and is ready to support any student through their collegiate career. Regent Bitsie passionately believes that far and away the best price that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work

worth doing. Throughout his role as Student Regent, he will contribute to the continuation of excellence at NMSU.

Introduction of Regent Christopher T. Saucedo, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel introduced the new Regent, Chris Saucedo. Regent Saucedo grew up in Dona Ana county and graduated from Gadsen High School. Regent Saucedo earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from NMSU. Regent Saucedo obtained a law degree from University of New Mexico School of Law and practices law throughout New Mexico and West Texas, specializing in commercial litigation, employment law and complex civil litigation. Regent Saucedo was previously appointed an NMSU Regent in 2018. In addition to the NMSU Board of Regents, Regent Saucedo serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Cultural Center, a Center dedicated to the preservation, promotion and advancement of Hispanic culture arts and humanities. Regent Saucedo considers election law to be his professional hobby and serves as Chairman of the Standing Committee on election law for the American Bar Association. Regent Saucedo is a past President of the Albuquerque Bar Association and a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association.

Introduction of Employee Council Chair Joseph Almaguer, Chancellor Dan Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu introduced the new member that is head of their NMSU Employee Council, Mr. Joseph Almaguer. Mr. Almaguer was hired as the Athletic Human Resources Coordinator at NMSU in June of 2019. Before his arrival in Athletics, he worked at NMSU's Central Human Resources department. Mr. Almaguer has been a part of the executive team for Employee Council since 2019. Mr. Almaguer's primary duties include working with coaches and administration on game contracts, hiring students, coaches, and onboarding of all new hires. Mr. Almaguer is a lifelong New Mexican, graduated from Mayfield High School, and has a degree in business. Mr. Almaguer attended the Western States School of Banking. Mr. Almaguer is continuing in his schools and studies. Mr. Almaguer is working on a degree in Agricultural Business and Economics, as well as the degree in Sports Management. Mr. Almaguer is married to his wife, Vicki, and they have a son.

2. Confirmation of Quorum and Roll Call, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

The Chief of Staff confirmed the quorum and took the roll call. The Chief of Staff confirmed that there were four Regents in the Board Room, Regent Bitsie, Regent Romero, Regent Chacón-Reitzel, and Regent Devasthali. The Chief of Staff asked Regent Saucedo to confirm that he is in attendance. Regent Saucedo confirmed that he was present. The Chief of Staff confirmed that President Floros and Chancellor Arvizu are also in attendance in the Board room. The Chief of Staff confirmed Provost Parker, Vice Chancellor Johnston, Senior Vice President Andrew Burke, and General Counsel Roy Collins joining virtually via Zoom.

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

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Regent Devasthali made a motion to approve the agenda. Regent Bitsie seconded the motion.

The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote.

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

The Chief of Staff confirmed the motion passed.

4. Public Comment, Associate Vice President Justin Bannister

No public comment.

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

1. Regular Meeting December 2, 2020

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting on December 2, 2020 as presented. Regent Bitsie made a motion to approve the minutes. Regent Devasthali seconded the motion.

The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote.

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

The Chief of Staff confirmed the motion passed.

2. Special Meeting January 6, 2021

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to approve or amend the minutes from the Special meeting on January 6, 2021 as presented. Regent Romero made a motion to approve the minutes. Regent Devasthali seconded the motion.

The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote.

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

The Chief of Staff confirmed the motion passed.

3. Special Meeting February 2, 2021

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to approve or amend the minutes from the Special meeting on February 2, 2021 as presented. Regent Devasthali made a motion to approve the minutes. Regent Romero seconded the motion.

The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote.

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

The Chief of Staff confirmed the motion passed.

4. Special Meeting March 2, 2021

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to approve or amend the minutes from the Special meeting on March 2, 2021 as presented. Regent Bitsie made a motion to approve the minutes. Regent Devasthali seconded the motion.

The Chief of Staff took the roll call vote.

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Saucedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

The Chief of Staff confirmed the motion passed.

C. Awards and Recognitions, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

1. Proclamation in Memory of Dr. Karen Trujillo, Regent Arsenio Romero

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel stated that they had the opportunity to welcome the family of Dr. Karen Trujillo at the ceremony earlier in the day. Regent Romero proceeded in reading the proclamation.

“WHEREAS, Dr Karen Trujillo was known as a brilliant researcher and passionate advocate for New Mexico students and educators.

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo earned all three degrees bachelor's, graduate, and PhD from the New Mexico State University in secondary education, mathematics and curriculum instruction.

AND WHEREAS, Dr Trujillo’s connection with to NMSU began at an early age that she wasn't she was active in NMSU Santa Fe 4-H-ers, as a young woman.

AND WHEREAS, she was also a huge Aggie sports fan, cheering probably at men's and women's basketball games, among other sporting events.

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was instrumental in establishing Educators Rising New Mexico in the NMSU College of Education in 2015, which focuses on increasing the number of education majors across the state and supporting retention in the field.

AND WHEREAS, Dr Trujillo established the STEM Outreach Alliance Research or SORE Lab in 2016, which has since grown into the Southwest Outreach Academic Research Evaluation and Policy Center.

AND WHEREAS, the SORE evaluation of policy centers produces an annual teacher shortage report for New

Mexico, a project with Dr. Trujillo begin compiling, with the help of her lap students.

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was part of the team that started a Massnex, created by NMSU game designers and faculty and the learning games lab and designed to supplement classroom instruction to help make math more accessible to students.

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo went on to become Interim Associate Dean of Research in the College of Education and maintain your deep connection to NMSU after being selected to lead the New Mexico Public Education Department in 2019.

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo became superintendent of Las Cruces Public Schools in 2019, where she is remembered by LCPS Chief of Staff Sean Barham, as a leader who drew upon her many years in the classroom to be a champion for educators and an advocate for students.

AND WHEREAS, Chancellor Dan Arvizu remembers Dr Trujillo as someone who did what we hope each of our graduates to be able to do. To take the knowledge and experience the game from their time at NMSU and use those tools to make our community and our world a better place.

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo ultimately passing on February 25, 2021 was a devastating loss to our NMSU community, the students, educators and staff of Las Cruces Public Schools and the state of New Mexico.

AND WHEREAS, New Mexico State University community joining us Dr. Trujillo's husband and partner, Ben Trujillo, her children Taralynn, Terrell, and Tavin. The students, educators and staff las cruces public schools and countless others morning her loss.

AND WHEREAS, the legacy created by Dr. Trujillo through her character, research and leadership will continue to have an impact on NMSU and the state of New Mexico for years to come.

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed in official session that the Board of Regents recognize, celebrate and honors Dr. Trujillo immeasurable impact on NMSU and the state of New Mexico through her tireless work to improve the lives of students and enhance the work of educators throughout our state.

Proclaimed this 24th day of March 2021 in Las Cruces New Mexico.

2. Proclamation Recognizing Letty Gallegos for her Service as Chair of Employee Council, Chancellor Dan Arvizu
Chancellor Arvizu proceeded with the proclamation of Ms. Letty Gallegos.

"WHEREAS, Letty Gallegos as chair of the NMSU Employee Council has served with distinction as an advisory member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents from February 2020 through March of 2021. I might add to that is the entire duration of the of the COVID pandemic. She can be respectfully known as the person who lead us through that particular part of our history.

WHEREAS, she kindly and emphatically led the Employee Council from in person meetings to telework. Letty was positive and always kept the Employee Council of apprised of the latest information.

AND WHEREAS, she continually demonstrated a spirit of joy and laughter, ever engaging faculty and staff and celebrating their accomplishments, virtually, throughout the ongoing pandemic.

AND WHEREAS, she deeply engaged with administration and helping the university's team response to moving classes from in person to online.

AND WHEREAS, she served on the Pandemic Action Team, the HR Tiger Teams and on many other committees representing employees' perspective. Letty was actively engaged and contributed effectively.

AND WHEREAS, the university community benefit as Letty grew in her understanding of NMSU inner workings and her thoughtful insights and deep commitment to NMSU.

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed in official session of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commends Letty Gallegos for her dedicated service and wishes her great success in her future endeavors, proclaimed this 24th day of March 2021 Las Cruces New Mexico, signatures of the Chair and the members of the Board of Regents."

3. Proclamation Recognizing Debra Hicks for her Service as Regent of New Mexico State University,
Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel proceeded in reading the proclamation for former regent, Debra Hicks, in recognition for her service to the Board of Regents.

"Whereas Deborah Hicks is served honorably and with distinction as a member of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for six years, including many terms as chair and vice chair of the board.

AND WHEREAS, for service to New Mexico State University and the citizens of the state has been distinguished by her thoughtful consideration of all matters brought before the board and her loyalty to an advocacy for the mission of the university.

AND WHEREAS, she continually encouraged and demonstrated the highest standards of ethics and passionately pursued a commitment to uphold the excellence of the university's teaching, research in outreach missions.

AND WHEREAS, serving on and sharing various Regents committees, including the Audit and Risk Financial Strategies Performance and Budget and Real Estate committees, she has broadly impacted the work of the Board during the term of her service and will undoubtedly leave an enduring legacy of systems and processes for the board to rely on as they continue their work.

AND WHEREAS, she is the consummate and dedicated NMSU Aggie strongly rooted in her time spent here as a student, graduating with a bachelor of engineering degree from the College of Engineering and having earned the recognition as NMSU College of Engineering Inherito Emente and distinguished alumnus and serving on the NMSU College of Engineering Deans Executive Council.

AND WHEREAS, she recognized and promoted this the history of NMSU as a land grant university and acted as a proponent for the fields of agriculture and engineering.

AND WHEREAS, her knowledge and experience as an engineer contributed significantly to the thoughtful deliberations related to real estate and construction matters that were before the Regents Real Estate Committee and also before the board.

AND WHEREAS, she moved the university forward by approving new degree programs, providing counsel on the granting of honorific degrees as well as approvals of numerous policies, bond refinancing opportunities and the hiring of the current Chancellor of New Mexico State University, who stated “Regent Hicks is a champion for the College of Engineering, who encourages supportive innovative thinking. Additionally, her willingness to challenge the status quo deserves praise. The ambitious targets, she has set have changed the trajectory of our university system for the better.”

AND WHEREAS, she instituted listening sessions during the selection process with the Chancellor that were held all throughout the state, including the NMSU community college campuses and incorporated annual meetings into our operating agreements with community colleges, often visiting the campuses for commencement and other events to help further the connection between all NMSU system campuses.

AND WHEREAS, in her first meeting as a regent in March 2015 she voted to approve funding for the skybox at Aggie Memorial Stadium, later to be called Club 27, and continue to support efforts to strengthen and promote Aggie athletics and student athletes, calling for NMSU to continue as a Division 1 FBS team, by way of independent conference status.

AND WHEREAS, in grand and dramatic fashion the NMSU Aggies broke a 54 year bowl game winless streak by defeating the Utah State Aggies in the Arizona Bowl in 2017. Thereafter, a joyful welcome celebration and suit, thanks to the collaboration between the city of Las cruces NMSU.

AND WHEREAS, as a contestant and placing third in the Look Who's Dancing competition Regent Hicks proudly slept into an unexpected role as alien performing the hustle to support the NMSU Dance Program.

AND WHEREAS, as chair of the Board she provided incomparable leadership when the university was experiencing significant budget reductions and drove restructuring and institutional efficiency efforts and she caused to be chartered the first Student Success committee and expanded the mission of the re-chartered, the aptly named, Regents Financial Strategies Performance and Budget committee. “An awesome committee name,” as she likes to say and ubiquitously a committee name that only she could recall precisely.

AND WHEREAS, under her leadership, the first joint annual work groups between the Student Success and Regents Financial Strategies Performance and Budget Committee begin, which led to the strategic alignment between student outcomes and the budget and the adoption of relevant quantitative targets as a way to institutionalize long term strategic financial planning.

AND WHEREAS, her resolve in focusing on student achievement resulted in a changed institutional narrative that focused on student success and through her decisive leadership she unwaveringly challenged the status quo and embraced national best practices in strategic repositioning resulting in the creation of separate in complimentary presidents and chancellors positions in order to improve student success, halt and reverse the trend of declining enrollments, and set NMSU on a clear trajectory of growth for years to come.

AND WHEREAS, she worked collaboratively with other regents and the administration to develop an unprecedented system of quantitative evaluation criteria for NMSU leadership that could be more broadly applied to the university as a whole.

AND WHEREAS, she carefully studied and supported efforts toward the successful reaffirmation of accreditation process with the higher learning Commission.

AND WHEREAS, she was founding member of the Higher Education Regents Coalition, serving on the Board of Directors and as an officer in order that she may serve regions from all higher education institutions in the State of New Mexico by sharing the depth of her knowledge and experience to promote the improvement of

higher education throughout the state.

AND WHEREAS, her fellow regents have said, “Deborah served with the highest level of passion, dedication, resolve and integrity. She always put the university above herself and despite great pressure, she consistently did the best for NMSU and its many stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, be proclaimed in an official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University thanks and commands Deborah P. Hicks for her dedicated service and wishes her great success in all future endeavors, proclaimed this 24th day of March 2021st at Las Cruces New Mexico.”

D. Regent Committee Reports

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

The real estate committee met on February 25th and reviewed several projects at leases for recommendation to the board today. The details of these items are in the binder for consent agenda items G-2 through G-7.

2. Regents Audit Committee Report, Regent Ammu Devasthali

The Regents Audit and Risk committee conducted one regular meeting since the last update. RARC, which is the Regents Audit and Risk committee met via zoom on February 24, 2021 with the external auditors, KPMG represented by John Kennedy lead partner, to provide an audit update related to the progress and completing the June 30 2020 financial audit. KPMG reported that delays in office of management and budget guidance related to COVID 19 is the main factor affecting the timely completion of the audit. An NMSU system wide cyber security presentation and update was also provided to the committee that portrays the efforts that the university is taking in order to proactively address cybersecurity high risk exposures. The presentation and update was co-presented by Lenny Martinez representing the office of Strategic Initiatives and Carlos Lovato, IT Compliance and Privacy Officer and also acting Chief Audit officer. A brief internal update was also provided with a few items of discussion. An external audit firm, Clifton Larson Allen LLP, has been engaged to perform internal audit projects due to the departure of most of audit services staff. As step 1, CLA will help the university with developing an enterprise risk management program. Step two includes developing a proposed annual audit plan to be reviewed and approved by RARC. The chair and a voting member of RARC, along with other university officials, held a special meeting to discuss the RFP process for the upcoming auditeers. An RFP has been published. The New Mexico adulticidal has been modified in which an audit firm is eligible to audit a state agency for a total of eight years, instead of the previous six. This allows KPMG to submit a proposal to audit the university for two more years. KPMG has completed the financial statement audit for the university's financial statements and an exit meeting was held on march 19 2021. The financial statement audit will be presented to the Board of Regents in open session once the state auditor has approved publication.

3. Financial Strategies, Performance and Budget Committee Report, Regent Dina Chacón-Reitzel

The committee met twice since the last report on both February 24 and March 24 and during both meetings informational presentations were provided about tuition and fees, as well as budget projections, based on the status of federal stimulus funding and the results of the legislative session. The board can expect to see additional information about these topics at the April 5 meeting that we have proposed.

4. Student Success Committee Report, Regent Arsenio Romero

The Students Success committee met on February 11 at two o'clock and had a wonderful engaging conversation on number of topics. The first being an update on the Spring 2021 enrollment and retention, which was one of our goals. In this meeting, we were able to learn that they are matching the needs of a student needs with different delivery modes. They have a focus on the semester 2026 in recruitment. They have a number of ways that they're building perspective polls, some of which are social media and 4-H. All

recruiting happens in the field and are not in the office. They're nine recruiters within the state 2 in Texas, and 2 Arizona. The most important event is high school students visiting the main campus. They do expect a rise in numbers for the spring semester. Their biggest struggle is retaining pell grant eligible students because they have to work and take care of families. Colleges is an extra thing on their plate. Community college enrollment is down here, as well as across the country. It is a serious problem, but they do expect things to improve. The next was a report on the new college proposal. This is a combination of combining the college of education, social services and sociology as a health, education and social transformation college. Wonderful conversation about what this could mean. For example, having only one Dean could save approximately \$300,000 to the university. The deans let a task force to gather information and they're continuing to do so. They're looking forward to seeing additional updates from Provost Parker. There's also a presentation on the redesign of NMSU-O, the Digital Learning Office. Regent Romero is very impressed with the re-design. Market to pack the demands of at least 350 billion for online learning. Faculty fellows have far exceeded goals with faculty. NMSU-O, which is part of LEADS 2025, will increase social mobility, decrease racial achievement gaps, and remove a geographic divide. There is a focus on dynamic and interactive teaching. Blockchain technology allows for students to have different credentials and stack on top of each other. There is a back end micro-credential for K 12 students. The last was a community college report. This is something that they're adding to the Student Success committee agenda to hear about what is happening at our community colleges around the state. There has been a large loss of students and due to the pandemic. They are looking at these students being able to come back, but there's some reasons for that. They are going to return. There has been a focus on expanding opportunities and the impact. From the Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 there was a loss of about 1,067 students. A lot of this has been due to a loss because of opportunities in education, inability to fully deliver lab instruction, particularly in CTE classes. When you think about the community colleges who are going to be doing welding, labs, and things like that, they're not able to be in that environment. This creates delays for students in the workforce and the shift remote environment for students and staff. They have a number of initiatives and interventions in place, such as Navigate, iPad initiatives for students who are eligible, wi-fi parking lots, Thrive at DACC and many others.

E. Advisory Member Reports

1. NMSU Faculty Senate Report, Chair Julia Parra

Chair Parra reported that she submitted a report for January through March with a variety of propositions that are underway. Some of them were approved and previously discussed in previous meetings. One of the newer ones is Proposition 14 that is currently underway again and currently in the process of identifying the will of the Faculty in relation to The College of Health, Education and Social Transformation, which is the new merger proposition. There will be further information on that after the Faculty Senate meeting next Thursday. Another new proposition is about the library budget with a focus on communicating around the topic of the journal cancellations and concerns about making sure we support the NMSU library. Also, they had a memorial and honor of Karen Trujillo and presented to her family the weekend of the funeral. Also, they have two additional propositions that have just been submitted and will be in the updated report next week; one is from Dona Ana Community College, where they're proposing to return some technology programs into their technology division, where they were previously in a science division. Also, they have one from Faculty Senate, for them to modify proposition types. They also have a Town Hall scheduled prior to their next Faculty Senate meeting and the topic will be intra and inter faculty communication in the hopes of increasing faculty communication amongst themselves and gathering some data from faculty about their challenges, needs and strategies that they might recommend to them to increase those opportunities.

2. Associated Students of NMSU Report, President Mathew Madrid

President Madrid reported that in closing of the legislative session some of ASNMSU's initiatives were wildly successful. They started a collaborative effort between ASNMSU, ASUNM, and the student government for NMTech. Together they advocated and achieved over \$15 million dollars, in addition to the lottery scholarship for this year, as well as the inclusion of four year students in the opportunity scholarship. In terms of their

capital outlay, they got \$275,000 for crime prevention through environmental design, which is their annual capital outlay request, as well as \$150,000 for the veterans housing project, which they have been working on. Additionally, last week, ASNMSU approved \$80,000 in appropriations to the NMSU library. They got some good PR from the Sun News this morning. That will be going to student focused services. Additionally, they have their upcoming elections for Vice President, President and senate seats coming up in mid April. They are planning for more events, specifically their spring events which includes, a Las Cruces oriented community service opportunity for our student organizations. And lastly, they will be launching a survey in collaboration with the NMSU administration to gauge student interest for coming back to campus during the upcoming fall semester.

3. NMSU Employee Council Report, Chair Joseph Almaguer

Chair Almaguer reported that they have finished all of their elections for Employee Councils. Their executive team put together this past meeting. Their next meeting, which is going to be on April 8. They are putting together a benefits team. The reason they are putting together a benefits team is to remember what they have to offer compared to other universities around in New Mexico. That way they can continue to push to be the flagship university of New Mexico, as Chancellor Arvizu has stated before. That is one of his main goals, to make sure they reach that. They are also putting together a bylaw committee to clean up the bylaws for Employee Council, so they can make them clearer. They have chosen staff awards and will be announced at the next town hall, in conjunction with President Floros.

F. Affiliated Entity Reports

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

President Eschenbrenner gave an update on Aggie Uptown. There is some information in the binder that will show what their long term goals are for Aggie Uptown and includes a map. That map was prepared through master planning effort with Dover Cole Associates. A link to that website is included as well. They'd like to hear any feedback, thoughts, or comments with regards to that master planning effort. Construction is complete on Phase 1 of Aggie Uptown, the lands that are where the old clubhouse used to be on University Avenue and Interstate 25. They continue to make headway with a couple of their development partners. They were making headway with them before COVID. They're back to table. They've gone through two or three different iterations of some ground lease edits. They'll be able to move forward and bring something to this board in short order, with some new ground leases. It feels like a sense that this real estate economy in Las Cruces is waking up from about a one year slumber, due to COVID. There have been other interesting opportunities that have been proposed to them and they're reviewing those letters of intent but.

2. NMSU Foundation Report, Vice President Derek Dictson

Vice President Dictson reported that their endowment that they managed for NMSU, as of the end of February, stands at \$208 million. This is the first time that they've been over \$200 million. The Foundation Board and their Investment Committee has retained alpha capital management to conduct a comprehensive review of their outsource chief investment officer, who's responsible for the management and investment of these funds and to conduct a national OCIO search. As a February 28, the Foundation had raised \$12.5 million in FY21, which was entirely during the COVID period. That compares with a little over \$17 million raised at the same period in FY20, which was entirely before the COVID period so. That's a good comparison of how of how COVID has impacted fundraising and it's what they're seeing in their peer institutions around the country as well. The highlights of this year's fundraising include a \$2.9 million gift for athletics, and a \$1.4 million planned gift. They have a number of other really nice gifts in the in the pipeline. A one year review has been provided to you. Vice President Dictson arrived April 1 of 2020. This has been a year of building a framework for the future in the Foundation in the Office of Advancement. They are very happy to have our new collaboration agreement between the Foundation and the university in place. They've worked with deans and units across the university to define the development and fundraising priorities for each of those units and will continue that

that process. They have been focused on the stability of their finances and staff in the Foundation. That was covered in great detail in the collaboration agreement and in most of the work that they're doing in other places is directed toward achieving long term sustainability of their operations. They have focused in on efficiency and effectiveness of the work that they do. They've been more effective this year in talent acquisition bringing in a number of new staff from pure and aspirational universities across the country. They're working toward transitioning almost all of their operations to secure cloud based systems rather than local servers. They're focused on improving their endowment performance, as evidenced by the OCIO overview and search that they're currently undertaking. And they're working with the university on more effective ways to utilize gift funds once they're in their possession for the university to utilize them for the betterment of the school. They focused a lot on benchmarking and right sizing their operations with an eye toward the return on investment for the university. Currently, the Foundation is generating over \$6 of return for every dollar that's invested in the advancement operations and they intend to double the fundraising that they're doing while keeping that return on investment very high.

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

Director Hansen recognized the contributions of Dr. Kevin Bober to Arrowhead Center and NMSU. Kevin passed away on Monday, the 22nd. He fought hard for many years in the face of major illness. He was very popular with students, both in his classes and the College of Business and at Arrowhead Center. He always made time for answering questions and mentorship, all delivered with his great sense of humor. He served as the Director of Arrowhead Center and as the VP for Economic Development, before his retirement, a few years ago. They extend their condolences to Kevin's family, along with their thanks to him for helping to make Arrowhead Center what it is today. Another thank you to Regent Sanchez for his service on the board of Arrowhead Center and for his constant support of student entrepreneurship at NMSU. Included in the report is information that emphasizes how arrowhead goals are in alignment with NMSU LEADS 2025 goals through their work, supporting students faculty and staff and entrepreneurs, businesses and communities across their state and region. They're active in the expansion of entrepreneurship learning venues at NMSU and thanks goes to Dean Flores and Ben Ready in facilitating this. They're incorporating entrepreneurship learning into NMSU classes and workshops in the College of Engineering and ACES. Also, they are expanding their network of Studio G sites across the state. They were at 18 sites, now they began operations at CNM and will be at Northern New Mexico College this fall semester. They're also growing their American Indian Business Enterprise Program. They're working with over 50 students from various colleges and institutions across the state. In support of research and creativity at NMSU, they are celebrating World Intellectual Property day on April 26. The VPR and Arrowhead have joined together to make an award to an NMSU faculty or staff member for outstanding work in the development of intellectual property, with potential for societal or commercial benefits. Nominations are still open until the end of March. In support of entrepreneurs and businesses in their state and region, they have entered into an agreement to partner with the city of Las Cruces to deliver business accelerators this year continuing their support of businesses that are that have been hit hard by COVID. They're continuing to make venture capital investments in New Mexico businesses through the Arrowhead Innovation Fund 1. They have begun recruiting investors for Fund 2, which will be a fund in the range of \$15 to \$25 million. They have some soft commitments from some private foundations. One of Fund 1's portfolio companies is T Neuro Pharma and the CEO is Christina Trujillo. The company is in Albuquerque and she got her bachelor's, master's, and PhD from NMSU. This company was formed to develop a novel companion biomarker therapeutic for Alzheimer's disease. The fund held a pitch competition recently with six of New Mexico's most promising startup businesses represented. First place went to Sydney Lehman with upcycle power, which aims to bring affordable energy storage by redeploying used electrical vehicle batteries for stationary. Upcycle has been part of their energy sprint program and was also assisted with prototyping services in the Aggie Innovation Space. Their Federal and State technology partnership program, or FAST program, offers proposal support to small businesses in New Mexico for federal research and innovation grants. They recently won national recognition from the Small Business Administration with an award for outstanding performance in supporting the goals of the Small Business Innovation Research Program, which promotes partnerships between small businesses and research institutions. Their recent effort under FAST

teamed upcycled power with NMSU engineering faculty doctors Larova and Ronade in engineering as technical players in a small business innovation tech transfer a research proposal. They are working with academic government and industry sectors in New Mexico to strengthen their clean energy ecosystem in the state by facilitating an innovation pipeline through funding from DOE for its energy program and clusters program. Regarding development in Arrowhead Park, Wayne Savage in discussion with two potential developers to work on a new office building planned in the park where Arrowhead Center will be housed. Construction on both the solar side and interconnecting power lines is underway with commercial power delivery slated to begin in late September or October 2021. The design of a new waistline by the city of Las Casas is nearly complete and negotiations for the design and cost of new roadways is underway. Critical to all that we do is the quality of our team. Patricia Knighton has joined us as our Director of Innovation Commercialization and she brings a lot of experience working with high tech startups, Fortune 500 companies, federal research laboratories and government agencies. Previously, Patricia served as the lead for science and technology for the New Mexico Economic Development Department. She will be working to expand and enhance their lab to market initiatives for NMSU technologies. Also, Brooke Montgomery, former Deputy Director of Studio G will now be leading Studio G. She's well suited for the role. Brooke is an entrepreneur leading a company focused on medical devices and holding two patents. Brooke is focused on making entrepreneurial learning experiences for students, more effective and accessible. Finally, Arrowhead Center welcomes a new entrepreneur in residence, Dr Yun Lee. She is Interim CEO of a company created on the basis of NMSU intellectual property created by Dr. Foodozi. She's the head of Big Ventures New Mexico branch and Albuquerque. She's formerly a physicist, who worked in the semiconductor industry for nine years.

G. Consent Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

- 1. Naming of Doña Ana Community College (DACC) Gadsden Center Phase III building to Roadrunner Hall, DACC President Mónica F. Torres**
- 2. Espina Street Repave, Phase II, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**
- 3. NMSU - Alamogordo Library Safety Replacement, University Architect Heather Watenpaugh**
- 4. Corona Range and Livestock Research Center Water Well and Water Use Agreement with Red Cloud Wind, LLC, Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 5. Fiber Line Easement Request from Plateau Telecommunications at Corona Range and Livestock Research Center, Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 6. Quitclaim Deed for Property Transfer for New Mexico Space Museum Building in Alamogordo and Termination of Joint Powers Agreement with NM Department of Cultural Affairs Related to this Facility, Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 7. Carlsbad Early College High School Ground Lease, Scott Eschenbrenner**
- 8. 2021 Annual Open Meetings Notice Resolution, General Counsel Roy Collins III**
- 9. Access to Classified Information Resolution, General Counsel Roy Collins III**

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion on the Consent Agenda as presented. Regent Devasthali made a motion to approve. Regent Romero seconded the motion.

The Chief of Staff took the role call vote.

Regent Bitsie – Yes

Regent Romero – Yes

Regent Sacuedo – Yes

Regent Devasthali – Yes

Regent Chacón-Reitzel – Yes

The Chief of Staff confirmed the motion passed.

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to take a 10 minute recess. Regent Romero made the motion. Regent Devasthali seconded the motion. The Board went into recess at 3:25pm.

BREAK (10 MINUTES)

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel called the meeting back into session at 3:36pm.

H. Action Items, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

1. Election of Officers, Chairwoman Dina Chacón-Reitzel

Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained nominations for Chair. Regent Romero nominated Regent Devasthali. No other nominations for Chair were made. Regent Devasthali is voted in as Chairwoman by acclamation. Regent Devasthali nominated Regent Chacón-Reitzel as Vice Chairwoman. Regent Chacón-Reitzel is voted in as Vice Chairwoman by acclamation. Regent Chacón-Reitzel nominated Regent Romero as Secretary. Regent Romero is voted in as secretary by acclamation.

Chairwoman Devasthali granted Vice Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel to continue through the rest of the meeting.

I. Informational Items, Chair

1. Appointment of Regent Committee Members, Chair

Chairwoman Devasthali stated that she would like to wait until the next meeting to make these determinations so as to gain everyone's interests and expertise.

2. Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Procedures of NMSU (ARP) for the period December 3, 2020 through March 24, 2021, General Counsel Roy Collins, III

The report was provided in the binder and there were no questions.

3. Update on Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities, Chancellor Dan Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu reported on the AG Modernization initiative. New Mexico State University is a land grant agricultural and mechanic arts college, which is the roots of their core of both agriculture and engineering. Over the course of the last four years there have been two major government obligation bond elections in the state of New Mexico that have been approved by the voters and in those two elections have come appropriations or funding a \$43 million for agricultural infrastructure on their campus. Along with that, is also an expectation we raise somewhere between \$6 and \$10 million of private sector funding for augmenting those that program. The initiatives for the building infrastructures are underway, which is part of the activities that Facilities and Services has been engaged in as well as the College of ACES, under Dean Flores. This committee, Agricultural Strategic Advisory Committee (ASAC), has been working together with several internal stakeholders, including Secretary Witte from an NMDA, as well as the College of ACES and a few other important stakeholders that relate to AG, including the Agricultural Experiment Station, as well as the as the Cooperative Extension Services, and bringing together these various stakeholders that can help us in a couple of very distinctive important ways. One is under Dean Flores, for the past several years they have

been reimagining what agriculture and the agriculture curriculum at NMSU will look like going forward. Dean Flores has brought in some new leadership. They're expanding the vision of what the AG business will be about and how they as an institution, put themselves in position to be a leader in the field with a focus on sustainable agriculture and they have a center of excellence that has been sanctioned by the governor for a sustainable food and AG to give them an opportunity to begin to focus on how they as a center of excellence to be catalyst for much of the objectives of the state, which has to do with economic development, diversification and value added agriculture. Their AG Modernization Initiative is focused on, "Let's make sure we understand where we're going with our vision and our strategy. Let's make sure that we take the opportunity for this new \$50 million worth of infrastructure that we're going to build that meets the needs of the future." The future of agriculture is going to be a digital agriculture, as opposed to kind of the way we've done things in the past. It also has a very strong component of economic development and diversification for the economy, creating jobs and those kinds of things. The ASAC is intended to do two things: 1) help focus and refine their vision that's already been set and developed by leadership and agricultural across the entire university academic system 2) Build and refine strategy for the economic development aspects of the branch campuses in the rural areas. Help them with advocacy as well as fundraising for the new infrastructure that they're putting in place now. The new infrastructure has two pieces to it. The first piece is that will help them catch up. There's been a lack of investment in agriculture. They've been talking about a feed mill and those capabilities and competencies of the past. The new piece is really 'what is the future of their agricultural focus?' And therein lies the opportunity that they have to marry both animal health and all things that relate to "how do we deal with animals in terms of harvesting their agricultural assets to put food on the table and how it affects human health." There is an opportunity for them to think about animal health as it relates to human health. That gives rise to this new capability that's part of their new monetization strategy, which is biomedical. That'll help in a lot of different ways to expand their horizons of what they as an agricultural institution can actually do. They're now looking at how many individuals can they go to in order to help them crisp up the vision, help them with advocacy, and fundraising. They've got a list of 30 something names and they're going through the evaluation of how these individuals can fit and are not exactly sure what the structure will look like, but it is a work in progress and they've got a number of people internally working on that. Regent Devasthali and Regent Chacón-Reitzel are interested in the outcomes and advising them on how they put this this advisory board together.

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

Secretary Witte welcomed Regent Saucedo and Regent Bitsie, congratulated Regent Romero for continuing, and thanked former Regent Hicks for her service. A report is included in the binder. Secretary Witte reported on some of the highlights. They are spending a lot of time on helping their businesses in the reopening process. The Good Food Foundation opportunity is a competition and like a regional trade show. They're talking to New Mexico companies and can market to 25 to 30 different retailers through this virtual trade show. They've got the \$5 challenge going on right now across the state and have had some commercials or heard them on the radio or see them on TV. It's all about encouraging people to buy local and get those local products and help grow our agricultural, community and the economy of the state. Director Witte did an interview yesterday with Lorraine Mills and will be available for viewing on Sunday. In that report was include, 'if every family increase their local purchasing of New Mexico products by \$5 each week every family that amounts to close to a billion dollars in growth in the New Mexico economy, every year. They've got some trade show activities going on. The events are virtual. New Mexico agricultural products are shipped to 88 different countries around the world. They're doing some training for people to get geared up for those export trade inbound and outbound missions. They've done some recipe videos with everyone staying at home. Those have become very popular on how to use your New Mexico food products in different kinds of non traditional New Mexico dishes. Some of those have been done and some are in production. They have 2 chef ambassadors. They're in the process of rolling out their healthy soil program for this year. Last year they received state money for that program. They also partnered with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA. They're doing virtual training sessions across the state. Also, in

the report you'll see that their labs have maintained their audit and accreditation standards, In terms of the read vapor pressure waiver, on February 23 Secretary Witte issued a waiver to allow gasoline that was outside of the barriers of what the standard is for this time of year to be sold. Typically in New Mexico, they get most of their gasoline out of Texas and in the northern part of the state they get it out of Colorado or Utah. Because of that cold front that came into Texas, it shut down a lot of the refineries, so they were on the verge of getting no gas in the state. They issued this vapor pressure waiver, so that they could bring in petroleum from Utah and Colorado. Only one station had to sell only premium gas for a day until they could get the gas in from other states. The price increase was 20 - 25 cents a gallon, which was expected because of the transportation. They're doing a pesticide in which they collect pesticides that are no longer needed to be used. They properly dispose of those things and send them to an improved landfill. In the legislative session update. Appreciation goes to Ricardo Rel for his help on the budget portion.

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

Chancellor Arvizu gave a legislative update. It turned out in terms of the budget responsibilities and how the legislature supported higher education. Appreciation to the legislative team: Ricardo Rel, Johnny Montoya, Aggie Soffman, and Ken Van Winkle. NMSU as a system, a little less than \$19 million in recurring, non-recurring, and capital outlay. In HB2, which is the bill that has the general appropriations in it, they've got \$5.4 million of recurring money, a little less than \$1 million for non-recurring money. Out of SB77, \$1 million for recurring money and \$0.3 for non-recurring money. Also, there was additional capital outlay that in HB285, in which members of the legislature actually allocate funding that they get to various projects and they received \$10.1 million. At the state level, there was \$33 million in new financial aid for students, 100 million dollars of placeholder for the lottery scholarships. They worked on making sure that the promised swap of the federal money last year that they took away was returned, and in fact the legislature did do that. They gave us about a half a percent of new money. Also, 1.5% for compensation. There was a 1% allocation or appropriations for the ERB employer contribution. The employer contribution will be augmented by the state. It's about \$34 million across the state for that fund. There's a \$5 million non-recurring fund for the higher education endowment fund. It requires a two to one match. Also, 60% of that goes to the research university. Secretary Witte reported that they were able to advocates successfully that NMDA as well as the agricultural experiment sessions as well as the cooperative extension service should be treated more like a State Agency. As a consequence, it started with a 5% cut, then went to a 3% cut, then 1.5% cut and then another ¾% cut. They ended up with almost exactly what they started with plus or minus \$1,000. They were successful in getting some support from legislators. They got \$887,000 for the Grants campus for a roof replacement at Martinez Hall, \$750,000 for a classroom and lab renovations at DACC, \$1 million for NMDA facility, \$3 million for the continued to repair of their utility tunnel on the main campus, \$400,000 for information technology infrastructure at the Carlsbad campus, and another \$650 for classroom infrastructure improvements in Alamogordo, \$811,000 for the water research and education lab. Also, the Community of Carlsbad decided that they would put together a bill which they carried through to their local legislators, both in the House and in the Senate, and it was passed that that they would recommend going independent. The status of that bill is that it's on its way to the governor's office. As they read the statute of what it takes to go independent, their interpretation is that the Higher Education Department and the Executive has a role to play in terms of approving such a such a move. Independent of how the legislature rules on that the executive has it has a role to play. The Governor obviously has these things in front of her and she could make line items on any of these appropriation numbers.

Vice Chancellor Johnston reported that NMSU system wide has done an absolutely amazing job throughout this entire pandemic. They've been very successful with pivoting and moving everything online. Tributes everyone, from faculty to facilities to police to MARCOM. Everyone's played a role in making this happen. As hard as this has been, they've come to under that there are some good ways about the way they've been working and want to maintain. Their positivity has been dropping considerably. They rarely have cases that are actually on campus or in residence halls. Faculty, staff and students are wearing their masks and staying distanced. Now, as they move from testing to vaccinations it's even harder to want to get tested because, once you get vaccinated 'why would

you want to get tested?’ However, they need to keep the testing up in order to keep the positivity levels down and that might seem counterintuitive, but it's absolutely not. They're working very closely with the state in constant conversation with the Department of Health, as well as the Higher Education Department to understand their degrees of freedom, as well as those of other universities across the state. Commencement will be virtual, but they are hopeful that they can have something at some level that's more personal, especially around graduate degrees or pinning of nursing or maybe even having the opportunity to walk across the stadium in an open air with lots of distancing so people can kind of see themselves and their name on the stage. They will pay close attention to the state stages as they change. Probably 100 different people at any given time meeting weekly to talk about the impact of all of this into a plan. As they think about going back to a conventional semester, which is what they're working on right now, ‘what does that mean?’ ‘what is conventional mean?’ The other thing that they're working on is safety plans for coming back. Finally, all the stimulus money that's coming into their whole system, as well as higher education around the United States, they are now figuring out how to spend that money. Half of it, at least, is going to go to students, but the rest of it is going to help them get into their houses to teach and to work and now, secondly, to figure out how to go back into their classrooms. They are looking at grounds, tents, ventilation, and supplies. In Goal 4 of LEADS 2025, Vice Chancellor Johnston is co-leading with Andy Burke. This initiative is one that she is most attached to at this moment, because of a recent change and reporting is Information and communication technologies and they're looking to the future. Part of that is due to the fact that they have many retirements in ICT, but also as they see how valuable and essential ICT is to everything that they do here, especially as they move to a Zoom and Teams and using email all the time is they have to make sure that they are both safe and secure and up to date in terms of their technology and ability to serve. They have a very broad initiative called, ICT Futures, that includes many people who are on Zoom and split into an Oversight team, as well as Tiger Teams, which are AD Hoc focus teams to figure out what the current state of ICT is and where to go. They have some external pirate chief information officers, as well as someone from Sandia Labs, former CIO, and they have a budget fiscal specialist and they will be bringing in a CIO Interim, ideally around June. Any student helper can get the vaccinations right now because they are considered higher education workers. Any students who are considered essential workers can get vaccinated. In 2 weeks, they will get fully sanctioned to be a distributor of vaccines to the whole NMSU community out of their Aggie Health and Wellness Center. President Floros reports that they are preparing to vaccinate all students who want to be vaccinated before they leave in May and if they can't accomplish that, then to definitely vaccinate all students as they come back to campus in August. Chancellor Arvizu reported that they aren't in a position to mandate vaccination. They are participating in different opportunities that are cross-city, cross-county, and across the state about partnering in order to vaccinate.

Community College President Van Winkle reported that communications across the system are frequent and good that will help improve the system across campuses. They're holding regular business process improvement meetings to help improve integration and design ways and processes that are easier for the entire system to manipulate for purchasing and procurement, HR, hiring processes, and all business processes. These meetings have provided an avenue to discuss challenges faced by the community colleges that can be shared with the main campus business office and then, in turn, the business office from the main campus can do the same thing. The three smaller campuses really appreciate the fact that their voice is being heard and they have something to say about the issues that are unique to those campuses. These discussions have led to a great deal of interaction between Alamogordo, Grants, and Carlsbad on their own. They're sharing ideas about workflow strategies, enrollment conversations, particularly with the high schools. The Vice Presidents of all the student services are holding regular meetings now because of these larger meetings. They're discussing commencement, financial literacy programs, and the Navigate platform for students. Their challenge is enrollment. Quoted from HB2, “The secretary of higher education shall work with institutions, whose enrollment has declined by more than 50% within the past five academic years, on a plan to improve enrollment, collaborate or merge with other institutions, and reduce expenditures accordingly and submit an annual report to the Legislative Finance Committee.” That brings their attention to the fact that they need to strongly strategize and figure out ways to develop and sustain the smaller campuses for these communities. They feel like they have sort of a new baseline for Alamogordo, Carlsbad, and Grants after they've made it through a year of pandemic. Part of that enrollment issue has to do

with the fact that they have so many non-traditional students on these campuses, so their attention may not be going to school right now, but they do feel like they've also lost some students that they can get back. They're working with Justin's office to try to discover the appropriate message for each of these campuses. They're working with the public school districts, faculty to faculty, advisor to advisor, dual credit, early college high school, associate of arts degrees, associate of science degrees, and the workforce certificates. Economic development is a huge part of what their smaller campuses can offer to these communities and their strategy to has been to stand up or re-establish local community advisory boards to help the campuses discover opportunities for workforce development within their unique needs of each community. Allied health, welding, automotive, building trades, and tourism is a common thread. The status on the study that's being done with Carlsbad has been completed in terms of interviews that the consultants were going to pursue. They've talked to all of the stakeholders in both Carlsbad and Las Cruces on the main campus. They are writing the report and that will be presented a couple of weeks before the due date. They have they have the information that they feel necessary to produce the report. President Van Winkle is not privy to what's in the report at this point, but knows that they are very close to finishing their task. In terms of additional outreach to NMSU Carlsbad, President Van Winkle reported that he meets with that group every week on Thursday afternoons. The resolve from that community is strong. The relationship between the Carlsbad campus and NMSU has not been destroyed. There is a lot of respect.

DACC President Torres reported that as they near graduation they look forward to commencement. As they have the last two semesters they will have a celebration page, which will include graduates' names, their credentials and images if they choose to send them in. The page will offer congratulatory videos from college officials. They're working out details for an in person celebration, drive through, or walk through ceremonies at their East Mesa campus. They've opened up these in person events for spring, summer and fall of 2020 graduates, as well as those for finishing the semester. They'll spread those out over several ceremonies in terms of meeting COVID safety and spacing requirements. Late in the fall, they began conversations with Eon Reality, a global leader in augmented and virtual reality and education, about bringing their platform to the NMSU system with an interest in later, making the platform available to other workforce, training and development organizations in the region. President Torres has worked closely with Lenny Martinez from the office of Strategic Initiatives and also Wayne Savage from the Arrowhead Center to do this work. Adoption of the Eonynx platform will increase teaching and learning capacity in the NMSU system by making exciting technologies, augmented reality, virtual reality, as well as interactive 3D available for classroom, laboratory site and remote learning environments. These technologies promise to support their students success and economic development efforts. They are in the final stages of the agreement, which will bring millions of dollars in AR VR capacity to the NMSU system. In the last six months they've been notified of 2 successful specialized accreditation efforts. Late in 2020 they were notified that their nursing program was granted initial accreditation for an eight year period and this week she was notified that they have received affirmation of their continuing accreditation respiratory therapy, which is for a 10 year period. They're in the very early stages of organizing themselves for what happens post COVID and 'what is the post COVID college look like?' They know that some students have flourished with the additional opportunities they've had with online and remote services. But they also know that some students are much better situated for learning when they're in person options available. So their fundamental question is 'how do we take what we've learned during the pandemic and use it to better serve the full range of our constituents?' They are anticipating activity and will launch that probably in the next week or two in the DACC community in at least three areas: staffing, space allocation and use, and operational support.

President Floros reported that all students are very hard right now. It's the middle of the Semester and some students are complaining that they didn't give him a spring break, but if you follow the news, you see what's happening in places where they do have a spring break, in places where they go away for spring break like Florida, as well as when they come back to their own base. They've proven right that the decision they made not to have a week long spring break and instead having some days off here and there for a mental break both the Faculty and the staff was for the best. They've helped their students succeed last year during the early stages of the pandemic. They've done a better job as the pandemic evolved because they understood more how to do their educational enterprise, teach, and work with students better. They have learned a lot and will apply those as they move

forward. They understand that this has been a very difficult year for everyone. They have done a lot of things to relieve pressure, anxiety and depression. They have addressed mental health in Town Halls and provided many smaller activities. They have an extra effort that they put into for students to call and get help when they need to from their Health Center. They're going to try to address the hesitancy with vaccines. They polled their town hall people a couple of weeks ago and 93% of people were willing to take the vaccine, or have already taken the vaccine. Only about 7% of people responded that they do not want to get the vaccine. They're going to have a retreat in May to revisit their strategic plan. All of the goal teams have been working on tweaking the strategic plan to make the actions and steps that they need to accomplish their major goals. They're not going to change the major goals nor mission or vision. They want to revisit and make sure that the plan is still relevant and helpful. They have been working on software, data analysis, data analytics and ways to gather information then analyze it in a way to see what they can do next to improve on certain metrics. Those results will come as they move forward. They are able to do things that they couldn't before such as, calculate the cost of a specific program, teaching, and research. Data analytics will help them achieve that and their goals of the strategic plan. In terms of HERF Funds, they just received the second package and the third one will be coming soon. In the first package half of the funds, which was about \$7 million, were went directly to the students and the other helped with a lot of the expenses they were experiencing as the pandemic was developing for materials, equipment, testing, tents, and others. The second package, which they just received the money, but they haven't had clear guidance as to how to use that money yet. Another \$7 million will go to directly to students and the remaining they will be using for a lot of things that were mentioned earlier. They will provide more information as they understand more about what the federal government requires. There's a third part that is much bigger. Half will go directly to the students and the other half they will use for the university. They had a plan before the pandemic, to reduce the amount of money that a student owes to the university down to \$200 before they were eligible to register again or start the next semester. With the pandemic they decided that they couldn't afford to do that right now. They left it at \$1,000 that they had at that point, then raised it to \$2,500 because it would be difficult for students to come back if they require them to pay what they already owed before. With all the additional funds that are going to students, right now they hope that they can now lower that down to \$1500. By August they can probably lower down to \$1,000. By next year they can get it down to \$200 as they were planning to do 2 years ago. Until 2 or 3 weeks ago their teams could not play nor practice. They now have all of their teams playing and practicing at home. They follow the directives of the Governor. They are testing them a lot more rigorously than even the NCAA requires because the state requirements are stricter. The results have been very good. For the last 3 or 4 weeks they have had 0 positives of their student athletes and athletic staff. The volleyball team won the WAC championship, their basketball team made it to the finals. The presidents of the WAC put a lot of effort rejuvenate the conference. They have four colleges from Texas and another one that have joined the WAC as additional members. Most of them have fairly strong basketball programs, but they all have football programs. They don't have the FBS Division One programs. They have FCS programs. That still gives them an opportunity to practice and play with some teams that they didn't have before. In regard to data showing how the freshmen did during the pandemic academically, emotionally, and psychologically, they do not have final data yet because they are still in the middle of the semester. They do know that mental and depression issues have increased substantially. The calls that they're getting at the health center have increased about those types of issues. This is in reference to all students, not just freshmen. It's not clear yet how the pandemic and Zooming has affected their students. There is a segment of students who are doing much worse than if they had face to face classes. However, there are a portion of students who have done a lot better because they like the privacy in their room, everything is in their computer, the way they can study, etc. It's a different type of process for a different type of individual. The majority of students struggled the same way as they would have if they had face to face classes. Many students want to come back to some sort of normality. As registration starts on April 7th, they are opening as many face to face classes as the students want. The students are driving in which direction that goes. In terms of what athletics for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, first year retention is up, but spring retention is slightly down. It went from 86.9% to 86.2%. After the semester is over, they will have a better understanding of that. Second year retention went from 63% to 67%. Third year retention went from 57.1% to 57.9%. Four year graduation jumped from 28.2% to 31.3%. Because of how this first year students perform President Floros is hesitant to say yet and is even more concerned with the students they're going to get this coming fall because they have already been

through this pandemic in high school. They know that they're going to come, probably less prepared. They're discussing this and trying to make some plans to address that. President Floros' direction to the staff is that prepare to have an open campus that acts, lives, and behaves like in 2019. They can have as many as 90 some percent vaccinated on campus of students, faculty and staff. If that's the case, they will have a herd immunity and should be able to do all sorts of things. If that's the case and those variants are not evasive enough to go against the vaccines, or protect against them, then they will be close to normal. They are going to try to come back nearly 100% because they know how to pivot into an online operation again. If they don't plan to come back, be here and have a normal or conventional semester then they're not going to be ready.

Chancellor Arvizu added that they are better prepared now than they ever have been. They have on-campus testing, contact tracing, quarantining, and they're going to be a vaccine distribution center with their own vaccines and possibly some level of flexibility by the Department of Health to invite people who are registered to come and get a vaccine. They COVID meetings every week and typically on Wednesday mornings. One of their expert biologists, Dr Kathy Hanley, indicated that it is likely that the vaccines that we presently have won't last more than a year. Dr. Hanley advises the governor and the Task Force. It's likely that they'll have to have a booster shot. They will want to make sure that if, in fact, that looks like it's required and CDC provides the guidance, that they're in position to administer and move as quickly as possible to make sure they manage. They want the experience that the students have to be more similar to what conventional looks like. The immersion, interaction, and peer interaction are very valuable parts of the experience that students have. They want to make sure they preserve as much as they can.

L. Announcements and Comments, Chair

1. "Guns Up" – Good News for NMSU!

Regent Romero gave Guns Up to former Regent Debra Hicks for her hard work and dedication. She was an amazing partner and looks to her as a model regent. Another Guns up to the coaches, staff, all the athletes. They did amazing! Also, Guns up to all the Aggie fans.

Chairwoman Devasthali gave a Guns Up to Vice Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel for her leadership through this difficult year. Guns up to the best budget that they've gotten to the Chancellor, President, teams, Ricardo Rel and his team, etc.

Vice Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel gave a Guns Up to everyone who has been a regent. It takes a big commitment. To former Regent Hicks. Vice Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel stated that it has been a pleasure being their chair. To student athletes, students, faculty, staff, and leadership. And to the women's volleyball team.

President Floros gave a Guns Up to the Institutional Analysis staff. They were working behind the scenes very quickly to get the numbers and to his Chief of Staff. Another Guns Up to the faculty in helping students during this time. Faculty and staff have pulled through this. NMSU handled the pandemic much better than most of the universities in the US. The Animation program in their Creative Media Institute is 22nd nationally, 7th in the southeast of the region, and 1st in New Mexico.

M. Adjournment, Chair

Vice Chairwoman Chacón-Reitzel entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairwoman Devasthali motioned to adjourn. Regent Romero seconded the motion. No vote is needed.
Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.

Meeting Minutes Approved on May 14, 2021 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.



Ammu Devasthali
Board of Regents Chair



Arsenio Romero
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer