

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Retreat
Cooperative Educational Services – Conference Room
4216 Balloon Park Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
August 21, 2020 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Regent President Terry Othick began promptly at 1:30 p.m. In attendance were Regents Ed Tatum, Lance Pyle, Dan Patterson, Terry Othick, and Interim Chancellor Dr. Patrice Caldwell. Student Regent Joseph Gergel was unable to attend due to his classes have begun at the University of Notre Dame. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5 p.m.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

This was the first time since March the Regents and Dr. Caldwell have had the opportunity to meet in person and the Board members took the opportunity to “catch up” on several topics of interest related to the operation of the University during the pandemic, various policies, and topics dealing with athletics.

SPECIFIC TOPICS DISCUSSED

Fee Reduction

Dr. Caldwell advised the Board members that ENMU-Portales reduced fees for fall 2020 (-\$89 for FT UG students) recognizing that some events can't occur this fall 2020. The dollar amount was an estimate of events affected in Fall. If the amount should be higher, students' accounts can be credited in January. Student fees did not increase from 2019-20 to 2020-21, per Regent vote at a previous Board meeting.

Chancellor Selection Process and Timing:

Board members discussed the impact the Covid-19 pandemic poses for conducting any sort of search for personnel and the associated unknown regarding the University final budget. The traditional search method for a Chancellor / President involves a significant amount of individual and group forums with Regents, faculty, staff, students, and community. With the majority of students remaining off campus and the State of New Mexico travel restrictions, it would be very difficult to conduct the search in a traditional manner. It also requires candidates to travel, perhaps from out of State, for forums and interviews. Interviewing and forums are not conducive to social distancing. Board members discussed different options for moving forward and will place this item on the September 25, 2020 agenda for further discussion.

General Obligation Bond (Higher Education Bond C) Preparation

Chancellor Caldwell updated the Board on the plans and timeline for promoting and communicating the importance of engaging all of ENMU's stakeholders and community regarding the importance of supporting the passage of Higher Education Bond C in the November 3rd election. Plans are in place that include and aggressive campaign promoting the

G.O. Bond aligned with statewide guidelines and, where practical, coordinated with Roswell, Ruidoso, and CCC (includes letters to editor, radio and television interviews, appearances before school boards, civic and state agencies, mailings to parents and students who are NM residents, buttons, stickers, yard signs, etc.). Dr. Caldwell discussed plans that would benefit all three of ENMU's campuses from passage of Bond C and the second phase of Roosevelt Hall's transformation to a modern science center is dependent upon the additional \$8M that would be received. Bond C also benefits the economy of the communities for each campus in terms of gross receipts, renters and Lodgers Tax, plus more traffic to local businesses. ENMU Roswell and ENMU Ruidoso also benefits (\$4.8M & \$1.5M) and have projects that need these funds.

Update on Campus Fall Opening

Dr. Caldwell briefed the Board on the first week of classes and enrollment comparisons to the Fall of 2019. Orientations were conducted for freshmen and faculty/staff. Information sent to all students about health protocols. Website updated. Athletes informed of practices and competition restrictions. Microsoft "Teams" technology adds new potential for interactive online instruction. The ENMU-Portales plan has been approved by the Governor. Roswell's and Ruidoso's approvals are pending.

University House Remodel

Asbestos abatement was completed Aug 21. The next phase will involve the center wall (dining room / living room) removal and HVAC modifications. Once this work is complete we will evaluate remaining funds available for additional updates. A committee is currently evaluating alternative designs. Target date for work to be complete is June 2021.

Donor Contributions / Property Naming Rights

A discussion was held regarding the current Foundation policy regarding the criteria for naming an ENMU building or facility.

Greyhound Club / Athletics

The Board discussed recent communications between members of the Greyhound Club who expressed their concern that ENMU is not allowing their athletes to condition and practice on campus while their Lone Star Conference counterparts are being allowed to do so. The Board believes this issue is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and not a Board matter, but does agree that the health and safety of all students, including athletes, should be the deciding criteria in any student returning to campus.

The Board was also interested in how the pandemic might affect the eligibility of student athletes. This issue is currently being addressed by the NCAA and within the Lone Star Conference. If a decision is made to extend eligibility to 5 years, the Regents may have to approve this change and it will have some financial impact to the University.

Employees Return to Work

A discussion was held regarding employees returning to their offices and work locations, and what criteria was being applied to those still working alternative shifts and locations. The

Regents expressed the desire to see employees back on campus, a visible presence for the community and students that campus services are readily available to them. This requirement excludes those with health reasons to work from home.

Opportunity Scholarship Status / Update

Dr. Caldwell briefed the Board on the status of the Opportunity Scholarship in terms of applications and unknown impact of funding. She stated that it is available to students at New Mexico public postsecondary institutions and tribal colleges for students at age 18 or older or eligible for a Lottery Scholarship. Students must be enrolled in a 2-year program (or less) or credit-bearing certificate program of 2 years or less. Students must be enrolled for 12 credit hours, maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, and demonstrate financial need through the FAFSA or another form of income verification. Funds may be awarded up to 100% of tuition and fees after other state aid (Lottery, College Affordability grants, SIG funds, first-semester “bridge” or “starter” funds) has been applied. Roswell awarded funds Friday, Ruidoso is processing, and Portales will award fewer than 10 students.

Administrative Leave and Bonus Pay

The Regents requested Dr. Caldwell to provide clarification on how Administrative Leave and Bonus Pay were being administered. Per Dr. Caldwell, Administrative Leave covers any paid leave approved for an employee—whether for health issues, reviews of conduct, or other cause. Administrative Leave was used for COVID-related quarantine of employees. This practice has been modified (consistent with federal guidelines); now employees use their sick leave unless they are eligible to use emergency FMLA or other federally approved option for quarantine. ENMU did not award bonus pay during the pandemic. Custodians working in late March/April were allowed to work 4-day weeks for the early period of the campus shut-down before returning to their normal 5-day work schedule.

Other Discussion Items

A discussion was held regarding a limited number of positions within the University that have the opportunity to create a conflict between ENMU policy and secondary professional responsibilities. Much of the conversation involved the position of Chief of Security and the conflict this position creates in functioning as an ENMU manager, employee and Officer of the Law. Board members expressed a concern that if conflicts with this position or other positions with similar conflicts can't be managed it may be necessary for them to be revised, reorganized and/or eliminated.