

Eastern New Mexico University  
**Budget and Planning Committee**  
April 15, 2020

Present Elizabeth Acosta, Adilene Adame, Adrienne Bratcher, Patrice Caldwell, Allan Crawford, Clark Elswick, Dr. Elwell, David Hemley, Kris Kuhlmann, Jamie Laurenz, Jeff Long, Patrick McCreary, Hannah Stout, Charles Waggoner

Guests John Crates, Carol Fletcher, Benito Gonzales, John Houser

Minutes A motion (Kuhlmann/Acosta) to accept the minutes of February 26, 2020, passed.

Reports Dr. Elwell and Mr. Smart reported on the current status of budgets in New Mexico and for ENMU. Dr. Elwell stated that ENMU's approach to this crisis is two-fold: to protect ENMU's mission and to protect our people. We are doing this by assuring the physical safety of students (with online delivery of services and classes) and our people (work-from-home, limited contacts on campus with essential personnel only, heavy reliance on Teams virtual meetings).

Economically, New Mexico is facing difficult times. Oil and gas industries are at a standstill. Market prices for crude oil, over \$60/barrel not long ago, are now in the \$20's. Budget shortfall for state of NM's budget, just passed in March 2020, will be negative \$1.5 – 2 billion. And that could get worse. Almost 87,500 New Mexicans filed for unemployment in March.

Actions:

- Spring withdrawal date ("last day to withdraw from classes") is moved to May 1.
- All summer classes will be held online. Summer/fall registration has begun.
- Although we do not know whether the campus will be open in fall or if we will still be online, we hope to know by July 15, enough time to alert students, staff and faculty and to plan Dawg Days, orientation, and all other campus activities.
- Details are still being finalized, but Academic Affairs intends to send faculty contracts later this month.
- At the special session of the NM Legislature, we should expect cuts to the appropriation, anywhere for 1 to 15%, and a possible elimination of initiatives such as research and public service, tax severance funding, or capital projects.
- Core Staff is reviewing all open positions --whether to continue with the hire or hold
- Recruiters are contacting students about summer/fall classes
- The Business Office is preparing a "flat" budget (no increases over this year). If the special session of the legislature confirms our appropriation, we can increase budget lines and compensation, as appropriate.
- We are investigating CARES funding assistance from the federal government
- We await NCAA notification of the status of fall football (and other) competitions

Mr. Smart added some details about the current fiscal year budget. Federal stimulus dollars (flowing through the State of New Mexico to higher education) will soften the impact of any state appropriation reductions. The State also has a "rainy day" reserve

fund that it could tap to reduce anticipated budget shortfalls. The University over the years has also built its own “rainy day fund” that can soften shortfalls (included enrollment downturns). Mr. Smart anticipates needing \$9M from these reserves over the next three years to get the campus through this economic slump.

Managers will be asked to closely monitor expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year and to develop plans for reducing 2020-21 budgets by 3%. ENMU refunded balances of students’ housing and meal deposits last month.

While this is a difficult time for ENMU and New Mexico budgetarily, we still have a strong university staffed by a great group of people. Resources have been set aside over the years to assist in difficult times such as this. We will adapt to our new reality and will become a stronger university as a result.

There were no other reports.

Old Business *Strategic Plan updates from 2018-19 (goals 3 and 4)*. The report for Goal 3, Good Stewardship, sustainable programs, and efficient operations, highlighted safety initiatives on campus (blue light emergency system, video surveillance, and keyless access); various renovation programs, and the ACH process and Banner 9 implementation. ITS implemented several updates to VPN technology, completed the computer roll-out and classroom upgrades that were scheduled. Business Office has removed the “pencil budget” phase of budget preparation for a more streamlined process. For Goal 4, Responsive Today, Preparing for the Future, the campus monitors campus diversity, student satisfaction and key programs, such as teacher education.

Strategic initiatives for the coming year will include a return to the campus strategy of right-sizing—a careful examination of all budgets, by department and area—to address the next three years of tight budgets. The campus should also anticipate a heightened interest from the state in teacher education and economic development initiatives.

New Business None.

Next Meeting Dr. Hemley noted this was the last official meeting of the academic year, but, at Mr. Smart’s suggestion, he supported another meeting of the Committee following the special legislative session (in June or July).

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by  
Patrice Caldwell