

Eastern New Mexico University  
**Budget and Planning Committee**  
January 20, 2021

Present Stephanie Beinlich, Ed Caffrey, Patrice Caldwell, Enrique Carrillo, Cameron Colson, Kenwyn Cradock, Allan Crawford, Clark Elswick, Russell Johnson, Jamie Laurenz, Jeff Long, Brent Small, Laura Smart, Scott Smart, Debra Stone, Charles Waggoner

Guests John Crates

Minutes Mr. Caffrey called the meeting to order. A motion (Beinlich/Cradock) to accept the minutes of November 18, 2020, passed.

**Budget Update.** Mr. Smart: Started out in the legislative session in a good spot. We are not going to have any budget cuts. The state has recovered quicker than anticipated. The depths of losses were not as deep as thought at first. There is talk of another round of federal funding through a stimulus similar to what we saw before. The first round of stimulus was for the students and the second half was for the institution. We do not know how much those funds will be. The only difference is the student round will be need based probably on Pell grant eligibility. Core staff has stated they will use whatever funds are needed to be dedicated to technology for our students to complete their online courses as easy as possible with many hurdles. Every session the Governors office develops a budget and the Legislature develops a budget and there is always a difference between the two. This year the legislative budget has a 1.5% raise for state employees. They have not been able to fund a raise for 5 of the last 12 years. Eastern has been lucky and we were able to fund raises for our employees when the state could not. One thing that is unique in this session is the change of some of the major players. John Arthur Smith ruled over the Senate for a couple of decades and he is no longer holds that seat. Senator has always been Senate Minority Leader and does not hold that seat any longer. Over all state fund for Eastern will stay flat not seeing any other reductions. This will be the same funding level as we had in 2008. It has been about 13 years that state funding has remained flat. Our budget and our financial health are based on our enrollment. We are estimating with our current year 20/21 we will have a 7.5% decline, primarily due to COVID. A mid-year financial review show what was expected. Our Auxiliaries are suffering since the dining hall and residence halls are not open. Those produce revenue which is used to pay debt services which is about one million. Currently this is fund out of our reserves. Our I&G is stable despite the decline in enrollment. We are in good shape moving into the 21/22 fiscal year.

Minimum wage is now at \$10.50 per hour, we did not increase everyone's budget to reflect increase. We are asking those who have student workers to decrease the working hours by about 10%. A year from now minimum wage will be \$11.50 per hour and in January 2023 it will be \$12.00 per hour. We will have to more carefully prioritize where we utilize student wages. We have increased a small group of employees about .60 cents an hour in order to keep them a dollar above minimum wage. We want to make minimum wage for the University \$11.50 per hour for full time university employees. Our long-term goal is \$15.00 per hour for employees.

**Legislative Update:** President Caldwell: The first issue about the legislate is it is a very different group. In some ways we are being guardedly optimistic, but it seems to be friendlier to higher education than what we are familiar with. In particular Senator Mimi Stewart the democratic Majority Leader has gone on record to say she will not support a budget that does not restore the CARES Act money that was swapped out for higher education. This speaks very well of our fate and it

shows going forward that they appreciate higher education. There are three budgets and they will change a lot over the next couple of weeks, but the Legislative Finance Committee has a very attractive option for us with no cuts and with the federal money that Scott mentioned it will be very good for our students and the institution. This session is going to be interesting and we cannot predict how it will turn out but we do have good friends in the legislature, Senator Ingle is always on the side of education and has a big say on how things get to the floor and how they are treated on the floor. Representative Phelps Anderson who is in Roswell is turning out to be quite the advocate for higher education, Representative Randy Crowder in Clovis and I think we have strong support in Roswell and Ruidoso.

**Enrollment update:** Enrollment is always changing in the first week of classes, students can drop/add until January 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching this enrollment closely, but for us to be down less than 1% headcount from same time last year is really extraordinary. A huge debt of thanks to those who made the calls, the folks in the Advising Center and the students who decided we were right and they need to come back and finish their education. Another positive is 76% of our freshmen that were with us last fall are back for spring. We are usually in the 80s but this is a pandemic. A huge tribute goes to Freshmen Seminar, they did a lot with these freshmen and really wrapped their arms around them virtually and showed them the way forward and there is way to get your degree and not go crazy.

Athletics has had a number of operations going on behind the scenes and the governor has changed her position on competition. There are a lot of rules and hoops to go through and it is very likely we will be allowed to cross state lines to compete. Those athletes who do this will come back quarantine and test once they return. If they test positive they will not be released from quarantine. All of this is being done with a great deal of care and attention to CDC protocols, testing protocols including antigen and PCR testing. More information will be coming out as the coaches are meeting today to figure out how to do this going forward.

**Capital Projects and Construction Update.** Mr. Smart reported Roosevelt Science Center contract for a construction manager at risk will be reviewed by the Regents. Once approved, this will begin the serious planning for the RSC renovation with the architect who has already been hired. Construction hopefully will begin late summer 2021. 12.5 million is marked for construction costs. President's house should be done by May. The next Bond project will be worked out in the next 4 to 5 months, perhaps, the Ag building/art annex or SAS. We will be asking in this session for money to complete the last leg of the access control system which is about \$750 thousand, \$350 thousand for equipment for KENW, and the final piece is \$350 thousand to replace the roof on the theatre, which is the oldest roof on campus.

**Academic Affairs Update:** Dr. Laurenz reported Spring semester has about 80 in-person classes; CDC, Speech-Hearing Clinic, GSSC open. Students have access to several classroom buildings for classes or appointments with faculty or staff. Students must complete online health monitoring first (staff and faculty as well). Barring a major setback, fall 2021 campus will be open as usual for in-person and online classes, housing, dining, events, athletic competition, etc. By then, vaccines should be widely

available. During this semester, efforts to engage students in their learning and keep them on track for their degrees will be faculty priorities. “Right-sizing” reviews will be identifying some programs with opportunities to improve and even grow. The outcomes of these reviews will be ready to share later in March. We are planning to have a “normal” fall semester. Our summer semester is normally primarily online so there is little change for that one. We are currently working on the summer and fall schedules

**ITS Update:** Mr. Elswick reported the continuing need for better and more reliable broadband connectivity. This has been an issue throughout the state. Star link Satellite (Elon Musk) has received help from the FCC to help rural areas with internet. New Mexico is on the list of states. ITS continues to provide client support to students, faculty and staff -- training, assistance, loaner laptops as available, Wi-Fi hotspots, *work from home* and *school from home* websites. ITS is Continuing need for vigilance against hackers, spam, etc. If you receive or see a suspicious email message contact ITS to check it out. They can remove it from your computer as well as everyone else’s

**Student Affairs:** Dr Long reported Student Affairs Office is providing orientations for new students, recruiting events, and virtual tours this spring. Later this month, virtual campus, club and organization events will be launched, including PSAC meetings, multicultural affairs events and as much of the range of campus activities that we can. Looking ahead: For fall, tuition and fees will be flat (same as 2020-21, no increase). Room and board will have modest increases (3% for rooms, 5% for meal plans). We are looking to get the message out that ENMU will be “open for business” and ready to assist students. Today we released invitations for students to apply for fall scholarships. We encourage all faculty and staff to encourage students to read their email and take advantage of these opportunities.

Old Business None

New Business None

Adjournment A motion (Johnson/Waggoner) to adjourn was accepted at 2:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by  
Cris Watson