

**EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY**  
**Virtual Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Eastern New Mexico University - Portales**  
**March 26, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Regent President Dan Patterson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and declared a quorum. Regents Dan Patterson, Lance Pyle, Chandler Head, and Trish Ruiz were physically present. Regent Phillip Bustos was present virtually.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW REGENTS**

Regent Dan Patterson introduced newly appointed Regents Trish Ruiz, Chandler Head, and Phillip Bustos.

Ms. Karen Van Ruiten administered the Oath of Office

*Roll call: Regent Patterson – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Head – Yes;  
Regent Ruiz– Yes; Regent Bustos –Yes.*

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

*Regent Pyle moved to approve the agenda as presented. Regent Ruiz seconded. Vote: 5-0-0.  
Motion approved.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Regent Pyle moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2021, and March 10, 2021.  
Regent Ruiz seconded. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

**REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

Regent Dan Patterson congratulated Roosevelt County for their recent designation as turquoise by the New Mexico Department of Health, with Curry County not far behind at green status.

Regent Patterson thanked our faculty and staff for their continued hard work during these trying times and commented on the extraordinary efforts of our custodial and public safety workers.

**REPORT FROM THE ENMU-ROSWELL PRESIDENT**

Dr. Shawn Powell reported that Chaves County is now in the green designation from NMDOH, and the Roswell campus is moving forward with the green phase of their back-to-campus plan. Classes will continue in their current mode, with face-to-face instruction in health education, technical education, and special services programs. They are in the process of opening buildings on campus.

Since April 2020, there have been 50 COVID-19 cases, 25 faculty/staff/administrators, and 25 students. There have been no new cases since February 2021.

Dr. Powell reported on two open positions on the Community College Board. The outgoing members are Patricia Parsons and Tammy Lueras of Districts 2 and 3. He will meet with the County Clerks Office regarding the election process and guidelines.

A recent survey among students revealed a desire for a limited face-to-face graduation ceremony this spring. Plans are underway for a diploma presentation (only) ceremony with virtual programming in the Performing Arts Center. The Roswell Civic Center is closed.

The Higher Learning Commission will conduct their site visit October 18-19, 2021. With the efforts of Todd DeKay and Annemarie Oldfield, the Institutional Research and Accreditation Department has completed their campus-wide HLC Assurance Argument.

Dr. Powell reported on the College Development Department and said Donna Oracion has recently conducted media preference surveys among students to better understand and focus on advertising, their preferred media platforms, and messaging preferences. This data will help in supporting students in the future. In-Depth Productions has completed two videos to increase awareness of the need for aviation maintenance technicians to be aired on PBS. The department has also scheduled some advertising to promote healthcare career pathways for dual-credit students.

Several other matters of interest were mentioned, including the transition to Risk Management Insurance, the redesign of the Learning Resource Center to house support services for students, and the work toward an integrated "System" approach to procurement.

#### **REPORT FROM THE ENMU-RUIDOSO PRESIDENT**

Mr. Ryan Trosper commented on how great it is to see everyone in person. He introduced Mr. Steve Lestarjette, Chief External Affairs Officer at ENMU-Ruidoso. Many of the Ruidoso staff and administration have voiced interest in visiting the Portales campus, and he will make a concerted effort to provide this opportunity to his staff members in the future.

Mr. Trosper reported that Lincoln County is now in the green designation by the NMDOH. They have had six positive COVID-19 cases among staff members and two cases among their students since the beginning of the pandemic.

In an effort to reach new populations of students, ENMU-Ruidoso is hiring a Tribal Liaison and Recruiter. This person will have an office both on-campus and on the Mescalero Homelands.

Mr. Trosper said that a committee has been formed to work on the details of spring commencement. They are considering an outdoor ceremony option at the Inn of the Mountain Gods with a focus on celebrating the perseverance of their students.

The Ruidoso campus will soon implement an online platform for non-credit registration. High school equivalency courses are now being offered at the Lincoln County Detention Center, and 19 students are enrolled.

Mr. Trosper reported that ENMU-Ruidoso has been named the Cyber Security Center of Academic Excellence State host for New Mexico and Oklahoma by the National Security Agency. They will have the opportunity to host this group on campus this year.

The property acquisition at 709 Mechem continues to progress, and they have received acknowledgment from the Title Company. Documents are now being prepared to submit at the New Mexico Finance Authority and Higher Education Department meetings.

## **REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENMU SYSTEM**

Dr. Patrice Caldwell reported an enrollment of 3,946 degree-seeking students this spring (down 1% from last spring) and 704 non-degree seeking students (down 33% from last spring). The decline in non-degree students is due to fewer Dual-enrollment students. Summer and fall registration will begin on April 3.

We continue to monitor COVID-19 very carefully, with excellent campus compliance with masking and social distancing. There have been no new cases on campus for the past three weeks. Last week CRRSAA Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds were distributed to students in the amount of \$23.75 per credit hour.

Dr. Caldwell reported the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session concluded on March 22 with positive results for higher education. Although the budget has not been signed by the Governor, information has been shared about House Bill 2 and the impact on campus. There will be cuts in Research and Public Service funding, but there will be an equity adjustment of approximately \$400K due to the hard work of Scott Smart. This will be recurring money for upcoming fiscal years.

Commencement planning is underway with the help and recommendations of Core Staff. Student Senate will nominate candidates for commencement speakers. This will be an in-person, socially distanced event at Greyhound Stadium on May 15. Portales High School will also use this venue for their graduation on May 28.

Recognizing the importance of connecting with students, Student Affairs is offering several events. These presentations have included cooking demonstrations from Dr. Mary Ayala and Mr. Cody Spitz. The Music Department recently performed a radio opera which was broadcast via KENW.

Academic Affairs is nearing the completion of a review of academic programs' viability. Undersubscribed programs are being assessed, and a review committee will make recommendations for improvement in terms of recruitment and retention. A limited number of programs may be recommended for "teach-out."

Dr. Caldwell introduced Dr. Jamie Laurenz – vice president for Academic Affairs, Mr. Scott Smart - vice president for Business Affairs, Dr. Jeff Long – vice president for Student Affairs, Mr. Clark Elswick – System Chief Information Officer, Mr. Benito Gonzales – System Human Resources Director, and Mr. Matt Billings – Athletic Director. Each of these administrators took a moment to introduce himself to the board and talk about key functions of their departments.

## **BUSINESS MATTERS**

### **1. Promotion and Tenure Decisions**

Dr. Jamie Laurenz announced the following promotion and tenure awards:

- Omar Camarillo – associate professor of criminal justice
- Matt Haney – associate professor of management
- Michael Rizza – associate professor of English
- Robert Schneider - associate professor of management
- Kristin Waldo – associate professor of sociology and criminal justice

Dr. Laurenz commented that the key to the University's success is finding good people and keeping them.

2. Architect Selection, Roswell

Per ENMU Policy 55-2, Dr. Powell presented a request for approval of "on-contract" architectural services through ASA Architects of Roswell for upgrading their exterior lighting and surveillance system. This upgrade is funded by the 2020 General Obligation Bond capital project. A portion of the funds have been made available as of December 2020 and must be spent or encumbered by May 2021.

Dr. Powell requested the board approve moving forward with contract architectural services through ASA Architectural Services in Roswell, NM.

***Regent Head moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell architect selection as presented. Regent Ruiz seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.***

3. Annual Authorization of the Open Meetings Act

Dr. Caldwell said this authorization is required by state statute and ENMU Policy 10-1 and 10-4. The Open Meetings Act covers all meetings (regular, special, emergency, and work session), and approval of this resolution indicates our willingness to comply.

***Regent Ruiz moved to approve the Annual Authorization of the Open Meetings Act as presented. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.***

## **REGENT MATTERS**

### **Information Only**

#### **Ms. Noelle Bartl**

##### Update on Alumni Events

Ms. Bartl said the biggest challenge in planning future events is to follow guidelines to keep alumni and donors safe. At this time, there will be no spring events, and the Foundation will be cautious in planning summer events.

The April 9-10 Winter Board Meeting in Ruidoso will take place, but the Alumni Reception has been canceled. The Scholarship and Awards assembly that takes place in spring has been canceled, and an alternative method of awarding scholarships is being looked into. Traditionally, the Emeritus luncheon takes place in May. This event has also been canceled, but they will find an alternative way to honor this group. The University house is under construction, so the 41-year tradition of Burying of the Beef will resume next year.

Discussion took place regarding the turquoise status of Roosevelt County. Ms. Bartl responded that conversations have taken place with many of their donors, and they are not willing to attend events quite yet. The summer golf tournament is also under review for an alternative location, since players exceed the limit of their current venue.

Regent Pyle asked if there has been an impact on fundraising. Ms. Bartl responded that fundraising has remained strong, as well as estate planning.

**Dr. Jeff Long**

Update on Recruiting and Goals for 2020-2021

Dr. Long introduced Cody Spitz, Director of Enrollment Services, who reported on the recruiting Open House event taking place on March 27. This will be a virtual event, and there are 80 guests currently registered. This is the third event reprogrammed for a virtual setting.

Individual tours are taking place Monday through Friday, four tours per day, and visitors are able to visit all of the service offices as well as visit with professors if they are available.

At this time, Mr. Spitz stated, recruitment numbers remain unpredictable. It is early to have good data, but student outreach is underway. He listed several upcoming events which include 6-step registration, Albuquerque registration, and the New Mexico Access Council. They are also looking at a tailgate recruiting event for high school students and are surveying high school counselors to get their opinion on how this might work this fall.

Regent Bustos asked about our current use of ACT or SAT scores since these tests are not being administered due to COVID-19. Ms. Susan Cramp, Director of the Advising Center, responded that Accuplacer is being used as a replacement for traditional testing scores. ENMU is following other universities with test-optional for ACT/SAT.

**Mr. Scott Smart**

Update on Roosevelt Science Center Construction

Mr. Smart reported the RSC committee is struggling with the budget. We have received \$16 million from the State and must make two major decisions. The existing building is 40K square feet, and the New Mexico Rules Committee requires that we keep a portion of the structure even though it would be more cost-effective to demolish and build new. In order to stay within budget, they must reduce the square footage to 30K, which will require the relocation of the Miles Mineral Museum and the Gennaro Natural History Museum. A committee will meet later today to discuss the relocation of these two museums. We are exploring the possibility of getting additional Federal funding to help with this project.

Dr. Laurenz commented on the tremendous increase in the cost of construction since the time this project was bid out. They are now looking at approximately \$435 per square foot.

Update on the University House

Mr. Smart reported that although he was initially told that stamped drawings would not be required for this project, the State came back and asked for them. These drawings should arrive next week and will immediately be sent off in order to acquire a CID permit.

Mr. Smart estimated that after architectural plans are finalized, it should take an estimated four months to complete the remodel.

Update on the Solar Project

Mr. Smart said there was a meeting on March 10. Xcel Energy suggested that a DISIS (Definitive Interconnection System Impact Study) study will not be necessary and that the excess energy produced by our solar installation would not be large enough to impact the grid past the closest sub-station.

He further reported Xcel has two studies in process for Phase I and II (each study takes approximately two months). In four months, these studies should be complete, and we can move forward with Phase I.

Update on Greyhound Arena Roof

Mr. Smart reported that this project has been completed, and we have received the roof warranty documents.

**Dr. Patrice Caldwell**

Update on Legislative Activities

Dr. Caldwell reported that the 2+2 Pilot Project, sponsored by Senator Gay Kernan who is also the legislative sponsor of Regent Ruiz and a longtime friend of ENMU. It is unusual for pilot projects to name institutions specifically. This pilot names six institutions on the East side of the State, including our two branches and main campus. This program is intended to articulate two-year associate programs with four-year programs at ENMU. We are gratified that this project was approved by both houses and places the ENMU System in an excellent position to help students succeed. Dr. Laurenz will be the point person.

Update on Athletics

Dr. Caldwell said athletic programs across the State have experienced financial difficulties for several years. Fixed costs have escalated, but funding has not. A lead issue ENMU is facing is related to the Title IX requirement for equitable opportunities for male and female athletes. We are currently at a 60/40 male-to-female ratio, which does not reflect our undergraduate gender percentages. The cost of transportation and insurance are also at the forefront of increasing costs.

Dr. Caldwell directed attention to the Infrastructure Fees Funding documentation and explained our revenue stream, state appropriations, and the use of Student Fees for auxiliaries such as athletics. Also, it should be noted that most Lone Star Conference teams are better funded in their respective states.

With these factors being considered, it is necessary to talk about Men's Soccer. With the departure of the head coach in December, most of the team members did not return for the spring semester. The team members are predominantly international students. ENMU will continue to honor their scholarships and allow them to get their bachelor's degree. If they prefer to transfer elsewhere, we will assist them in this process. If the decision is made to suspend the program, it can be re-instated in the future.

Considerable discussion followed with concern for transportation costs, the advisability of looking to finance our own transportation and possibly taking our insurance out for bid to secure a better value. Regent Pyle asked Matt Billings to look into options to bring fixed costs down.

It was agreed by the Regents that a decision to add or delete a program should be made by them. Dr. Caldwell affirmed the actions taken by the board are at the discretion of the board, but a level of responsibility is delegated to the administration. To this end, the administration brings this matter to the board for advisement.

There was a unanimous decision among the Regents to suspend Men's Soccer and agreed it would be advisable to form a committee with one Regent member to further look into matters pertaining to Athletics.

### **Regent Dan Patterson**

#### HERC Report

Dr. Patterson said that with the onset of the pandemic, a statewide broadband deficiency was discovered, particularly in rural areas of the State. Universities, together with PED, are working on a way to solve this problem. Mr. Elswick commented that NM CHECS – Education Technology Consortium has been looking into this matter for quite a while and has discovered it to be a daunting task.

Regent Patterson asked that a resolution be brought to the next board meeting stating that Eastern New Mexico University joins the other institutions and organizations to get this problem solved.

#### Committee Assignments

Dr. Patterson made the following committee appointments:

- Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer – Chandler Head
- Audit & Finance Committee – Lance Pyle and Dan Patterson
- Higher Education Regents Consortium – Trish Ruiz and Dan Patterson (Lance Pyle will transition in soon)
- ENMU Foundation Board - Chandler Head
- Alumni Board – Phillip Bustos
- New Mexico Public School Authority – Trish Ruiz

### **Other Items**

#### 1. Reopening of Campus

Regent Patterson said the State's color designations are changing, and the question arises as to when ENMU should open sooner than the fall semester.

Regent Ruiz commented that right now, students need support. Faculty and staff are doing their best right now but cannot handle any more. There are so many challenges, some that are visible, and some that are underlying, she does not feel that we can ask anything further from students, faculty, or staff. There is growing concern that our students have fallen behind during the past year, but she feels that essential remediation can quickly bring students back to where they need to be in fall.

Regent Pyle recognized that Roosevelt County is turquoise, and we are headed in the right direction. His main concern is that we open our service facilities to allow students and their families to enter buildings and take care of business. Regent Head and Regent Bustos agreed.

Dr. Laurenz said that online courses are designed much differently than in-person courses. It would be difficult to transition to an in-person format at this point in the semester. Dr. Long stated that students were contacted last fall to see who wanted to return to campus. All students who voiced a desire to be on campus have been housed at West Campus.

*Regent Pyle moved to reopen campus service facilities, with all COVID-19 safety requirements in place. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Regent Patterson moved to enter executive session at 3:40 p.m. to discuss one limited personnel matter pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2), NMSA (1978). Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

*Roll call: Regent Patterson – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Head – Yes; Regent Ruiz– Yes; Regent Bustos–Yes.*

*Regent Ruiz moved to return to open session at 4:12 p.m. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

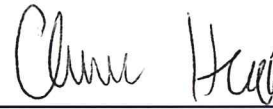
1. Regent President Patterson reported that the regents discussed one limited personnel matter pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2), NMSA (1978). No action was taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Regent Ruiz moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*



**President of the Board**



**Secretary of the Board**