

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
CNM – Student Success Center, Rm. 205
Albuquerque, NM
September 10, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Regent President Dan Patterson called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and declared a quorum. Regents Dan Patterson, Lance Pyle, Chandler Head, Trish Ruiz, and Phillip Bustos were present.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11/2001

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Regent Pyle moved to amend the agenda by combining the mileage reimbursement item with the Policy 35-1 amendments and approve the remaining agenda as presented. Regent Ruiz seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Ruiz moved to approve the minutes of June 26 and July 9, 2021. Regent Bustos seconded. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Regent Dan Patterson thanked everyone for their attendance. Regent Chandler Head was asked to recap her recent choral performers' tour to Spain. She reported a contingency of twenty-one students and alums toured various locations in Spain, including the first-ever performance at Los Sagrados Amelio in Barcelona.

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-ROSWELL PRESIDENT

Dr. Shawn Powell thanked Regent Phillip Bustos for making the meeting arrangements and visiting the Roswell campus. Dr. Powell reported the Associate of Science Nursing program has been named number one in the state for two consecutive years.

Enrollment is down 6% from fall 2020 but will likely end up flat after all dual credit students have been enrolled.

The Roswell campus has had 72 COVID cases since spring 2020. Thirty-six faculty/staff cases and 36 students. The last reported case was on September 8, 2021.

Dr. Powell said there are thirty open positions on campus (15% of their workforce). They are looking for ways to reassign workloads. A Job Fair will be held in Roswell, September 14. Additionally, an eight-month professional development program, ENMU-Roswell Fellowship, will begin next week with 27 faculty, staff, and administrators participating.

Updates on ongoing Capital Projects included:

- Maintenance Building construction completion scheduled for September 16
- Ongoing renovations in the Automotive/Welding building
- Projections for the exterior lighting and surveillance system cost projections will be presented later in this meeting
- Electrical engineering design work for the electrical panel upgrades are in progress
- Performing Arts Center renovations are complete

- An RFP for sanitation and sewer line replacement and restroom renovation is being developed
- An RFP for upgrades for fiber optic cable, server room, and communication room upgrades are in progress

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-RUIDOSO PRESIDENT

Mr. Ryan Trosper reported enrollment is trending ahead of last fall, and on Census Day, they were up 9%. It appears that more students are enrolling but taking fewer courses.

There have been 17 COVID cases since spring 2020, with two new cases since the beginning of this semester. He thanked the facilities staff who have worked diligently to ensure the safety of our students and employees.

This summer, several state officials visited ENMU-Ruidoso, including NMHED Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez, LFC Director David Abbey, and Representative Phelps Anderson. This visibility has been beneficial to the campus.

Mr. Trosper reported permanent occupancy on Phase II of the Nexus Project. Phase III will be presented later in the meeting.

The Legislative Finance Committee met on the Ruidoso campus this summer, and he and Dr. Powell reported on behalf of the branch campuses.

On September 29, there will be continued conversations with the Mescalero Apache Tribe regarding a cyber range. He and the tribal council hope to begin work on the language for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for this cooperative endeavor.

The first cohort of seven students are enrolled in the RN partnership with the ENMU-Roswell. Mr. Trosper thanked Dr. Powell, Dr. Laurie Jensen, and Ms. Rachel Conover, and the Regents for their support in bringing this program to fruition.

Through the work of the director, Mr. Stephen Miller, the Cybersecurity program was successful with the National Science Foundation partnership with Wacom Community College. This program will bring approximately \$400K to expand cybersecurity program.

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENMU SYSTEM

Dr. Patrice Caldwell announced the loss of Bill Joy, former ENMU Athletic Director and fixture in the Portales community since 1966. A private memorial service will be held tomorrow.

Dr. Jamie Laurenz is attending the annual 9/11 Memorial in Portales. Later today, Mr. Scott Smart will welcome fifty former football players at a Greyhound Club-sponsored event.

The Regent dashboard model is ready and will be posted soon. Thanks for the help of the Roswell and Ruidoso presidents. Feedback and comments are appreciated.

Last week, 33 students tested positive for COVID, but there were no faculty or staff cases. Onsite testing has been implemented in Athletics and is being overseen by Dr. Joel Sievers, team physician. All COVID cases are being dealt with case-by-case, with full disclosure when involving athletic competition.

Enrollment is down 5.3% from fall 2020, with a noticeable drop in freshmen and sophomore enrollment numbers; junior and senior numbers remain close to last year. A new recruiting and marketing initiative (Ruffalo Noel-Levitz) will launch this fall to attract targeted student populations. This week, two luncheon meetings were held for Albuquerque area high school counselors with a great deal of positive feedback.

Dr. Caldwell commented on several student and faculty accomplishments, including the summer cybersecurity competition led by Mr. Stephen Miller on the Ruidoso campus. In addition, a College of Business team's 2nd place finish in cybersecurity competition, complemented the cybersecurity competition success by ENMU-Ruidoso.

Two unique products are now being marketed to benefit ENMU-scholarship funds. Silver Dawg Salsa sold well at the Roosevelt County Fair, and the Greyhound Grind coffee is also very popular. A red and white wine offering will be ready later this year.

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Cannabis Curriculum Licensing Opportunities for ENMU

Ms. Shanon Jaramillo thanked the Regents for the opportunity to make this presentation. Mr. Heath Grider, a former Agribusiness student, spoke via cell phone, giving positive remarks about the SeedCrest program and its outcomes.

Currently, there are 11,000 cannabis industry jobs, with 4,000 in the medical aspect of this field. There are not enough credentialed people in the state to fill the workforce need. SeedCrest, LLC is working to fill the gap with qualified, trained people based on the Governor's recent program implementation.

Ms. Jaramillo provided documentation to outline the curriculum licensing opportunities that have been developed through her company. A 40-hour plug-and-play online curriculum and certificate program would allow students to become certified in several aspects of the cannabis industry.

Regent Patterson thanked Ms. Jaramillo for her presentation and referred her to the three campus presidents for further discussion.

2. Approval of Property Donation

Ms. Noelle Bartl described the Casa del Sol property location of 1401 West 17th Street, Portales, as the former residence of Campus Union Director Dallan Sanders and wife Mickey. Dr. Gay Su Pinnell purchased the property with the vision of remodeling the home into an events facility with guest apartments. Once renovations are complete, she plans to donate the property to the University with a ten-year quasi-endowment of \$50K for ongoing maintenance requirements.

Based on policy, Ms. Bartl asked for approval of this property donation.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the property donation at 1401 West 17th Street, Portales, NM, as presented. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

3. **Exterior Lighting and Surveillance System Upgrade Cost Estimates, Roswell**

Dr. Powell stated the cost estimate for construction, architectural, and engineering design are proposed at \$2,591,465 to cover upgrades for exterior lighting and the surveillance system. ENMU-Roswell received \$500K in severance tax bonds from the 2020 legislative session, and an additional \$1.8 million was received following the 2020 GO Bond, which will be available in July 2021.

Regent Ruiz moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell exterior lighting and surveillance system upgrades as presented. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

4. **Capital Outlay Requests, Roswell**

Dr. Powell listed capital outlay requests that would improve academic instruction and student learning, including:

- Infrastructure request to address deferred maintenance: purchase, installation, and upgrade of four cooling towers and three boilers at the central Maintenance Building. Amount requested \$600K
- Health Education – mobile ambulance simulator with movement. Amount requested \$96K
- Technical Education Welding Program – forty Lincoln Electric welding units. Amount requested \$220K
- Technical Education Aviation Program – aircraft ground power units. Amount requested \$59K
- Total 2022 Legislative Capital Outlay requests \$975,000

Regent Ruiz moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell Capital Outlay requests as presented. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

5. **HLC Accreditation Site Visit Update, Roswell**

Dr. Powell reported the Higher Learning Commission comprehensive accreditation site visit will take place October 18-19, 2021. The agenda has yet to be determined. Regents may be invited to take part in a portion of this visit.

6. **Approval of Research and Public Service Projects 2022-2023, Ruidoso**

Mr. Trosper listed three proposed Research and Public Service Projects for FY23 funding:

- Nursing Partnership – continued partnership with the ENMU-Roswell RN program. Requested amount \$158K
- Wind Energy – train local workforce to fill the local area’s industry demand for trained technicians and retain employees in the area. Requested amount \$179K
- Fermentation Sciences – develop a program to meet the needs of employers in the region, focusing on workforce pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training. Amount requested \$175K

Regent Pyle moved to approve ENMU-Ruidoso’s Research, and Public Service Projects 2022-2023 funding request of \$512K as presented. Regent Ruiz seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

7. **Approval of Nexus Phase III, Ruidoso**

Mr. Trosper stated they are ready to begin Phase III of the Nexus Project, which would include infrastructure renovations; parking lot repairs; storm drainage, handicap parking, and other ADA work; restoration of the front retaining wall, and installation of safety lighting, security cameras, and college signage.

Regent Ruiz moved to approve the Nexus Project, Phase III not to exceed \$3 million, as presented. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

8. **Update on Athletics**

Dr. Paul Weir thanked the board for the opportunity and remarked on the helpful resource Dr. Caldwell has been to him. He has defined three main initiatives to present for consideration 1) Adding a staff position for student support and success, 2) The reinstatement of Men's Soccer. Since the University of New Mexico suspended its program, ENMU would be the only program in the state, and facilities are already in place, and 3) Full inclusion of Rodeo under Athletics.

Discussion took place among the Regents regarding the cost and benefits of returning to the Men's Soccer program. Regent Bustos asked that a full discussion on the Rodeo program be held at the next Regent's Work Session.

9. **Amendments to Policy 35-1 Travel by System Employees**

Mr. Benito Gonzales presented a summary of amendments to Policy 35-1 to reflect new per diem rates for meal reimbursements and travel. Also included are changes to Regent reimbursement rates based on Senate Bill 345. Encumbered in this presentation is Regent Lance Pyle's request to match ENMU's mileage reimbursement rate with the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Tony Major emphasized the policy itself is not being changed; the per diem amounts are being updated with a goal of not having to bring this before the board every time the amounts change. This plan could include current and future changes to mileage reimbursement as well.

Regent Lance Pyle pointed to Item E in the policy pertaining to personal vehicles and the .42 cent mileage reimbursement that has been in place for the past six years. Other city's and county's reimbursement rates have been researched, and it has been discovered ENMU is under these amounts. He proposed that language be added under Item E to reflect that mileage reimbursement is set at 80% of the IRS standard mileage rate, effective January 1 of each year. This would be in line with the rest of the state and would only require that we check at the beginning of each year to ensure we are reimbursing mileage at the standard rate.

Regent Pyle moved to approve amendments to Policy 35-1 with an additional amendment to Item E to reflect mileage reimbursement be set at 80% of the IRS standard mileage rate effective January 1 of each year. Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

Information Only

Mr. Scott Smart

Update on ENMU's use of CARES Act funds to support enrollment

Mr. Smart reported \$21.5 million has been spent, and \$6.2 million is available in the System. Of funds spent, \$12.3 million has been sent to students, \$3 million used for COVID mitigation, and \$700K used to refund miscellaneous charges due to the impact of COVID.

Update on the University House

Mr. Smart said the final finishes on the home's interior are underway. At this time, we are waiting on the kitchen cabinets. The manufacturer is unable to give a shipping date. Renovation work should be completed in October.

Update on the Roosevelt Science Center/GO Bond Projects

Mr. Smart reported the building users committee is working with the design team, but we are still struggling with the unprecedented inflation of material costs. As it stands, we will need an additional \$1.4 million to complete the project. This could result in a special legislative request at the 2022 session.

The Student Academic Services Building has been proposed for the 2022 General Obligations Bond project. The HED committee asked for a change from renovation to new construction, which has been accommodated. The new plan includes the demolition of Harding Hall and new construction for the SAS building.

Update on the Solar Project

Mr. Smart said he received an email from Steve House stating Xcel is on schedule with their impact study and recommendation for system upgrades. Mr. House will meet with ENMU on September 17 and 21 to discuss this matter further.

Dr. Jamie Laurenz

Update on the Alternative Education Licensure Program and outreach

Dr. Laurenz reported a significant increase in students applying for licensures from last fall. School districts are hiring individuals to teach and then they apply for the program. Similar programs across the state are receiving mixed results with a trend for students beginning the program but not following through to completion.

The Alternative Licensure Program has been well marketed with aggressive outreach and is expanding to a virtual market. We are focusing on retention efforts and looking at orientation for new admissions based on the recommendation of school superintendents.

Update on any potential new programs

Dr. Laurenz said the course catalog is reviewed and updated on a 2-year cycle. The 2021-2023 catalog has all the refinements in effect for this fall, and the process of refining course offerings for the 2023-2025 catalog has already begun.

The bachelor's of applied arts and science degree options are consistent with the needs of adult learners. They will work with our branch campuses to develop career technical programs to help students with the next logical steps in their career path. Also, Dr.

Laurenz reviewed the campus process for assessing program viability and emerging program needs. Currently, Academic Affairs is evaluating new options under the B.A.A.S Agriculture programs. These are two new directions under review.

Update on the EET Program

Dr. Laurenz reported that an additional faculty member has been hired, and the required equipment has been installed for this program. The equipment list includes a wind turbine learning system, a troubleshooting system, and an alternative energy learning system. All equipment includes e-learning software so that courses can be conducted in-person or hybrid.

The first renewable energy course and lab (EET402) is being offered this fall, with 23 students enrolled. Next spring, EET403 will be offered and EET404 in fall 2022.

Dr. Patrice Caldwell

Update on COVID Operations, the Potential for Returning to Virtual Learning

Regent Patterson prefaced this presentation by asking, “What are our plans with the resurgence of COVID”?

Dr. Caldwell said the recent vaccination mandate by President Biden and OSHA, if affirmed by New Mexico OSHA, could apply to University employees and students. We have implemented a program to reward students and employees for showing proof of vaccination. Results of this initiative reveal that 56% of Portales campus employees have been vaccinated, 50% from Roswell, and 60% from Ruidoso. Student vaccination numbers are steadily increasing, but slowly.

University employees and students are strongly encouraged to get their vaccinations, but to date, there have been no directives from the Department of Higher Education or the county.

Regent Patterson commented that we need to encourage vaccinations on campus, but the community needs to be doing its part in order to keep the economy going and the University open.

Discussion took place among the Regents about how to enlist community support for vaccines. Regent Pyle said we have a responsibility to our employees and students and need to take the necessary steps to keep them safe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Ruiz moved to enter executive session at 3:09 p.m. to discuss one limited personnel matter pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2), NMSA (1978) and two threatened or pending litigation matter involving the University pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7), 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 3:32 p.m.
Regent Head seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

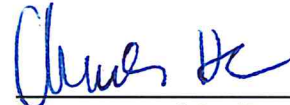
Regent Patterson reported that one personnel matter and one threatened or pending litigation matter were discussed. No actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Regent Pyle moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m. Regent Ruiz seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.



President of the Board



Secretary of the Board