

15-2 Statement on Governance

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1. **Purpose.** The purposes of these policies and procedures are to set forth the manner in which the Eastern New Mexico University System (the System) is required by law to be governed and to set forth the manner, within those requirements, in which the System has chosen to be governed.
2. **Policy.** The policies established in furtherance of the above purposes are as follows:
 - A. **Philosophical Base.** The ENMU System seeks to fulfill three (3) broad purposes of education: satisfaction of the intellectual interests of the individual; criticism, revision and perpetuation of scientific and social institutions and renewal and strengthening of culture. The System shall be committed to the promotion of academic freedom, an obligation imposed on academic personnel by society and necessary to the intellectual, moral, artistic and spiritual ground of a free society. In order to accomplish these purposes within a climate of orderly academic freedom, the System shall be governed according to the following principles, policies, procedures and structures.
 - B. **General Responsibility in Governance.** The System shall be governed through a system of procedures and structures designed to provide for participation by and/or consultation with the entire System community in the development of institutional policies and procedures. The Board of Regents (the Board) is the legal repository of all authority granted by the people of the state of New Mexico. The development of System policy is a responsibility shared by the administration of the System and representatives of affected constituencies within the System. The consultative process for the development of policy does not preclude the initiation of policy by the Board or of policy recommendations from the various constituencies.
 - C. **General Principles of Governance.** The purpose of the consultative process is to insure participation by the internal constituencies of the University in the formulation of University policies and procedures. Success in the consultative governance process requires the acceptance of three (3) governance principles by all University System constituencies. These principles are:
 - (1) **Disclosure:** Governance actions dealing with problems concerning community or constituencies shall allow appropriate constituency representatives and administrative units to have an opportunity to provide input, except in emergency situations, which shall be explained below.
 - (2) **Responsiveness:** In all governance actions mutual trust requires each constituency and administrative unit to give due and timely consideration to the views of others.
 - (3) **Accountability:** Governance actions shall be explained in detail to affected constituencies and administrative units.

The foregoing purposes and policies are implemented by the following.

Procedures

3. **Administration.** The administration of System governance is the responsibility of the System chancellor, and the chancellor shall have the authority necessary for such administration. The chancellor may delegate such authority as he or she sees fit in the best interests of the System.
4. **Governance Structure.**
 - A. Governance organization of the System must be approved by the chancellor or the Board.
 - B. Pursuant to the policy statements above, the chancellor or the Board shall not, except in exigent circumstances, change the governance organization of the System without the completion of the consultative processes set forth herein. Exigent circumstances are circumstances where relevant and prompt action is necessary to prevent physical harm to others, damage to property, a violation of the law or some other unnecessary consequence of an emergency nature, as determined by the Board of Regents.
5. **University Council.** The University Council (the Council) shall be the governance steering committee for the Portales campus and review System-wide and campus-specific policy issues. It shall meet once a month (or more often if necessary) to review governance processes. It shall coordinate the disposition of actions and resolve appeals relating to governance actions. It shall direct actions to the University standing committees and the constituency senates, or it can create new University and/or constituency senates' standing committees or University standing or ad hoc consultative groups as necessary. The Council shall not function as a legislative body.
 - A. The responsibilities of the Council may include but are not limited to:
 - (1) Serving as a clearing house for governance information,
 - (2) Directing governance actions to appropriate consultative groups,
 - (3) Facilitating problem identification and review,
 - (4) Considering changes and innovations in governance program and procedure,
 - (5) Coordinating amendment procedures to governance policies of the University and
 - (6) Recommending to the chancellor when governance actions have completed the review and approval process.
 - B. The membership of the Council shall consist of:
 - (1) The chancellor (non-voting),
 - (2) Vice president for Academic Affairs,
 - (3) ENMU System Chief Financial Officer,
 - (4) ENMU System Chief Information Officer,
 - (5) Vice president for Student Affairs,
 - (6) ENMU System Executive Director for Planning, Policy and Human Resources (non-voting),

- (7) The president of the Faculty Senate and four (4) faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate to include representation of the four (4) colleges of the Portales campus,
- (8) The president and vice president of the Professional Employees Senate,
- (9) The president and vice president of the Support Employees Senate and
- (10) The president and vice president of Student Government.
- (11) Presidents of the Ruidoso and Roswell Branch Community Colleges or their designees

C. The chairperson shall be a faculty member of the Council elected by the Council.

- (1) The regular time for meetings shall be set at 3:10 p.m. the last Monday of each month of the academic year except during System holidays or at the discretion of the Council chairperson. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson.
- (2) A simple majority (Half plus one) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
- (3) With prior notification to the chairperson in writing, members may send persons with proxies for voting privileges.
- (4) Parliamentary procedure shall be based on Sturgis' The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, current edition, and a constituency assembly member shall be elected by the Council as parliamentarian.
- (5) Any individual or group from the System community may place items on the agenda with written notice to the chairperson at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting.

6. Governance Responsibilities and Processes. Where there is a question about policy or the governance process, the appropriate administrator or constituency assembly shall refer the issue to University Council.

- A. University Council shall be responsible for evaluating policy and the governance process of the ENMU System.
- B. University Council shall be responsible for coordinating amendment procedures to ENMU System policies and governance processes. Any proposed change in policy, governance process or organization must be submitted to University Council at least five (5) working days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting or it shall not be considered for action until the next meeting of University Council.

7. Role of the Board of Regents. All policies and constituency documents are approved by the Board of Regents following appropriate consultation and chancellor approval. The Board shall be the ultimate arbiter of matters of University System governance. Such matters shall not be referred to the Board until all other appeals have been exhausted.

Approved by Board of Regents, December 14, 2018.

Approved by Board of Regents, March 13, 2020.