

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
ENMU-Portales, Regents Room
September 19, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Regent President Trish Ruiz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and declared a quorum. Regents Trish Ruiz, Ray Birmingham, Lance Pyle, and Phillip Bustos were present. Regent Wilbanks joined via Teams.

Roll call: Regent Ruiz– Yes; Regent Birmingham– Yes; Regent Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle– Yes; Regent Bustos – Yes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Regent Pyle moved to approve the agenda as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Birmingham moved to approve the minutes of the June 7 and August 29, 2025, meetings. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Architect Selection – Agriculture Science & Art Building

Mr. Tony Major said that in preparation for the current General Obligations Bond request, he is seeking approval to engage an architect to prepare design and construction documents for the new Agriculture Science and Art Building. This is the ENMU Portales campus' number one priority, and the New Mexico Department of Higher Education is pushing to get these prepared as quickly as possible.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the architect selection for the Agriculture Science and Art Building as presented. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

2. Architect Selection – Rodeo Building

Mr. Major requested Regent approval to engage Parkhill Architects to provide the necessary drawings and A&E documents to secure a certificate of occupancy for the ENMU Rodeo buildings. The original structure was not built to state standards. The cost of these services will not exceed \$60K.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the architect selection for the Rodeo Building as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

3. Architect Selection – Science Building HVAC

Mr. Major said the RFP process is underway for upgrades to the current HVAC system in the Science Building. The current equipment is located on the roof and is exposed to extreme heat and cold, which impairs its effectiveness in extreme temperatures.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the architect selection for the Science Building HVAC system as presented. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

4. Repurposing of Natatorium

Mr. Major said that, given the current limited student usage of the natatorium facility, it is believed students would be better served by repurposing the existing structure into a student recreation center. The existing facility requires over \$700K in repairs due to failed infrastructure. The estimated cost to fill the pool with concrete is approximately \$211K.

Discussion took place regarding the future desire to have a pool facility on campus. Regent Pyle suggested it would be more cost-effective to make repairs to the existing pool than to build a new facility in the future. Dr. Johnston said repurposing the natatorium building would provide additional intramural sports space, which is an important extra-curricular element for the students.

Regent Bustos moved to approve the repurposing of the Natatorium as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle – No; Regent Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

5. ENMU-Roswell Approval of Capital Outlay Requests

Dr. Shawn Powell presented capital outlay requests that, if approved, will be forwarded to local legislators for funding considerations for the 2026 New Mexico Legislative Session. In addition, the New Mexico Council of Governments is gathering information for its October and November meetings. If approved, these requests will be shared with them.

• Information Technology infrastructure and equipment	\$250,000
• Health Science immersive scenario-based simulation digital platform	125,000
• Automotive Technology program air conditioning training units	100,000
• Aviation Maintenance program forklift	60,000
• Welding program metal break press	60,000
• Biology program new microscopes	50,000
• Physical Plant sewer jetter	64,000
• Physical Plant aerial lift replacement	50,000
• Physical Plant vehicle replacements	50,000
	<u>50,000</u>

TOTAL \$809,000

Regent Pyle recommended that the Roswell campus apply for the state grants for IT dollars and use the requested capital outlay dollars for other projects. Dr. Powell said this recommendation will be taken into consideration.

Regent Pyle moved to approve ENMU-Roswell's capital outlay requests as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

6. ENMU-Roswell Approval of the Construction Phase of the Instructional Technology Center Roof Replacement

Dr. Powell requested approval to begin the construction phase of the ITC roof replacement, which is listed in the 2020-2025 facility master plan and the revised 2025-30 plan. The roof was damaged in a hailstorm in May 2023.

Roof replacement is estimated at \$1,722,887 by McClain and Yu architects, which does not include architectural fees, estimated at \$68,915 (4% of construction cost). The total project is \$1,791,802, which includes New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax. Partial funding will be provided by NMPSIA (\$1,339,199), and the balance of \$452,603 will be covered by campus capital reserves.

Dr. Powell asked for Board approval for a total expenditure of \$1,800,000 to account for potential increases in construction costs.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the proposed ENMU-Roswell construction phase of the Instructional Technology Center roof replacement as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

7. ENMU-Roswell Architect Selection for the Child Development Center and Certificate of Occupancy

Dr. Powell requested that the Board approve the hiring of ASA Architects of Roswell to update the Child Development Center and obtain a certificate of occupancy. The estimated project cost is \$235K, and it is anticipated that the Physical Plant will perform the updates. Architectural fees are \$19,875, and the architectural contract has been reviewed by legal counsel.

Regent Ruiz asked if we could access funding based on the Governor's declaration for free childcare in New Mexico. Dr. Powell stated that after initial occupancy, it is likely that this facility will benefit from this proclamation.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell architect selection for the Child Development Center and Certificate of Occupancy as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

8. ENMU-Roswell Approval for Construction of Pavilion Named in Honor of Gerald Shumaker

Dr. Powell asked for approval to construct a pavilion named in honor of ENMU-Roswell Alumnus, Gerald Shumaker. The campus leadership class of 2023-24 asked to build this pavilion to serve as an outdoor learning and meeting space, and 85% of the funding was bequeathed to the campus by Mr. Shumaker. The balance will be covered by the ENMU-Roswell Foundation and campus capital reserves. The Community College Board approved the naming of this facility in October 2024.

Regent Birmingham moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell construction of a pavilion named in honor of Gerald Shumaker, as presented. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

9. ENMU-Roswell Approval for Construction of Welding Program Manifold Installation
Dr. Powell requested that the Board approve the installation of a manifold in the welding program shop to allow for the distribution of welding gases in the program's forty welding booths. This would provide increased safety by reducing the need for bottled gas cylinders and result in cost efficiencies by allowing bulk gas purchases. The cost is estimated at \$60K.

Regent Birmingham moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell construction of the welding program manifold installation as presented. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

10. ENMU-Ruidoso Demolition of Sierra Mall

Dr. Ryan Trosper said that after a five-year process starting in 2020, they are ready for the next phase of the Sierra Mall renovation project. A portion of the remaining building must be demolished to construct the Workforce Training facility. The New Mexico Higher Education Department has awarded \$785K towards this demolition project, which aligns with a quote from a qualified vendor.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the ENMU-Ruidoso demolition of the Sierra Mall as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

11. ENMU-Ruidoso Agriculture Associate's Degree Certificate

Dr. Trosper said in efforts to engage students from the surrounding areas, including new rodeo team athletes, an Agriculture Associate's degree certificate program has been developed, which will lead to a transfer pathway with ENMU-Portales. This degree is designed to provide students with a comprehensive foundation in the agricultural sciences, preparing them to transfer to a four-year institution or for entry-level positions in the ag industry. Funding for this degree program has been provided through the New Mexico Legislature.

Regent Birmingham moved to approve the ENMU-Ruidoso Agriculture Associate's degree certificate as presented. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

12. ENMU-Ruidoso Early Childhood and Special Education Foundations Certificate

Dr. Trosper said that in 2023, a full-time Education faculty member was hired, and they have expanded their Early Childhood and Special Education programs in a synchronous fashion. The proposed certificate program combines early childhood education with special education to meet urgent workforce needs in infant, toddler, and preschool settings. The program will prepare students for immediate roles supporting young children with diverse needs and provide a solid foundation for continued study in ECED or SPED.

Regent Birmingham moved to approve the ENMU-Ruidoso Early Childhood and Special Education Foundations certificate as presented. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

13. ENMU-Ruidoso HVAC-Residential Certificate

Dr. Trosper said that in efforts to expand workforce training opportunities, a certificate of completion in residential HVAC is proposed. The course would prepare students for entry-level careers in this field and will be facilitated by a local electrician who is currently an adjunct instructor on the ENMU-Ruidoso campus.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the ENMU-Ruidoso HVAC-Residential certificate as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion Approved.

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-ROSWELL PRESIDENT

Dr. Powell reported the hiring of an Ag judging coach and hopes to have a team in place soon. The Mill Levy campaign is going well, and there are currently 33,000 registered voters in Chaves County.

Enrollment is down 3%, but semester credit hours are up 4%. The median student age is twenty-two, and they range from 13 to 78 years old. Full-time students = 49%, part-time students = 51%.

Title V Access grant extension was sent in yesterday, and the Title III Guided Pathways to Success grant has been funded for another year. There are six full-time staff members and five part-time tutors. Also, three of the four TRIO programs have been extended for another year.

The Roswell Air Races brought in over 3,000 middle school and homeschool students to the STEM Zone and campus booths. Other campus services provided during the racing events included the use of the swimming pool, gym, dining hall, and movies.

Dr. Powell provided construction updates, including the fire suppression, central walkway, and nursing expansion construction projects are underway. The greenhouse project goes before the State Board of Finance on October 21.

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-RUIDOSO PRESIDENT

Dr. Trosper said the Ruidoso campus has seen a 1.1% increase in total headcount and an 11% increase in semester class hours. These numbers reflect the highest enrollment since 2012, despite the recent natural disasters in the region.

The campus received a Metallica Scholars Grant for \$75K to support Fire Training, and the Department of Education SERV Grant for \$103,885 for costs associated with the 2024 fires.

Dr. Powell introduced Ms. Coda Omness, who was named the New Mexico Educator of the Year for Adult Education. She serves as the vice president for Student Learning and Success.

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENMU SYSTEM and Dashboard Presentation

Dr. James Johnston reported that fall 2025 enrollment crossed the 6,000 mark, which reflects the diligence of several individuals on campus, and has only been achieved four times in the school's history.

The Greyhound Connection, led by Dr. Jamie Laurenz, is a quality initiative that guides students from their first day on campus through the first day of their careers. This program

connects students with a degree path and secures them with resources such as mentoring and paid internships. This connects strongly to efforts on campus, improving retention, connecting with area businesses, alumni relations, and economic growth, and is in compliance with HLC requirements.

We are in our fifth year of our current marketing and recruiting plan, and we will re-engage Ruffalo Noel Levitz as a sole source provider. We are looking to continue to grow an educated citizenry to improve the economy and grow the region.

The Advancement division finished the year with 177% of its goals met. The goal for 2026 is \$4.2M, of which 48% has been met. A comprehensive campaign will be shared soon.

Strategies for the 2026 Legislative Session are underway. Dr. Johnston, Mr. Major, and Mr. DeKay recently met with Mr. Larry Horan, ENMU Lobbyist, to start the planning process.

Dr. Johnston said he was elected as chair for the Council of University Presidents and third vice president of the Lone Star Conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Pyle moved to enter executive session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss one limited personnel matter pursuant to section 10-15-1(H)(2), NMSA (1978). Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

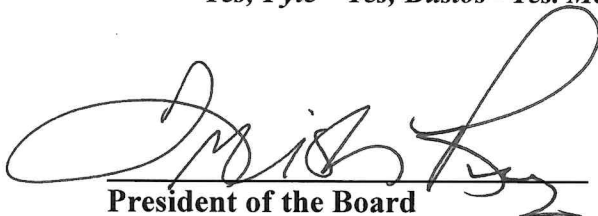
OPEN SESSION

Regent Pyle moved to return to open session at 11:30 a.m. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

Regent Pyle stated that one personnel matter was discussed, but no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Regent Bustos moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.



President of the Board



Secretary of the Board