

**EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY**  
**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**ENMU-Portales, Regents Room**  
**October 24, 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, Emily Wilbanks, Lance Pyle, and Phillip Bustos were present. Regent Ray Birmingham was not in attendance.

*Roll call: Regent Ruiz– Yes; Regent Birmingham– No Response; 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 Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Regent Bustos moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2025, meeting. Regent Wilbanks seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.*

**BUSINESS MATTERS**

1. DOT Electric Vehicle Charger Grant

Mr. Tony Major stated that the University was approached to install electric vehicle charging stations on campus in conjunction with the construction of the new SAS Building. The grant application for this process is due on October 31, but we have discovered that this opportunity is only available to municipalities. The details must be worked out before moving forward. There are no cash-match requirements; however, the University may have to pay for the installation upfront and then be reimbursed by the state.

*Regent Pyle moved to approve pursuing the Department of Transportation electric vehicle charger grant proposal as presented. Regent Wilbanks seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.*

2. Policy and Handbook Updates as Reviewed and Approved by University Council

Mr. Benito Gonzales reviewed policy updates, which includes the combining of policies and the retiring of others. University Council has approved these changes.

- Policy 5-1, Constitutional Provisions: Retiring this policy. The State constitution and statute information have been posted on the Policy Manual page.
- Policy 5-2, Mission Statement: Retiring this policy. The Mission Statement has been approved by the Board of Regents and posted on the ENMU website.
- Policy 15-3, Portales Campus Governance: Retiring this policy.
- Policy 40-1, General Personnel Policies: Combining this policy with 40-9.
- Policy 40-2, Employee Classification: Updated the allowable hours for student employees to work from 20 hours to 30 hours.
- Policy 40-5, Wage and Salary Administration: Added clarifying information.
- Policy 40-9, Employee Management, General Policies: Retiring this policy.
- Policy 70-3, HIV and AIDS: Retiring this policy. Relevant language is now included in Policy 80-7.
- Policy 70-9, Tailgating Policy: Removed the procedures portion and moved the information into the guidelines.
- Policy 80-11, Anti-hazing Policy: A New policy has been adopted to comply with Federal regulations.

- Staff Handbook: Switched two sentences pertaining to transferring employees and added that an Area Executive Administrator may waive the probationary period for internal departmental promotions to align with policy 40-3.

***Regent Pyle moved to approve the policy and handbook updates as presented. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.***

3. ENMU-Roswell Additional Nursing Program Location at ENMU-Ruidoso

Dr. Shawn Powell said that ENMU-Roswell is currently offering their nursing program on the ENMU-Ruidoso campus. Students enrolled in this program can earn an associate's degree from ENMU-Roswell while completing program requirements on the Ruidoso campus. In keeping with HLC's location definition, it is requested that the Board approve the provision of instruction and the ability to earn an associate's degree in nursing from ENMU-Roswell on the ENMU-Ruidoso campus.

***Regent Pyle moved to approve the ENMU-Roswell additional Nursing Program location at ENMU-Ruidoso as presented. Regent Wilbanks seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.***

4. ENMU-Ruidoso Workforce Training Building

Dr. Ryan Trosper stated that, in compliance with NMHED's requirement that projects exceeding \$400K receive prior approval from the Board of Regents, he is requesting approval to move forward with the Workforce Training Center building, at an estimated cost of \$ 8 million. If approved, construction is planned to begin in spring 2026, with completion in spring 2027. The RFP committee met and recommended the Jaynes Corporation as the contractor.

***Regent Bustos moved to approve the ENMU-Ruidoso Workforce Training Building as presented. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.***

## **ROUTINE MATTERS**

### **REPORT FROM ADVANCEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND THE ENMU-FOUNDATION**

Ms. Noelle Bartl presented ENMU-Foundation updates:

- The Foundation awarded 510 students with scholarships for the FY26 academic year, totaling \$711K.
- The 1ROO Annual Giving Campaign had its soft launch in October under the coordination of Amanda Baca.
- The 1934 Society has been created for estate gifts and those planning future gifts to the University.
- The Foundation has raised \$13.5M in pledges and contributions, which is up 107% from last year.

Mr. Warren Lloyd provided updates from the Advancement Department. The Advancement and Public Relations division has set formalized goals for the next 2.5 years. A newly developed dashboard will track activity and monetary giving capabilities. These metrics will measure outcomes based on the number of outreach visits and the identification of potential donors' qualifications. The overarching goal of this division is to impact the lives of students and faculty by providing monetary assistance, class rings, and, most notably, a literacy center that will have a positive effect in this region in perpetuity.

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

Dr. Powell commented that an agricultural judging coach has been hired and is scheduled to begin in fall 2026. This person will also teach agriculture-related courses on campus. Additionally, conversations are underway with Clovis Community College to support the expansion of their Aviation Maintenance programs.

It is anticipated that some federally funded grant programs will close at the end of 2026. The Title V Access grant will operate for the remainder of the year on a no-cost extension, with four employees. The Title III Guided Pathways to Success grant is funded for one year, with six employees, and is scheduled to close at the end of 2026. The TRIO programs and Gear Up are also slated to close at the end of 2026.

Construction updates include the Greenhouse project, which will be presented to the State Board of Finance in October; the fire suppression project is ongoing, as is the central walkway construction and nursing expansion project. The outdoor pavilion project is awaiting the process for CES services.

Upcoming events:

- November 11 – Veterans Day observation
- November 22 – Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run/Walk
- December 12 – Commencement ceremonies, ENMU-Roswell Performing Arts Center

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

Dr. Trosper said that fall 2025 enrollment headcount is up 3.7%, and FTE is up 14.5%. The number of degree-seeking students is also up.

A House Bill was passed for grading forest timber (recuperating wood that has partially burned), and teams met recently in Santa Fe to establish hubs for this work. The Department of Workforce Solutions will provide training for AmeriCorps. This program will help with refurbishing trails and assist in disaster restoration.

Dr. Trosper reported that the exterior construction on the back of the building is nearing completion, with the punch list walk-through scheduled for November 3.

The campus is the current location for early voting in Lincoln County. Additionally, a career fair will be held on the ENMU-Ruidoso campus, and a considerable number of people are expected to attend.

#### **REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENMU SYSTEM and Dashboard Presentation**

Dr. James Johnston presented updated dashboard data, reflecting enrollment numbers, budget updates, recruiting efforts, and housing numbers after the census date for the fall semester.

The One Eastern initiative has expanded its work to include Portales Schools to coordinate pathways and presentations for elementary, junior high, and high school students. We have also formed a partnership with Clovis Community College to strengthen our 2+2 programs and provide clear pathways for students enrolled in dual credit courses and concurrent enrollment. A steering committee and work groups are now in place with members from both ENMU and CCC.

Strategic planning is underway for the ENMU System's approach to the 2026 New Mexico Legislative Session. The focus is on the state's direction and how best to respond. Dr. Johnston shared information about his recent presentation on Federal Funding with the New Mexico

Federal Funding Revenue Stabilization Task Force on behalf of the Council of University Presidents.

The President's Executive Council will meet during the last weekend of October, and updates will be provided at the November 14 Regents meeting.

## REGENT MATTERS

### 1. Discussion of an EdD Degree at ENMU

Regent Trish Ruiz said there have been several requests brought to her for ENMU to offer an EdD program. There seems to be a need for this in the region and wonders what it would take to bring this program to fruition.

Dr. Johnston addressed this inquiry, stating that this initiative was his last mission at his previous institution. The key element when considering this academic expansion is the demonstration of need and sustainability. A doctoral offering changes the tenor of the university but is expensive to run. Thought should be given to both the near-term and long-term requirements, which may include building a pipeline through public schools or through graduate programs, thereby setting the stage for a terminal degree offering.

This request could be added to ENMU's long-range goals. Realistically, it would take four years to develop a comprehensive program and three years to complete the approval process. The first step would be to talk with the faculty.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Regent Pyle moved to enter executive session at 9:56 a.m. to discuss one threatened or pending litigation matter involving the University pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7), NMSA (1978). Regent Wilbanks seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.*

## OPEN SESSION

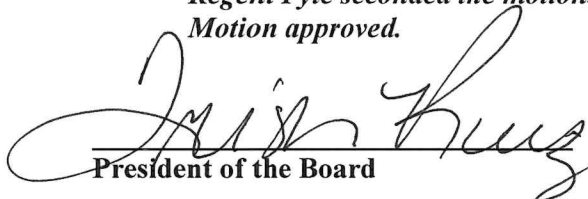
*Regent Pyle moved to return to open session at 10:34 a.m. Regent Bustos seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.*

*Regent Pyle stated that one threatened or pending litigation matter involving the University was discussed, but no action was taken.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Regent Bustos moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.*

*Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.*



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President of the Board

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NOT PRESENT  
Secretary of the Board