

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
ENMU-Ruidoso, Rm. 201
February 27, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Regent President Phillip Bustos called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Regents Phillip Bustos, Emily Wilbanks, Lance Pyle, and Trish Ruiz were present. Regent Ray Birmingham joined virtually.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Ruiz moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, meeting. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Bustos – Yes; Birmingham - Yes; Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Ruiz - Yes. Motion approved.

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Policy 30-6 Edits and Legal Language Changes

Mr. Benito Gonzales presented minor edits to include all employees rather than individual constituency groups. In addition, legal language was incorporated into Section 1 regarding preexisting relationships and adherence to other system policies.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the edits and language changes to Policy 30-6 as presented. Regent Ruiz seconded the motion. Vote: Regent Bustos – Yes; Regent Birmingham – Yes; Regent Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Ruiz – Yes. Motion approved.

2. ENMU-Roswell Tenured Faculty

Dr. Shawn Powell introduced Mr. Eric Mann, interim Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

Mr. Mann announced the following four faculty members who were recently awarded tenure:

- Shandie Aldaco – Interim Program Director, Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy
- Missael Barrientos – Instructor, Welding
- Cassandra Rivera – Interim Dean, School of Health Sciences
- Dara Sanders-Aceves – Instructor, Occupational Therapy Assistant

These individuals met the requirements for tenure, were nominated by their peers, and were recommended by the Faculty Evaluation Committee.

3. Demolition of the Zeta House

Mr. Tony Major asked the Board for permission to demolish the former Zeta Tau Alpha women's fraternity house, which has been vacant for many years. This building has been repurposed several times, but it was poorly built and is not structurally sound. Upon demolition, materials will be recycled when possible.

Regent Ruiz moved to approve the demolition of the Zeta House as presented. Regent Wilbanks seconded the motion. Vote: Regent Bustos – Yes; Regent Birmingham – Yes; Regent Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Ruiz – Yes. Motion approved.

4. Architect Selection – “Old” Student Academic Services Building

Mr. Major requested approval to seek architectural services to plan and design the remodel of the former Student Academic Services Building. This is in accordance with the RFP process outlined in Policy 55-2.

Regent Pyle asked if this is a campus priority. Dr. Johnston responded that consideration is being given to moving the Advancement Division to this building once the remodel is complete. In addition, the two ENMU museums would be moved to this location.

Mr. Major added that architectural costs have been budgeted for.

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

5. Architect Selection – Student Residential Facility

Mr. Major stated that the scope of student residential facilities lies outside the capital outlay process. However, state funding may be available for this project. He asked for approval to move forward with the RFP process to identify architectural services to plan and design such a facility on the Portales campus.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the architect selection for a student residential facility as presented. Regent Wilbanks seconded the motion. Vote: Regent Bustos – Yes; Regent Birmingham – Yes; Regent Wilbanks – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Ruiz – Yes. Motion approved.

ROUTINE MATTERS

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-ROSWELL PRESIDENT

Dr. Shaun Powell introduced Mr. Chad Cole, who now serves as Vice President for Business Affairs. Mr. Cole has served in several capacities in Chaves County, most recently as Roswell City Manager.

Enrollment is up 3% and semester credit hours are up 7%. The current age demographics range from 13 to 78.

ENMU-Roswell has been awarded a \$2.1M grant for on-campus IT upgrades. This grant is awaiting the Governor's signature and is part of the state's broadband access expansion. The campus will host summer leadership events this summer for eighth-grade students as part of the Rural Valley Collaborative. The TRIO and Adult Education programs recently took students to Santa Fe to visit the State Capitol Building, and the livestock judging team recently competed in Denver and Nebraska.

Project updates include:

- Sidewalk replacement – 60% complete. The estimated completion date is June 1, 2026
- Fire Suppression Sprinkler System installation – 50% complete, estimated completion date is June 2027
- Health Science Building remodel – 80% complete, estimated completion date is May 1, 2026
- Aviation Maintenance expansion – project is in the planning phase. Targeted completion date is December 2027
- Outdoor Pavilion – awaiting delivery
- ITC Roof replacement – RFP process underway

Upcoming Events:

- March 7 – Spring Blast 5K, 10K, and half-marathon run/walk
- April 23 – Career Fair
- May 8 – Spring commencement, Roswell Wool Bowl

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-RUIDOSO PRESIDENT

Dr. Ryan Trosper recognized ENMU-Ruidoso students in the audience – Robert Ruiz, Edith Morgan, and Olivia Withrow. Also, faculty member Dr. Mo Yazdi, CCB Chair Brad Treptow, and Robin DeMott, vice president for Student Affairs, were introduced.

Enrollment for spring 2026 shows a student headcount of 895, up 18.8% from this time last year. FTE = 525, up 28.7%. Much of this increase is due in part to early childhood education and CTE development.

ENMU-Ruidoso recently hosted 220 high school freshmen for a career and technical trades expo. In March, they will partner with Region 9 to host 150+ junior high students for Maze of Life.

Demolition of the Sierra Mall property will begin on March 9. They are working through the approval processes to begin construction on the Workforce Training building once the demolition is complete in early June.

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENMU SYSTEM and Dashboard Presentation

Dr. James Johnston reported that headcount is up 1%, and student credit hour production is up 3%, and said these numbers reflect fewer dual credit students during the spring semester and more degree seeking students.

The initial meeting with Ruffalo Noel Levitz will take place next week to begin work on an innovative marketing and recruiting plan for the next five years. A joint marketing and recruiting endeavor with Clovis Community College was approved by their president, Dr. Jonathan Fuentes and Dr. Johnston. The steering committee has done an excellent job and is working on recruiting initiatives in the area's public schools.

One Eastern work is progressing. The 2+2 programs have been updated, and we are now looking at a Social Work 2+2+1 for our Master's program. Advisors and counselors from the Portales campus will work toward being more present on the Roswell and Ruidoso campuses.

Dr. Johnston reported that overall, the Legislative Session outcomes were positive for Higher Education. Approval for a 10.1% increase in I&G is on the Governor's desk, awaiting approval. Also included in

our requests are increases to Athletic funding, additional funds for some of our capital requests, and our GO Bond recommendation of \$15M. More details will be shared after the Governor's decision. Dr. Johnston expressed his appreciation for the work and coordination across all three campuses that made this legislative session a spotlight on the ENMU System.

The SSS Building is scheduled to be completed by the end of the spring semester. The Regents will be offered a tour of the building following the April Board meeting.

REGENT MATTERS

1. General Student Demographics

Dr. Johnston provided general demographics, based on a recent report from our Institutional Research Office. Currently, courses are offered online, face-to-face, and as a hybrid mix. We are highly flexible in our course offerings to meet students where they are.

In summary, our students are primarily first-generation college students, primarily female, and Pell-eligible. We reflect the population we work to serve, and this data is typical of a regional comprehensive university.

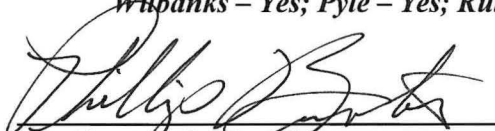
2. Annual HERC Symposium

Regent Trish Ruiz stated that she serves on the Higher Education Regent Consortium board, and their annual symposium is scheduled for the ENMU-Portales campus this year. This event will take place sometime in November, and details will be shared as soon as they are finalized. The estimated attendance is around forty participants.

Regent Wilbanks moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Bustos – Yes; Birmingham – Yes;

Wilbanks – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Ruiz - Yes. Motion approved.



President of the Board

Secretary of the Board