

# NORTHERN New Mexico College



## NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING MARCH 24, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, in the Board Room and Via Zoom from the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola Campus. Regents Present Michael A. Martin, Erica Velarde, Porter Swentzell, Ruben Archuleta and Evelyn Juarez.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Bárbara M. Medina, Ph.D.; Vince Lithgow, Vice President for Finance & Administration; Ivan Lopez Hurtado, Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Academic Affairs; Sandy Krolick, Communications & Marketing; Judith Pepper, Major Gifts Officer; Don Appiarius, Assistant Provost of Student Affairs; Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Evette Abeyta, Budget Director; Chris Trujillo, IT; Juan Gallegos, IT; Michael Rivera, Veterans Resource Center; Ryan Cordova Athletic Director/Men's Head Basketball Coach; Arin McKenna, Staff Writer/Reporter, Communications & Marketing; Kenneth Lucero, Human Resources Director; and Amy Pena, Executive Office Director.

Faculty Present: David Lindblom, Melanie Colgan,

Others Present: Shawn Barela, Geno Zamora, Adan Trujillo, Lucia Sanchez, Leo Valdez, Representative Susan Herrera, Willie Williams, Bruno Guedes, Joe MistyLake, Dr. Richard Wueste, AGB, Robert Tierney, Tim Krone, Kathy Keith, LANL Community Programs Office, Rebecca Estrada, LANL, Community Programs Office, Robert Cordova,

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:03AM.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda stating that Rio Arriba County Manager Lucia Sanchez would be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second – Regent Juarez. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – not in attendance at this time, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

### III. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

## IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

### A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

#### 1. Audit/Finance/Facilities Committee

Regent Archuleta stated they had a very good meeting yesterday and he was happy with the results. It was a very informative meeting and they have a very good crew.

#### 2. Academic/Student Affairs Committee

Regent Swentzell stated they met and Provost Lopez has the items to be discussed later in the meeting. They reviewed the honorary degree recommendation, academic calendar and new certificates, which is very exciting, discussion on the renewable energy associate and he is really excited to talk about tenure.

#### 3. President's Evaluation Committee

Board President stated President Medina thought it would be a good idea if the Board would set up an evaluation. Board President Martin asked Regent Juarez if she and Regent Velarde would get started on doing this. Regent Juarez agreed.

#### 4. Housing Committee

Regent Archuleta stated there is not much going on. He had a developer reach out to him and he would like to have a quick, informative meeting on April 5th. He has some ideas and Regent Archuleta will talk with Regent Juarez to schedule a phone conference and they can go from there.

#### 5. HERC – Informational

HERC is having a two-day symposium April 25 and 26. All Regents have received an invitation and we would like to have you there. The meeting on Monday will be the strategic planning for the UNM, State, NMHU, Eastern, Western, NMT and ourselves and the meeting on Tuesday will include some of the two-year schools in addition to those mentioned. They have asked Northern to host the symposium which means we are in charge of setting it up. Board President Martin stated he would like to thank Ms. Pena and Ms. Martinez for their assistance. We will keep the Board updated with the agenda.

#### 6. Presidential Search Committee

Board President Martin stated he spoke with Dr. Wueste this morning from AGB who is leading the search. We signed a contract with them last week. We currently have 32 applicants and the deadline is the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month. He will get back to Board President Martin and they will have a conference call and Board President Martin will update the Board with where we are going forward. He has been travelling and unable to attend the meeting and sends his regrets. Things are moving forward and Board President Martin was pleased that we had as many applicants as we have. Regent Swentzell stated Board President Martin covered it well and we have six or seven days before the end of the month, think of all the people pulling their applications for the last five

minutes before they are due, so he would expect that number to increase. Board President Martin asked if there are any questions from the Board. (Regent Velarde joined the meeting at this time).

#### 7. AGB Membership – Action Required

Board President Martin stated he received a communication from AGB, the association that represents colleges throughout the country and they offered the College a membership in the amount of \$2,876. President Martin stated we had a membership a couple of years ago and let it laps. What we did find is it was helpful but he didn't want to make this decision on his own and wanted to bring it to the Board. There were classes for us but most that we were eligible for had another fee attached to them. We didn't get a whole lot out of it but Board President Martin didn't want to make the decision on his own. Regent Swentzell stated there was a conference but he thinks coincided with the pandemic. Board President Martin stated that is correct, when we joined it the last time they offered us two free attendances to the college in Washington, DC and Regent Martinez and Regent Velarde were going to go to this but this time there was no mention of this. They are giving us 20% off their normal and while we are talking about this, HERC is talking about hiring a part time director. They are going to propose to HERC to charge each institution be charged a \$1,000 for membership to use the money to hire a part time executive director. That cost is also coming up in the future. Most of the work by HERC is being done by whoever is serving as the President from HERC. This has created a big burden on that person who this year is Regent Yolanda King from New Mexico Tech. We need to keep that cost on the radar. Regent Swentzell asked if we go with a national association, \$2,800, and HERC creates a position for an Executive Director, that will be five regents, \$5,000 from our institution, we are now at \$7,800 and barring that we don't participate in the other national activities, he would like to throw it back to Vice President Lithgow, what is the room, considering the cost of the Presidential Search, before he would say yes, let's sign up for all of this, especially since HERC is more regionally, perhaps that is more important than national, he is just throwing that out there. Mr. Lithgow stated the budget was tight, they are developing the budget for FY23, there was some expansion in there in the sense that the legislature appropriated amounts from a couple of years ago before they made the cuts because of the pandemic. There should be some funding but he would need to get back to the Board of Regents. Regent Velarde stated she finds more value from HERC because it is more regional. It helps the College it is also not just a regional thing but a way to partner up with institutions to be a bigger force get things done with higher education in New Mexico. She finds it to be more beneficial. She enjoys the newsletters and emails from AGB, but for \$2,800 she would rather, knowing budgets are tight and we are struggling as it is. Her thoughts are to put the \$2,800.00 towards HERC, especially if they are going to hire an Executive Assistant because it is a lot to put on an administrator to have to put on another job and not get compensated for whatsoever. It is really a lot. It shouldn't fall on the administrator of whoever is the administrator of HERC. She things HERC is at a point to support that along with Easter to be able to say let's put some money into this and hire somebody to help that. We are gaining momentum with HERC and to work with the institutions is beneficial thing for us.

Regent Juarez agrees in terms of investing money regionally. Regent Archuleta agrees to put the money more regional.

Board President Martin entertained motion that the Board will not take advantage of the AGB membership.

**Regent Velarde moved that the Board of Regents will not take advantage of the ADB membership. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022

**Regent Juarez moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2022.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2022. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Celebrate Northern
- B. CUP/NMICC Report – Informational

President Medina stated she would like to start with her student. She invited a guest and she will then speak about things that we are celebrating at Northern. Shawn Barela stated he is a first-year college student at Northern New Mexico College and he is studying the Electro Mechanical Degree. He graduated last year from Espanola Valley High School and has lived in the valley all his life. It was only right that he attends Northern as a start. Northern has provided him with a lot of opportunities that he has been graciously able to take part in like being mentored by Dr. Medina. He has been part of the CAMP since last semester so CAMP has been a great resource and is the reason, he is being mentored by Dr. Medina. He was also nominated for a position on the NSLS as well so just being able to be at Northern has helped him and he has been motivated to achieve his goals.

President Medina thanked Shawn and stated they talk weekly and when she invited him to this meeting last week, he said he would have to check his schedule first. President Medina stated he wants him and everyone know his priorities and goals are in the right place and as Interim President one of the quickest ways to learn about an institution is to talk about students and to meet student and to talk to them how they experience Northern. Shawn has demonstrated to President Medina that his experience at Northern has been exactly why she threw her hat in to help during this transition. He has found the support to be successful, he has access to tutoring, he has access to mentors, he has access to resources as an individual student. He is a big part of why we do here every day and she would like to keep the faculty and staff commend them, especially those in CAMP for all they do to help support our students. It is certainly a testimony to their work that we continue to have students. President Medina stated she introduced Shawn to somebody and asked him to speak about it. Mr. Barela stated he met Jacob cyberly and he has met so many people at Northern. It was interesting to read his story about working at NASA and growing up in the Valley

and it goes to show no matter where you come from you can do anything you put your mind to as long as you put in the work and take those opportunities as they are presented to you. President Medina stated she and Shawn were talking about where you start from is not as important as where you end up. President Medina introduced Shawn to Jacob Torres and they talked about being from Espanola, Jacob is our alum and President Medina announced she has asked him to be our commencement speaker and he has agreed. We will have a former alum who started in the automotive program and he said Dr. Medina the only reason I went to Northern is so I can fix my car. Now he is employed at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Shawn is on the right track and she is impressed with Shawn and a number of students here who demonstrate to her how resilient they are and how hopeful they are for the educational future. President Medina stated if we ever lose sight of why we are here, we need to close our doors and leave. She keeps reminding our team that we are students first and she hopes that we can continue to focus on student success at Northern.

President Medina stated she would like to share a few things with the Board:

1. We had students asking that we help them set the name for the food pantry. If you have a good name, they would appreciate hearing from you.
2. The hunger task force met and thank you faculty and staff who are involved in that.
3. President Medina received an email from Rhiannon West regarding a student named Jonathan Madrid. He started out attending biology camp with one of our professors and he is now being courted by two universities for his Master's Degree in Biology.
4. We have a staff reporter, Arin McKenna who received four first place awards from the New Mexico Press Women's Association.
5. Dr. Anna X. Gutierrez Sisneros will be presenting at a roundtable at a council on Nursing and Anthropology.
6. We received a \$275,000 award for a minority serving institution workforce sponsored by LANL.
7. NMICC meets bi-weekly and CUP does the same. We are all sharing the same concerns about what does the Equal Opportunity Scholarship means. We are hoping the special session will clarify this. We are waiting for the rule making. We get questions about the tuition costs, Northern's tuition was raised last December and now some of the other schools are raising tuition. We hope that the issues get clarified with HED and the legislature.
8. CUP - we had a tragic experience this in the bus accident with Southwestern University. We all sent a letter to the President and to the community at Southwestern asking if we could help in any way. It was very tragic and she would like to send her support to the University and her condolences to the family and a gentle reminder that at any given moment we risk our student's health and safety and we have to be mindful of that in doing everything we can. She cannot comprehend a loss of 9 students and a staff member. CUP has been active and it is a great collaboration and for her as a President it is also a mentor group for her. It is a great resource and nice for a small institution to have a think tank of everyone else's expertise. She would hope Northern would continue active participation in both groups.

9. Tuesday was the El Rito Community Meeting and PowerPoint is on the website for anyone to review. We have been wondering and thinking about sharing information and our team did a great job getting this to the community on Tuesday. Communications makes us all look good. President Medina stated Regents are lucky to have the people working for them at Northern and we have an A plus team. Thank you for staff and communicating for participating.

Board President Martin stated he attended the El Rito Meeting and met Ed Monahan who will be working on the strategic plan for El Rito for the next two months. At the December meeting we had a presentation by Mr. Nelson Gonzales about the playground equipment and he has followed up with a company in Albuquerque to set up equipment for a \$126,000, Dr. Medina and County Manager Sanchez are working on funding for this project. The playground gets a lot of use in El Rito. Board President Martin stated he would like to appreciate the whole team. We had our two Vice Presidents, Ms. Abeyta, Shawn Madrid, Ms. Pena, John Ussery, Dr. Medina did a great job of explaining of where we are. The next meeting will be in El Rito and the Board will get a chance to see the work being done on the inside of the buildings. Everyone did a great job of explaining where we are.

Regent Swentzell stated he was not able to make it but appreciates the slides and asked if the President's residence came up for the El Rito meeting regarding the President residing there because it was part of our discussions. Board President Martin stated it did not come up but he did give an update. Board President Martin gave an update of where we were at with the Presidential Search.

Regent Swentzell asked about the commencement ceremonies and asked for a quick update on where things are at. President Medina mentioned Jacob Torres will be the commencement speaker and that is pretty exciting. Dr. Medina stated essentially, we are honoring the promise that we made and Dr. Lopez will explain it. We made a commitment to invite our former students who were unable to graduate due to the pandemic to attend commencement. Dr. Lopez stated the idea is to have, that has been out pledge for two years to honor the graduates from 2020, 2021 and 2022. We are talking about over 500 students. Because of this amount of student's, it is impossible to have one ceremony at the gym. We decided to have two separate ceremonies, split by college. May 14 at 9:00AM there are three academic departments. At 3:00PM there will be a separate ceremony for the remaining departments. Staff is reaching out right now to the graduates of 20 and 21. Board President Martin asked who would introduce everyone. Dr. Lopez stated the Assistant Provost for Student Affairs will do it this year. Regent Juarez if there is a limit for students to invite. Provost Lopez stated there will not be a limit. Regent Velarde asked if the ceremony will be in the gym. Provost Lopez stated the meeting will be in the gym. Regent Archuleta had no questions. Provost Lopez stated the Pinning Ceremony will only be 2022 as they had theirs outdoors. Adult Education and HEP will also be included in the commencement ceremony.

C. NNMC Foundation

**None.**

D. Eagle Corporation Update

**None.**

## E. Rio Arriba County Land Transfer – Informational

Lucia Sanchez, County Manager and Adan Trujillo, County Attorney and Matthew Casados, Deputy County Manager and Leo Valdez, Financial Advisor presented to the Board of Regents. Ms. Sanchez stated they appreciate the time to come before the Board and their presentation is to discuss the land transfer regarding the \$6M general obligation bond which was passed overwhelmingly by Rio Arriba County Voters at the November, 2019 general election. (inaudible). They would like to partner with Northern for the Recreation Facility. They have met with local community members, consultants to look at the feasibility and what it would look like, a \$6M facility gets them so far. Their plans are to ultimately raise \$20M in funding in legislative appropriation and other means, but \$6M gives them enough to get started with the recreation center for the Espanola Valley. They would like to discuss the land transfer negotiated with President Bailey and the county and other stakeholders during the feasibility study process and that is what they are here for today. Ms. Sanchez asked if there were questions from the Board. Board President Martin asked Mr. Zamora if he had been representing the College for this project.

Mr. Zamora stated there have been communications between the county attorney and Mr. Zamora over time. The last time the board met and discussed this issue was in early December and then they got caught up in transition. He sent an email to the attorney and followed up and the county attorney received feedback from the county and asked for something more formalized and that is the point they are at. (inaudible). There have been discussions but it has been stalled during the transition and it is up to jumpstart again. Board President Martin asked for a timeline from County Manager Sanchez and he knows there is a timeline, he knows there is a deadline the money needs to be spent by, the \$6M. County Manager Sanchez stated we are a finite timeline and she turned it over to Mr. Valdez, Financial Manager to discuss the timeline where we are at with having to having the bonds sold in order to begin construction to show improvement towards this effort. Mr. Valdez stated he is the financial advisory to Rio Arriba County. The bond election was in 2019 but the bonds need to be issued by 2023. They have hired a project manager and have hired architects with a conceptual idea about the transaction. They have already issued about \$550,000 has been spent and they would like to use the remainder by August of this year. They would like to go to the New Mexico Finance Authority for funding and provide a dialogue explanation of the project (inaudible). Board President Martin asked regarding the plan for funding, if Ms. Sanchez could explain this a little bit. County Manager Sanchez stated there have been a community effort with many partners including the City of Espanola, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, tribal members and they have also been working with the LANL Foundation, Ms. Jenny Parks to lobby our legislators and to identify the other low hanging fruit, they have been in the throes of lots of money coming down the federal level, they are trying to capture some of that. They are looking to the Governor's Office to support recreation centers around the State. This committee has already visited other similar type recreation centers to see what could be feasible, what could be done with the \$6M and it has been made clear if we are going to make it all it could be, we are going to move to up to a goal of at least \$21M. In that effort, this last legislative session, Rio Arriba County lobbied our legislative body and received \$50,000 in appropriations from Representative Roger Montoya, Representative Susan Herrera pitched in \$100,000 towards this recreation center and Senator Leo Jaramillo also contributed \$100,000 towards this recreation center effort. We are starting to make incremental progress towards getting additional money. Jenny Parks with the LANL Foundation has continued to lobby the Governor's Office on behalf of the committee to look for money in HB2. Now that we go into the Special Session on April 5th and look at junior money, we will see what options we have available there. We have three other opportunities on the horizon, one with Congresswoman with Teresa Ledger Fernandez to go after some of her directed spending, Senator

Martin Heinrich's Office has an opportunity to go after additional congressional spending dollars and so does U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan. They are going to be putting requests for that. They have been successful recently on other fronts and they think they can continue to lobby congressional funding for this particular project. the Governor's Office.

Regent Swentzell stated he appreciates Rio Arriba Coming and providing the update. Where the County, City and local governments, where things are at this moment, he really appreciates that. The Board will be discussing this later. Board President Martin stated in Executive Session and it they will make a decision after executive session. Mr. Zamora stated this is correct and for everyone's benefit, he would like to summarize the communication that went to the county after the last meeting to bring context to all of this. The last substantive email from Northern through Mr. Zamora was December 10th which he summarized the feedback from the Board. It says based on the Board's feedback, the following appears to be the path forward for the operations folks to talk through and the attorneys to draft up once terms are agreed upon. Mr. Zamora bullet pointed the feedback from the Board:

1. NNMC board is open to a land transfer/swap;
2. The transfer/swap would be accomplished through a real estate agreement that has milestones, deadlines, feedback (inaudible);
3. Cost for survey, lots, (inaudible) generating legal description for deeds, etc. for the four-acre lot would be borne by Rio Arriba County;
4. Parties would retain their original water rights associated with any transfer of lands.

Mr. Zamora stated that was a thumbnail sketch of what was sent to them in this last instance. Board President Martin asked if the site has water rights and irrigation. Mr. Zamora stated he would defer to someone in facilities, it may have rights, he doesn't, (inaudible) that has specific rights but, in the deed, there would be a clause that all water rights within this parcel would be retained by Northern. Board President Martin asked if this is agreeable with Rio Arriba County. County Manager Sanchez stated that is one of the value Rio Arriba County sees is that the water stays with the land. This building wouldn't occupy the entire parcel and so as we expand the facility for walking trails or community gardens which are part of the plan in the feasibility study, they would like to see the water rights intact.

Regent Juarez stated she would like to applaud all the efforts that have been done to gather money and she is really excited to see this happen because our families and children really needs a recreation center. She works for the LANL Foundation and they hear Jenny Parks talk about this all the time and she is excited to see the collaboration.

Regent Juarez stated he would like to thank the county for all their efforts. This is long overdue and we need something like this for our youth and also for our seniors. Thank you.

Board President Martin thanked the County and this will be taken for consideration in Executive Session and come up with a decision afterwards. Ms. Sanchez thanked the Board of Regents and left a copy of the feasibility study that they had prepared by the architect which has more details about the facility.

## VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Dr. X stated is at the Department of Health in Santa Fe giving vaccines today with two students. Dr. X thanked the Department of Health for allowing students to do this. Faculty is engaged in diversity, equity and inclusion training. They also continue to meet in committees and invites the Board to attend their meetings.

## VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. Guedes stated he is here to talk about what they have been working on. This week there are two events for Women's History Month. At 7:00PM will be a concert this evening. They are preparing to host a cultural day to support diversity at the school. The date will be decided tomorrow at their meeting. Student Senate will also host a mental health week. April 22 – campus beautification day. They will be organizing a contest to name the food pantry. Student Senate elections will occur in April. Most senators will graduate in May. Only one senator will remain. Regent Juarez would like to applaud Student Senate for all the work done thus far and also applaud Mr. Guedes. She recommends going back to the Student Senate playbook and update it for the members that will come on after they are done. Good job. Mr. Guedes stated cultural day will be April 11 or April 13. Board President Martin asked how it works, do people bring a dish if they want to attend. Mr. Guedes stated if people want to bring food and talk about their culture they can do so. The food is not required, it is just a plus. Regent Velarde had no question, she applauds their efforts and the work they have done. Good job. Regent Archuleta had no questions, good job. Board President Martin thanked Mr. Guedes.

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

#### 1. Honorary Degree Recommendation

Dr. Lopez stated he is bringing a recommendation received from Faculty Senate that is supported by the President and Provost for an honorary degree for the Spring 2022 graduation ceremony for a community member, Ms. Socorro Herrera. Dr. Lopez asked if Dr. X was still at the meeting because Dr. X nominated this individual and Provost Lopez asked for some feedback from Dr. X. Dr. X was no longer on the meeting. Provost Lopez briefed the board on Ms. Herrera's background (attached). We have various letters of support for this nomination. The experience and contributions to the community were evaluated by the honors committee following the honorary degree policy that the Board approved at the last meeting. Ms. Herrera has full support to be conferred with an honorary degree. Dr. X stated she is the nominator of Socorro Herrera. She is a pillar to the community, from Hernandez, New Mexico. She is known famously as a singer in the valley, she is a famous entreista in the world. A person like that has to know members of the community to do this. She is happy to see this has passed and thank you Dr. Lopez for allowing her to speak about this beautiful nominee. Dr. Lopez stated the recommendation is the board approve a baccalaureate honorary degree for Ms. Socorro Herrera and it will be conferred at the 2022 ceremony. Regent Velarde asked if she could do an entreista for commencement.

**Regent Velarde moved to approval Socorro Herrera to receive the honorary degree. Second Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of Academic Calendar 2022-2023 – Action Required

Dr. Lopez stated a few semesters ago the Board delegated the authority to the President during COVID to work and decide on changes to the calendar. The academic calendar is brought to the board for proposal for 2022 and 2023. The calendar was shared with the union for input and received no input. The calendar is in the packet on pages 58-61. The calendar resembles almost every other calendar in the past. One important change because we have increased the number of 8-week courses offered by the institution, there are many more so now in this calendar we are including more details when it comes to the 8-week courses that start almost at the beginning of the spring semester. This is the main difference between this and prior calendars. His recommendation is the Board approves this calendar for publishing and recruiting can begin. Board President Martin asked if there were any questions.

Board President Martin asked if there were questions. With no questions from the Board, Board President Martin entertained a motion for approval of the academic calendar.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the proposed academic calendar for 2022-2023. Regent Juarez – second. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Approval of New Certificates:
- a. Literary Editing and Publishing
  - b. Data Science – Action Required

Dr. Lopez is proposing the approval of two new certificates. They are coming from two academic departments. The Department of Language and Letters is proposing a Certificate of Literary Editing and Publishing. The Department of Math and Sciences is proposing a Certificate in Data Science. If approved by the Board, they will by the Board they are not going to go for approval with the HLC. The HLC requires only notification because these two programs are within the umbrella of the programs already offered at Northern. These courses are going to be taught by faculty members already working for Northern so we do not expect any additional cost in terms of faculty or facilities for these programs. They are responding to different demands of the community. Dr. Lopez asked Ms. Lori Franklin to give a few comments about the certificate. Ms. Franklin stated they are very excited about this certificate program. As the board knows, their department has produced Trickster for quite a few years under the faculty guidance of Dr. Heather Winterer who is also attending the meeting. This is a student led journal and includes art, poetry and fiction from students, faculty, staff, members of the community and we wanted to find a way to honor the work of those student editors by giving them a way to earn a certificate through their work. When they are involved in creating the journal, they take some courses in their department and those courses are taught by Dr. Winterer and she leads them through the process of creating a theme for the journal and calling submissions and collecting them and working through them and layout of the journal. Through that process they create the journal. This would provide them to get a degree through the process and it could be expanded through other projects. They

are interested in creating a student lead blog. It is pretty open, right now it would begin with Trickster and we are talking with a partnership with Espanola Valley High School. Ms. Franklin asked if there is anything else to address. Dr. Lopez is excited about this program because the initial idea was to help these students to accomplish a milestone. They were already participating in the Trickster journal but the reality is he sees more potential for a certificate. A few days ago, there were headlines in the newspaper that some skills that are in high demand is writers. He does believe that even students that are pursuing other majors will find this 15-credit certificate as a way to enhance their writing, especially creative writing skills. He is all for it and sees a lot of potential. Dr. applauded Lori Franklin's leadership, Dr. Winterer's leadership and faculty and students' leadership for coming forward for this proposal. Dr. Lopez invited Dr. David Torres, Chair of Math and Physical Science who is leading this new certificate, Data Science. We are living in a new era where data is extremely important, analysis of data, understanding of data and making decisions informed by data is a skill that companies, agencies, higher education, everybody is demanding because there is a lot of data available. Dr. Lopez asked Dr. Lopez for comments about the program. Dr. Torres stated this is a basically (inaudible) projected growth in this field by 16% from 2018-2028. This is a bureau of labor statistics. There is a lot of jobs opening up in this field. There are 50,000 job that come up if you put down data science. It is a growing field and we hope to capture students interested in this field. The program will be a 15-credit hour program involving courses such as machine learning, image recognition, identify plants, python programming with the Department of Engineering and a capstone course. Altogether there is 15 hours. We hope to capture students to allow them to enter into this field. We have the design certificate to enter into this field to help other businesses or other institutions. Dr. Torres asked if there were questions.

Regent Juarez stated she shared something with academic committee she fully supports both certificates, especially data science. One of the main reasons she was given the opportunity to do neuroscience research with Georgetown was because of the past experience she had at Northern with Dr. Torres on T-Cell movement. Data science opens opportunities for students outside of New Mexico. Regent Juarez asked when this is approved, when will be available for students. Dr. Lopez stated they do not require HLC commission and HED does not approve certificates. If approved this morning, they will be in the catalog so students can start enrolling in these certificates in fall 2020. Board President Martin asked if there were questions. Regent Swentzell had the same question. Regent Velarde and Regent Archuleta had no questions.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the two certificates.

**Regent Juarez moved to approve the two certificates. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Sunsetting of the Associate Degree Renewable Energy & Course Repurposing – Action Required

Dr. Lopez stated in the same way we create programs; we need to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs that we have at Northern. We have had in our catalog this Associate of Applied Science in Renewable Energy since 2008. Unfortunately, for several years, this degree didn't adapt to the new industry trends so we have seen a decline in enrollment. For the last three years we have had zero students and prior we had 1 student who did not graduate and changed majors. When this was analyzed and renewable energy degree and the industry trends, we believe it needs to be retooled

and rethought. The petition today for the Regents is to sunset the degree but keep the courses and curriculum. The reason is renewable energy is relevant as 10 years ago and more relevant. We want to keep courses because through the community college branch we are rethinking how they can be offered. We believe an alternative is to be integrated in stackable certificates. It is clear for us that many institutions that are in the renewable energy world do not offer these credentials through an Associate or Bachelor necessarily. What is needed is a hands-on short-term certificate. As we speak, Dr. Lopez is working with Dr. Frank Loera to repurpose the courses. His hope is to come with different alternatives on how we can offer, the way we want to package the renewable energy courses and he believes it will be certificates. Having degrees with no students hurts us with no students. Programs that do not produce does not help us with the HLC and we need to still have program review and everything we have to do with all programs. Board President Martin asked if there were questions.

Regent Swentzell stated he things it is wise to retool these classes into certificates and that is what other institutions are currently doing and are successful at that and thinking about what roll those might play in the El Rito Campus in terms of hands on and there are really good things to think about. Renewable energy is not something that is going away. It is more relevant than before. This degree is not serving that sector and we need to find a way to seek individuals in that area. He supports this and it is not about throwing courses away but how to make them better. Board President asked if there were any questions.

Regent Juarez, Regent Velarde, Regent Archuleta had no questions. Board President Martin entertained a motion too terminate the AAS in Renewable Energy.

**Regent Swentzell moved to terminate the AAS in Renewable Energy as a stand-alone associate degree with the stipulation that the courses remain in the catalog to be offered as other electives and continuing education programs. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Recommendations for Tenure for Dr. Sushmita Nandy, Dr. Rhiannon West, and Mr. David Lindblom

Dr. Lopez stated there are two times in an academic year where there is a lot of excitement. Commencement and tenure recommendations. Tenure is granted to faculty members who have demonstrated for the last five- or six-years excellence in teaching, scholarly activity, college and community service and student advisement. It is his privilege to bring three extraordinary candidates, Dr. Sushmita Nandy, Dr. Rhiannon West and Mr. David Lindblom. For them to be at this point, they passed a rigorous process that has been updated within the last two-three years. They have to have a recommendation from the tenured faculty in their academic department and they also need to get a recommendation from the tenure council. The dossiers for some are over 800 pages and it is a lot of examining to go through these pages because it is the evidence of the hard work of faculty. After this process it goes to the Provost and President. Dr. Medina concurred with the recommendation of Dr. Lopez and this is why it is brought to the Board that these three individuals are granted tenure. Dr. Lopez would like to have them introduce themselves to the Board and if they have questions the Board may ask.

Dr. Sushmita Nandy stated she is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Sciences. She has been associated at Northern since Fall of 2017. Prior to joining Northern, she was a Senior Research Scientist at Texas Tech University, Health Sciences Center, El Paso, Texas. She is a cellular and molecular biologist by training and specializes in the field of Stem Cell and Cancer Biology with more than 25 peer review publications and conference papers in the field and over 1200 citations. She has attended graduate school and earned her Ph.D. from Olympia Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India in 2011. That year she joined the Cancer Institute Center in Bar Harbor Main. From there she moved to El Paso for her next project on Breast Cancer Stem Cells. In the past five years at Northern, she has dedicated her sincere efforts towards teaching, research, service and advisement. She has developed several courses and designed courses for online offering to cater to a wider student population. She has submitted federal grants and managed federal grants. She has served as reviewer for several international peer review journals and she has also served as a topic editor for some of the journals. She was invited by the Health Research Council, Government of New Zealand to serve on their grant review panel. She was also awarded the faculty summer sabbatical by the NIH funded building scholar program at UTEP in 2019. Among several student initiatives, one is the establishment of the undergraduate laboratory for gas or cell biology. This lab has hosted numerous students and students from this lab has presented their work at national and state conference and have won awards and accolades for their work. It is extremely rewarding to mentor students and see them fly. Evelyn Juarez, Regent, is one of the many students she has enjoyed this journey. She takes immense pride in serving the student community and will continue serving in any capacity she can.

Dr. Rhiannon West stated she is a New Mexican. She grew up in the Jemez and completed her Ph.D. at UNM in Biology where she focused on how new species are formed in a group of fishes. She is really, her career has taken her around the world. She has worked for the University of Maryland in Europe where she taught American Service Members their undergraduate courses. When the position at Northern came up she was excited to come home. As Regent Velarde mentioned in previous meeting, New Mexico is a very special place. There is nothing quite like New Mexico. She is happy to be here and work with our students and to have established our fish lab where she took some of our students to the Bahamas to do research. One of which received her associate's degree as she graduated with her high school degree from Penasco. She has gone on to UNM to the AMD program. The other student she took with her has been accepted to multiple research graduate programs for his Master's Degree and he is deciding which to choose. That is the thing about Northern, like New Mexico and like Northern New Mexico and the region and the valley there is so much potential and so many wonderful things and our students exemplify that and she is happy to be part of this and appreciates consideration of her application for tenure.

Mr. Lindblom stated he is honored to receive his tenure. He feels like it is not the end of something or an accomplishment, it is a new start. He hopes to use his abilities and clout perhaps to do new things. He feels the same way Rhiannon said about New Mexico. He grew up in Los Alamos and went away to college and when he got out of college, he was an English major but he didn't exactly know how he was going to make a living. He went back to high school in Los Alamos and got a Certificate in Welding. In welding you can make good money. That was his day job until he could get in the film industry. He did that and he is so happy to tell people that a kid from Los Alamos went to New York, worked with Martin Scorsese and then came back home and works here at Northern. Other colleges in the State cannot say that. He would also like to say at a certain point

he wanted to be a full-time professor but needed the degree so he went to IAIA and got his MFA and Regent Swentzell handed that document to him. Thank you so much for making this possible.

Dr. Lopez stated this year was a coincidence. These three faculty members, for different reasons, he had the opportunity over the last two or three years to work closely in their initiatives. Dr. Lopez recommends tenure is granted for these three exemplary faculty members. With tenure there is a promotion, they are right now Assistant Professors and if tenure is granted, they will become Associate Professors. Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Provost's recommendation.

Regent Swentzell in making this motion he would like to also recognize the role of this event and this momentous recognition of your service and your academic work and your teaching record and your advising of students and all you have contributed to the College. Also, this recognition is also a recognition of the College's continued dedication to shared governance and serving students and serving those traditions and customs that make us distinctive as an institution of higher education. **Regent Swentzell stated he feels very privileged to make the motion of granting tenure to Dr. Sushmita Nandy, Dr. Rhiannon West and Mr. David Lindblom. Second - Regent Juarez. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. Fiscal Watch Reports – Action Required

Mr. Lithgow presented the December and January Fiscal Watch Reports to the Board of Regents (attached). Board President Martin asked if there were questions regarding the Fiscal Watch Reports. Regent Swentzell thanked Mr. Lithgow and on the cash flows, with the sort of decrease in cash flows for both, the last one almost \$1.2M is that mostly due spending out for the pandemic funds or is this an issue to be concerned about. Mr. Lithgow stated a lot of the expenses on the cash flow from one year to the next have been pandemic related and especially to the budget when oil and gas plummeted, they significantly reduced the budget too FY18 or FY19 levels. We had an appropriation for salaries and benefits were taken away. We spent about \$1.5M for students. This fiscal year we will be on track. Restrictions on funding and spending, especially with the budget we had to be very frugal. Board President Martin and asked if there were questions. There being none Board President Martin entertained motions to approve the Fiscal Watch Reports for December and January.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the Fiscal Watch Reports for the month of December, 2021. Second – Regent Juarez. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the Fiscal Watch Reports for January 31, 2022. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 2. Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) – Action Required

Ms. Abeyta reviewed the BARs with the Board of Regents. There are two BARs for approval, one restricted and one unrestricted. Ms. Abeyta reviewed the BARs for the Regents (attached).

President Medina asked about the employee increase and how it is handled with grants. Ms. Abeyta stated it is only for I&G funding. Grant related employees, it is up to the PIO that will actually determine if the employees receive compensation. Mr. Lithgow stated for the grant related funding or restricted revenues, if there is sufficient funding, they will get it. Most grants that support activities, the investigator will determine it. Board President Martin stated there will be a 3% and a 4%. Mr. Lithgow stated it will be an average of 4%. Board President Martin asked if we compensate some of the lower paid employees for the lower paid employees. Mr. Lithgow stated for FY22 it will be 3% and for FY23 it will be to bring those individuals too \$15 per hour. Then there comes the compression issue which will be addressed for the longevity of the employees. The bulk of the efforts will be at the lower end.

President Medina stated she wanted to commend the Business Office for all the things they have done. She is appreciative of the budget and the shape the audit is in and thanked Mr. Lithgow for his work. Board President Martin asked if there were any questions and entertained a motion to approve the BARs.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the BARs. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 3. FY2021 Audit

Board President Martin thanked everyone for the budget. He mentioned it to Mr. Bejarano and thanked Mr. Lithgow and everyone for stepping up. Mr. Lithgow stated it is appreciated, we have a good team and they put in a lot of long hours. This goes to the Board of Regents as well for their support and they will continue to march forward and make it the best they can. Mr. Lithgow introduced Mr. AJ Bowers for the presentation (attached). Board President Martin asked if there were questions about the audit. Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the audit.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the audit. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 4. Deletion of Capital Assets – Action Required

Mr. Lithgow stated they are requesting board approval to dispose of out forma phone system. We have gone out with another vendor for our phone system. We have to follow the state rule of disposal of assets. We are requesting approval and ask staff to reach out to school districts for use of the equipment. Board President entertained a motion to approve.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the disposal of the Shortel phone system. Second – Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **X. DEEP DIVE**

### **1. Philanthropic Activities Update**

President Medina stated our guest this morning is our Major Gifts Officer.

**The Board of Regents took a five-minute break prior to presentation of the Deep Dive.**

Judith Pepper, Major Gifts Officer presented the philanthropic activities to the Board of Regents (attached).

Regent Swentzell asked as things have evolved and changed, one of the big events that occurred was the Foundation Gala. In terms of events, what is the thought process because things are evolving and changing. Ms. Pepper stated events cost lots of money, they are good will, expensive and unless you have some great side products for an event, you don't make money. To raise visibility, smaller events would work and make more money. Judith would recommend the Foundation Board and Board of Regents have some meetings together. Perhaps a discovery conversation in the community to find out what they would support in academics and how they view the college in economic development.

Board President Martin stated the new President will assume the position of the Director of the Foundation. This will be brought to the new President of the College. They talked at the Foundation Board for operational expenses for the Foundation. There will be a certain percentage taken out of every donation. Once approved, it will be in all collateral. You don't have to tell a donor it is full-fledged revenue and you deduct the revenue. Had this been in place, there would be almost \$100,000 in place. It is best practice so a donor doesn't have to ask for money for operational.

Board President Martin asked if there are any questions. Regent Juarez stated she has seen how much work it is to raise money to support issues and also salaries. She would like to see the Foundation having more of a presence in the community and how much it supports student. Regent Velarde stated she has no questions, just thankful for Ms. Peppers expertise to reach out and tap into these forms of financial aid for our students. The scholarships they provide are really important. Thank you for all you do. Regent Archuleta thanked Ms. Pepper for all her hard work.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, disposal, discussion of the El Vado disposition options, the discussion of the real estate transaction with Rio Arriba County.

**Regent Swentzell moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss only those items listed on the agenda. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The Board of Regents entered into Executive Session at 11:52AM.**

Board President Martin entered a motion to exit Executive Session.

Regent Swentzell moved to exit session and affirmatively stated only items on agenda were discussed. Second - Regen Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**XII. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. Possible action regarding real estate transaction with Rio Arriba County

Mr. Zamora stated there is an action item after Executive Sessions as it relates to Rio Arriba County. Mr. Zamora is requesting approval from the Board to issue a letter to Rio Arriba County continue negotiations regarding a real estate transfer transaction with Rio Arriba County and a development of a transfer agreement to reflect the negotiations agreement. The contents of the letter will reflect what was sent in December, 2021 with some updates and revisions based on recent conversations. Board President Martin entertained a motion.

Regent Archuleta moved to approve. Second – Regent Juarez. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Regent Swentzell moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Juarez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**The Board of Regents adjourned at Adjourn 12:31PM.**

APPROVED:

  
Michael A. Martin  
President

5/5/2022  
Date

  
Erica Rita Velarde (Aug 20, 2022 09:44 MDT)  
Erica Velarde  
Vice President

8/20/2022  
Date

# 1355\_001

Final Audit Report

2022-08-20

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| By:             | Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)                 |
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