



NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, January 5, 2024, Via Zoom in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola. Regents Present: Michael A. Martin, Porter Swentzell, Casandra Batista Daus, Ruben Archuleta and Erica Velarde.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Larry Guerrero, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Denise Montoya, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Finance, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Henry Trujillo, Safety & Security Director, Patrice Trujillo, Health and Safety Manager, Janice Baca, Registrar, Shawn Madrid, Facilities Director, Deborah Trujillo, IT, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Juan Gallegos, IT, Arin McKenna, Communications & Marketing, Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs,

Faculty Present: Scott Braley, David Lindblom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:06AM

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

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

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. Capital Outlay for Española Parking Lot

Dr. Montoya stated we have two items on the agenda. One is requesting approval and second is information. The first is the request to put forward to HED for review and approval as well as the State Board of Finance, \$321,250 to help fund the drain and infrastructure improvements. We were provided \$2.5M and we need to encumber those funds before June 30th. We have a quote to make improvements for the first phase of the project to renew the parking services to accommodate parking for all programs for the Northern New Mexico Espanola Campus. This work will include the resurfacing of our parking lot, it will also include restriping the surfaces as well as becoming ADA compliant for the parking. After the Board reviews and approves it will then be taken to HED, State Board of Finance and then we can begin the work this spring. Dr. Montoya asked if there were questions of the Board.

Board President Martin asked if this was the first request of the \$2.5M. Dr. Montoya stated yes, we will have \$2.2M that we will still need to request. We are in the middle of requesting quotes from vendors to do resurface and drainage work on the Espanola Campus. Board President Martin thanked Dr. Montoya and asked the Board if they had questions.

Regent Velarde asked when this money was appropriated to the College. Dr. Montoya stated she did not know but we need to get it encumbered by June 30th to use those funds. Regent Velarde stated it was more than likely two years ago. Regent Velarde kind of remembers this.

President Balderas stated for the Regents and general public, we are really in a dynamic time. This will be one of many drawdowns. His intention is to be aggressive with some of the money that has been idle pre the new administration. This is the effort that we are kind of doing two things in a parallel manner. Ideally as we get more money in, we want to make it part of the five-year infrastructure plan, we want community involvement in how we are using the funding. This, like the roof initiative, we have about 5 roofs we are going to benefit from repairs. It had been previous idle money. President Balderas stated we are doing the bureaucratic process but he wants to let the Board know it is out intent to maximize all those old dollars and at the same time, this is the only first drawdown, we are still meeting with engineers. He event has grand visions that if there is any trails or beautification or ability to integrate this project with other needs of the faculty and students, we will do that. We are trying to do all that and we appreciate the Board's flexibility to do this on a whim. We are not complaining, this is not ideal but we want but we want to make sure we take full advantage. The fluidity of the faculty helps us because at the same time we are making pitches to the legislature we have grander visions and that we need

additional capital outlay. We will have more time to plan those investments to make sure they are sustainable into decades. President Balderas wanted to be clear we will be tapping the Regents approvals throughout this spring.

Regent Swentzell, Regent Archuleta and Regent Batista Daus had no questions.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Capital Outlay for Espanola [parking lot].

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the request.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the Capital Outlay Request for the Española Parking Lot. Second Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde - yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. NMMC, CUP and NMICC Legislative Priorities

President Balderas stated that at the executive level it should be noted that CUP is changing its organizational structure. Before they operated as a fiscal agent under NMHU. They have expressed interest to go into a 501(c)(4) which will impact how they advocate. This may give the CUP more flexibility to work with the Regents across the State and how they communicate and how they advocate and how they collaborate together. We recently signed onto the transition on how this is structured. Also, in the NMICC organization, they recently changed Executive Staffing has also changed. There is a little bit of changes but President Balderas is excited to work with them because we are coming now to the legislative session and both organizations will be crucial as well as collaborating with Regents across the State. President Balderas turned the presentation over to Dr. Montoya.

Dr. Montoya stated she thinks this going to be another exciting year for higher education. Dr. Montoya stated we are unique at Northern in which we are represented and our advocacy comes from two institutions. No other institution has that. One is the Council of University Presidents and the other is New Mexico Independent Community Colleges. They work together to come with legislative priorities working with the Presidents of these institutions statewide as well as the Board of Regents statewide. What they have come is are requests to the legislature and the Governor for specific asks and what we are asking for in higher education is a unified instruction and general increase that focuses on helping to fund the increases the institutions have experienced in general operations, student support initiatives, campus safety services and employee benefit funding increases. Those are the focus areas. What they do is go out and ask for specific dollar amount and based on what we get, should we get it, its distributed with some formula amongst the institutions that are represented in higher education. In addition to the CUP and legislative priorities, we are asking for a 6% increase for all employee's compensation and an additional 3% for targeted increase

for faculty that gives institutions flexibility on how they can potentially use that. In addition to those increases we are also asking for increases to support the higher education endowment funds, dual credit funding, the technology enhancement fund, the workforce training, campus safety, building renewal and replacement and general equipment renewal and replacement. Those are the funds we are asking for CUP and NMICC for institutions statewide. In addition to that, President Balderas and his executive team have come up with specific asks to support Northern outside of what we are asking for as a unified approach with institutions statewide.

Dr. Montoya stated Northern's focus is to ask for expansion funding through our RPSPs which is the teacher pipeline services, athletics, Native American student center, operations of the small demonstration farm which is the Sostenga farm. We are already receiving RPSP funds for those and are asking for additional funds. However, please note, that the RPSP process is being looked at differently through the legislature in which they are wanting to combine some of our RPSPs into our I&G and do away from that separation. We will see how that falls out during the legislative session. In addition to that we have asked for new funding through RPSPs for some programs we would like to launch in the following year for cybersecurity, more support for our student success achievement shop and our one stop shop initiative. In addition to that we are asking for recurring funds in our I&G to support an implementation of a compensation study that will allow us to compare ourselves through a professional consultant with other institutions in regards to how we pay. We are also asking for adjunct faculty salary increases, safety and security expansion, enterprise software conversion and foundation staffing and infrastructure to help bolster our foundation efforts to fundraise for the institution. We are also asking for nonrecurring funds for instruction and general to support implementation of this compensation study, athletics facilities renovation and equipment, campus safety and cybersecurity technologies, rural transportation initiatives which will help us with our vehicles for athletics and to support our staff on business travel and for CFA improvement and marketing. (inaudible).

Dr. Montoya stated the last couple of categories that we are asking for additional funding include special appropriations for a business and student information system. We have a lot of remediation work because of our roof leaks that was unanticipated. We had to use funds that were unanticipated which causes other projects to be bumped back. We are asking for remediation for our mold concerns and issues. Also, we are asking for emergency repairs that some of these water leaks have caused campuswide, specifically on the Espanola campus. We have also put forth two capital outlay priorities. One for classroom and space renovation for workforce development and a campuswide green energy modernization upgrade. Those are the additional funds we are asking for as a college in addition to CUP and NMICC legislative priority requests as well. Dr. Montoya asked if there were questions from the Board. This was really just an informational item to make sure we keep the Board of Regents well informed of what we are going to be proposing for requests to help support student success at Northern.

Board President Martin asked on the salary increase; will that be 6% for everyone and then an additional 3% for faculty so that would be 9% for them. He asked if this correct. Dr. Montoya stated not necessarily. It would be 6% and the 3% she is not sure how they are going to calculate that salary increase. If it is adjunct faculty or it is tenured and adjunct. We will have to see what that formula is in that 3%. She is not sure it is going total that 9% for all faculty.

Board President Martin stated he understood in the paper that the Governor is going to recommend a 3% for all public employees. He asked what HED recommends. Dr. Montoya stated we just got those numbers yesterday and she has not reviewed them. They came in late yesterday evening. She is happy to follow up and get Board President Martin that information. Board President Martin stated he is very encouraged about the adjunct faculty salary increases and asked what that would bring our adjunct faculty salaries up to for credit hour. Dr. Montoya stated for 6%. Board President Martin stated the \$400,000 that we are asking for our adjuncts. Dr. Montoya stated yes, we have not done the calculation on that. She is happy to do that as well. It is dependent on the adjunct faculty that we have in place at the time. Board President Martin stated he appreciates that and asked was it 2% last year and asked Regent Swentzell. Regent Swentzell stated he can't remember the exact number from last time. Board President Martin stated that was from our own funds, that wasn't from the legislature and asked President Balderas if this was correct. President Balderas stated that was the previous President who pulled some money out of the past budgets to find the money. We are asking for a supplemental to offset. It is still his intent to scrape our budget but he would rather the legislature invest in the adjuncts as well. Board President Martin thanked President Balderas and stated he appreciates them doing this.

Board President Martin asked if there were questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Velarde - no questions. Thank you for the information.

Regent Swentzell stated Board President Martin asked all his questions and he would like to thank the Executive Team for pulling this together and it is an important step to make sure our faculty and staff are paid a fair wage and battling on their behalf to be competitive as an institution in hiring these very skilled and knowledgeable positions.

Regent Archuleta and Regent Batista Dauz had no questions.

President Balderas stated we are anticipating the legislative recommendation coming down today and as soon as they do, we will do the qualitative studies and email them to the Board of Regents. This entire request is built to try to, the reqs are only a forecast. The real hard work will begin, and Dr. Montoya mentioned we are asking over and above the higher education requests and we are also going to be talking to individual legislators. On the 29th or 30th President Balderas will invite the Regents to the legislative floor to try to initiate film production, trades production on the El Rito

Campus and hopefully bringing in some Hollywood actors who will support those initiatives that Northern should be a pipeline into the trades, into the arts and into the film production, even though we do not qualify the studio credits. Those are the kind of initiatives we are hoping to put the faces to some of our aggressive requests. Hopefully, as we get the reqs today we are going to try to advocate for additional dollars. President Balderas is excited because he got confirmation yesterday that there will be some Hollywood actors coming in to accompany the Board to really advance our mission. That we really do believe in our programming with faculty and students. That is in development and these are the exciting things coming down.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

The Board of Regents adjourned at 9:29AM.

Approved:



Michael A. Martin
Board President



Erica Rita Velarde (Jan 30, 2024 19:33 MST)

Erica Velarde
Vice President

2024-01-30 16-46

Final Audit Report

2024-01-31

Created:	2024-01-30
By:	Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAWfNZ1hK0tIsXDDSUz0Nsz_sBQzYIJxaH

"2024-01-30 16-46" History

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2024-01-30 - 11:47:42 PM GMT- IP address: 205.166.231.250
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2024-01-30 - 11:48:00 PM GMT
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2024-01-31 - 2:32:54 AM GMT- IP address: 104.28.48.214
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2024-01-31 - 2:33:39 AM GMT- IP address: 73.228.0.132
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