



**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, October 27, 2023, in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola. Regents Present in person and Viz Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Porter Swentzell, Casandra Batista Daux, Regent Archuleta. Regent Velarde was not in attendance.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Ivan Lopez Hurtado, PhD, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Denise Montoya, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Finance, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Juan Gallegos, IT, Courtney Bruch, Director of Assessment & Accreditation, Maria Cedillo, IT, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Arin McKenna, Communications & Marketing., Tammy Winston, Student Life, Patrice Trujillo, Health & Safety Coordinator, Evette Abeyta, Budget Director, Rishi Poudyal, Institutional Research Analyst, Julianna Barbee, SBDC Director, and Amy Peña, Executive Office Director

Faculty Present: Scott Braley, Faculty Senate President

Others Present: John Ussery, Christian Olivas, Dolores Gurule, Student Senate President, Tim Crone, Samantha Chavez

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

**Regent Batista Daux moved to approve the agenda. Second – Regent Swentzell A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – did not vote, Regent Batista Daux – yes. Motion passed.**

## **III. PUBLIC INPUT**

**None.**

## IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

### A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

#### 1. Housing Committee

Regent Archuleta stated Shawn Madrid, Facilities Director, President Balderas and Regent Archuleta will be going to Farmington in November to look at their dorms to get ideas and see how to move forward. It looks good on their end so far.

#### 2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

Regent Archuleta stated there was a very well-presented meeting yesterday. There will be a few action items to discuss today. Great meeting as usual.

#### 3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee – Informational

Regent Swentzell stated the committee met yesterday and there is one item to be discussed which is the Strategic Mission. Regent Batista Dauz had nothing to add.

#### 4. Board Assessment Committee

Matt Baca, General Counsel stated as mentioned by email to the Regents, survey software shows 5 responses. We are waiting on one Regent to submit a survey. He does have the results we do have if the Board would like to hear. Mr. Baca reviewed the results with the Board of Regents. Mr. Baca will circulate this to the Board of Regents. Board President Martin stated Mr. Baca has identified some things we need to work on and the Board can work on this for a summer retreat. Regent Swentzell stated it would be good to discuss this further. There is a spread between different answers and this is more opportunity for discussion. Mr. Baca advised that it might be helpful Regent Swentzell, Velarde and Mr. Baca work together to put together an executive summary. It would give more time for a remaining survey to be taken and it could be presented formally. Board President Martin stated this would be acceptable. No comments from Regent Archuleta or Regent Batista Dauz. Regent Archuleta did not have questions. Board President Martin stated it needs to be brought to light that we should have an orientation procedure and luckily, we are not getting a new regent this year and we have time to work on this and he thinks it would be helpful to work on this. Regent Swentzell stated just with some experience on other boards, some boards have a more robust orientation and some boards have a mentor practice where a long sitting board member helps out a new board member to get used to how things work. It could be challenging because of the quorum issues but with a mentor/mentee kind of program it helps people with a softer landing because it can be a little bit. Generally, we work well together but there is an intimidation factor with open meetings where we make sure we can't hang out in the same place at the same time. We need to make sure there is a public announcement in advance. We can implement something that is best practices. Board President Martin stated this is a good point.

## 5. AGB Annual Conference

Board President Martin stated he wanted to reach out to the Board. We have a discount if we apply for the AGB Conference in March of next year. He wanted to encourage all the board members who were interested in attending. Regent Archuleta is interested in attending. Board President Martin stated Regent Velarde attended last spring and unfortunately, she is not in attendance to impart her knowledge but he does know it is probably very helpful. President Balderas stated he hasn't had the opportunity to do professional development with the Board and he would be open to it. He will look at the calendar and the agenda. Board President Martin asked that everyone get back to Ms. Pena by December 1, 2023 so we could do it as economically as possible. Board President Martin asked if a motion is needed. Mr. Baca asked if has been the practice to nominate board members to attend. Board President Martin stated it is just opened up and whoever wants to go may attend. Mr. Baca stated then he realizes it says action required but if you don't have a formal nomination process, you do not need it. Board President Martin stated we do not.

## 6. November/December Board of Regents

Board President Martin asked Ms. Peña what she found when polling the Board of Regents. Ms. Pena stated the 15<sup>th</sup> of December was the date that would work best for the Board. Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the scheduling of the November/December Board Meeting to take place on December 15, 2023 at 9:00AM at the Espanola Campus.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the scheduling of the November/December Board Meeting on December 15, 2023 at 9:00AM in Espanola. Second Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2023.

**Regent Batista Dauz moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2023. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas stated how pleased he was with the turnout for Paletas con Presidente Balderas and his State of the College Address. This was a great opportunity for the community to come together, and I'll look forward to future gatherings and keeping the community updated on what's going on at Northern.

We welcomed the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee to our campus October 5 – 6. Dr. Ivan Lopez and Dr. Denise Montoya welcomed the committee, and while not the purpose of the committee's meeting, ended up presenting to legislators from across the state about issues in higher ed. and the things we are doing to support student success at Northern. We were pleased to play host and even more excited to be able to have engaged these legislators in a rich dialogue with

Dr. Lopez and Dr. Montoya. President Balderas had dinner with the legislative body and the are pleased to continue to support Northern. This should be celebrated.

President Balderas cannot express the gratitude for the team of hosting FAA chose. There was a great combination of demonstrations, hands-on activities and talks by experts. We were pleased to welcome a group of students from Dulce for the entire three-day event. Northern will continue to be regarded as a host for other federal agencies. President Balderas cannot thank them enough for positioning us well.

Student Life hosted two events in the last month, including our first National Coming Out Day Resource Fair and Panel Discussion last week. The panelists shared their personal stories and information about resources available to the LGBTQI community. They also urged students to protect their rights by voting and even running for office themselves. We're glad to see this support for our LGBTQ+ community. Student Life also hosted a celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, with lots of good food, a trivia contest and a karaoke contest.

President Balderas congratulated Josef Weese, who won a Third Place Award at the October 13 Alliance for Minority Participation Conference at NMSU, Las Cruces, for his poster presentation, "A Theoretical and Artistic Examination of Euclid's Elements." His presentation included art pieces created to visualize the structure. Adjunct Faculty Charles Knight mentored him on the project. Casandra Batista-Dauz and Dominick Martinez also attended the conference, along with David Torres, the Chair of our Mathematics and Physical Science Department. Dominick presented the poster "Using a Neural Network for Image Classification."

President Balderas stated our Athletic Department has been doing a lot of community outreach. The coaches have been visiting schools to promote Northern and to let the community know they are part of the Eagles family.

In more Athletics news, Men's/Women's Assistant Basketball Coach Tj Stukes was selected to participate in Netflix' "Squid Game: The Challenge," a reality show based on the network's popular "Squid Game" series. He competed against 456 people for a \$4.5 million dollar prize. He can't tell us if he won, but he's pretty excited about it. The first episode of the 10-part series airs November 22. Tj has requested (per his instructions from the producers) that no one post on social media about his appearance on the show until after the first episode airs.

Film and Digital Media Arts professor David Lindblom has been selected as a recipient of the Alex Trebek Legacy Fellowship for the Television Academy Foundation's 2023 Media Educators Conference. David is in Los Angeles this week for the conference, where he will meet writers, producers and showrunners creating some of today's top TV shows.

Alumna and new adjunct faculty member DezBaa' was selected by the Native American Media Alliance as one of seven fellows for the 3rd Annual Unscripted Workshop. She got to participate in discussions and seminars and meet with executives from numerous networks and studios during a five-day intensive, which culminated in pitching a project to creative executives and producers.

The Española Valley Chamber of Commerce and Student Life are hosting the “Enchanted Fall Festival” on the Quad from 12 – 8 p.m. tomorrow, with a lot of fun activities. We’re glad to see these types of community partnerships and we’ll keep looking for more opportunities like this.

This concluded the Celebration of Northern and President Balderas opened for questions. There were no questions.

## B. CUP/NMICC Report

President Balderas presented the following and wanted to recognize the Boards leadership in this and their advocating for our students:

### **RPSP Hearings**

The RPSPs hearings have been focused on funding requests in a few areas of interest: Teacher preparation and teacher continuing education programs, wildfires and water programs, and athletics. Northern’s RPSP hearing was held on October 19. The committee noted we are asking for full funding and have to go through the legislative process. In those hearings we were aggressive, proud and committed. Thank you, President Martin, for your attendance and support.

### **PED Funding**

Dual credit continues to be a topic of discussion. HED if institutions are charging districts because PED currently has funding opportunities. LESC is planning a K-12 formula deep dive into dual credit to study the issue.

### **High Skills / Workforce Training**

President Balderas stated there is funding available for high skills and workforce training. Discussion is taking place to determine how the money should be distributed. For example, should the Department of Workforce Solutions provide the funding? In addition, Northern will need to determine targeted marketing efforts to solicit these type of program offerings specifically to potential students in their 20s and 30s.

### **Funding Formula**

In the past, legislative funding increase have been across the board and/or based on results from the criteria established in the funding formula. However, recently the legislature has provided increase to some higher education institutions outside of the funding formula. This practice may continue to occur.

President Balderas asked if there were questions from the Board of Regents. No questions from the Board of Regents

## C. NNMC Foundation

President Balderas stated we recently hosted the Foundation (Regent Martin thank you for attending) for a strategic planning retreat at the college to set new goals for the Foundation. It was very successful. We started off by getting a better understanding of who we are and what motivates

us. We set some other strategic goals that will benefit the students at NNMC. The Foundation wants to be part of the strategic goals and would like to follow the same strategic plan. Imagine all of us on the same level of information and how we advocate for student scholarships and funding. It was a big win for the Foundation retreat meaning they are all committed becoming part of the strategic team.

We have awarded 397 scholarships, roughly \$400,000 in scholarships and working on the distribution period for this.

#### D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following:

##### **Virginia Archuleta** **Library Clerk**

Virginia Archuleta is returning to Northern as the new Library Clerk. Virginia credits a work study position in the library with helping her earn her Associates degree in Substance Abuse Counseling from NNMC in 2020 and her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2022. She sees the library as a milestone that prepared her for other positions she held at Northern. She is looking forward to helping new work study students in the library.

##### **Virginia Cata** **Continuing Education Coordinator**

Virginia Cata is returning to Northern as Coordinator for Continuing Education. Her last position was Office Manager at the Ohkay Owingeh Community School in Ohkay Owingeh, where she worked with parents and students at an elementary level. Prior to that she worked at NNMC for eight years in the Continuing Education Department and the Educational Opportunity Center. She is a lifelong resident of New Mexico from the Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh.

##### **Maria Cedillo** **Senior Project Manager/Database Administrator**

With a degree in Computer Science, Maria Cedillo joins NNMC as a Sr. Project Manager/Database Administrator after 21 years of service with Christus St. Vincent Hospital. As a Systems Analyst/Project Manager with Christus, Maria played an integral role in the transition of medical records from paper to computer and subsequently many data migrations, system enhancements and interfacing of disparate systems.

##### **Mario Corral** **Athletic Trainer**

Mario Corral joins us as Athletic trainer. His last position was head of physical therapy and rehabilitation with the Indomables Basketball Club, a professional team in Ciudad Juárez, where he dedicated himself to devising personalized protocols for players, helping them achieve their best performance. He also worked for a long time with pediatric patients at Providence Hospital in El Paso, Texas. Mario is from El Paso. He received his bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation from Southwest University at El Paso and his master's degree in sports injuries at the Technological Institute of Ciudad Juárez.

## **Farjahan Shawon**

### **Director, Center for Teaching and Learning**

Farjahan Shawon (Fahr-jă-hŭn Sha-won) is our new Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. She is originally from Bangladesh and moved to the U.S.A. in 2016 to pursue her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Idaho. She also holds a M.Ed. In Educational Leadership Management and Planning and masters and bachelor's in public administration from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. Farjahan is a 20-year veteran educator who has served as a classroom teacher at International IB schools, was a founding school principal of an elementary school and college faculty of Teacher Education. She is a strong advocate of diversity, equity, and justice and passionate and experienced in organizing events, activities, and programs to promote DEI on campus.

I would also like to welcome **Jerry Harmon**, who joins us as a **Lecturer** in Teacher Education and our new **Safety & Security Officer, Steven Serna**.

### **Promotions and Transfers**

I want to congratulate Alejandra Jaramillo on her new role as HEP Coordinator. She previously worked as Editorial Assistant with the Communications & Marketing Department. This was a big loss for Sandy but still get to retain that talent.

#### **E. College Updates**

President Balderas stated this is a new item this year and to refresh the audience and our guests or those new to this process. The Board of Regents really set some high standards for performance goals and administration doesn't always get to work one on one with the community. This is a hope to provide some broad updates to inform the community that we can work together and share that information. These are tied to strict performance standards that the Regents set in the most recent administration. We are a small school so our small communities but we do share information very well. Once it gets into the community we know how to share. One performance measure is they wanted more transformational student experiences. They wanted us to go beyond the classes and degrees and really understand our students. President Balderas presented the following:

Northern New Mexico College for and was awarded a \$700,000 Casa Connections Grant to renovate housing on the El Rito campus for students, staff, and faculty. Funding must be spent no later than December 31, 2024. President Balderas has already talked with the community letting them know we have students who are food insecure and housing insecure. Some of the community jumped the gun and thought we were going to open a homeless shelter. This Regents Board has been focused on this and it is a great opportunity. President Balderas will be speaking with the Regents on how to leverage this opportunity.

We continue to make progress on the One-Stop-Stop renovation for student success alignment. President Balderas apologizes to the Board that we are needing to meet in a different room but it is showing progress. Roof repair launched at the Center for Fine Arts (CFA). Conducted air quality assessment to determine remediation needs in the CFA building. Joseph Montoya Administration's roof repair is completed. Continue campus beautification with laying gravel campus wide in Espanola. President Balderas asked faculty and staff to assist him in getting accurate facts out into the community. As an administration we ordered scientific reviews where we can and cannot put students and faculty. All this information has been useful in keeping everyone safe. President

Balderas will meet with anyone individually to discuss the facts before sharing opinions on construction and repair. We are addressing this historic mold due to roof leaks and are doing scientific health assessments as we go to make informed decisions. He is a big fan of shared governance but would challenge everyone to meet with him but will not condone misrepresentations when it comes to the safety of students, staff and faculty. We also have the gravel project which is continuing to take place. We are working on building the park in El Rito and will complete that soon.

Regarding organizational excellence, President Balderas stated:

We finalized a NNMC legislative list of priorities to include Research and Public Service Projects (requested \$3,717,504 new or expanded funding); Instruction and General Recurring Appropriations (requested \$3,500,000); Non-Recurring Appropriations (requested \$2,950,000); Special Appropriations (\$3,550,000), and Capital Outlay funds (\$12,000,000).

We are reviewing the Probationary Employees policy and identified in the Staff Handbook in three different sections contradictory and redundant information. Revised policy and provided an open comment period for the campus community. Human Resources did not receive any feedback. Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Regents for approval on October 27, 2023.

We renewed the New Mexico Department of Higher Education grantee GEAR Up lease for housing GEAR Up staff on the Espanola campus.

We conducted an Eagle Alert Emergency Notification System test campus wide to ensure faculty, staff, and students register and/or update their contact information to receive communications during an emergency.

We recently met with leadership from ENLACE New Mexico and are pleased to announce that ENLACE will soon reestablish its presence at Northern.

As you may know, ENLACE is a statewide collaboration that represents the voices of those who are traditionally underrepresented in policy initiatives that have direct impact on their communities or their families.

As a college serving many of these same underrepresented families, Northern shares in ENLACE's commitment to bringing a voice to those who are not afforded the opportunity to speak, and we are very excited to reestablish a partnership with ENLACE to increase family and community engagement.

We are reviewing for a Campus Security Director and should have a candidate soon.

#### F. Soaring to New Heights Strategic Plan

President Balderas asked if we are going to sit for a motion after this update. Mr. Baca stated yes. President Balderas stated he would like to commend this board for setting a high bar. President Balderas stated he would love to discuss the Strategic Plan 2028. President Balderas stated he knows that all the Regents were involved in the Strategic Plan of 2028 and would take us back to the beginning of his hiring. One of the performance measures early on was, and direction from this



body is that they wanted an updated Strategic Plan for many reasons but one that the mission had not been updated in more than 13 years. Secondly, a Strategic Plan unites us and really positions us for competition with our other peer institutions. Finally, a great Strategic Plan when you have a great college like this is a way for the community to support us but also that we can set shared goals. This Strategic Plan is a Mission and a Vision and it sets our values and our direction but forthcoming will be some goals that will be identified that we think we can achieve and attain. President Balderas wants to make sure he affords this distinction that this is not the complete process but this is the completed Strategic Plan of 2028. President Balderas stated he would like to commend the entire committees, our staff, our leadership, our contractor. With everything going on in terms of learning and getting to know everyone and so many issues we all face in our community, it is pretty impressive to have turned around a Strategic Plan, received input from great leaders in all walks of life. Before the Board of Regents with their participation and committee's process. We have a new updated Mission, Vision and Core Values. We have an updated Mission and he is proud because there was an aggressive but respectful discussion between student leaders and academic leaders about what it should include. At the end of the day this is a reconciliation of ideas. President Balderas stated we will ask for approval of the new Strategic Plan for 2028 that will go well into half a decade.

Board President Martin stated he would like to thank LANL for their assistance in this. Regent Swentzell stated he is looking forward to voting on this. It is important to have this updated Strategic Plan to make sure all the other elements are achieving that mission. This is a major step especially with the college leadership. He appreciates everyone adding their ideas all the way up until recently and making sure the various components of Northern have input.

Regent Batista Daux stated she would like to thank everyone who worked on this and bringing it to the Board.

Regent Archuleta – no response.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Strategic Plan 2028.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve. Second - Regent Batista Daux. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – no response. Regent Batista Daux. Motion passed.**

President Balderas stated he wants to commend the entire community of Northern. We asked individuals to work during the summer, we came together, he was very impressed as a newcomer to the campus how passionate and real and individuals didn't hold back. He is so proud what he didn't see and what he was looking for was where there be breakdowns, where will people stop us from progress. He got a lot of feedback at the beginning of the year that we need to build trust and needed to overcome a lot of challenges. This process started mid-spring. It was not easy to be so timely it was not easy for the touchy topics. It was so many good reasons to quit, delay or blame. He would like to commend, the people who have committed to this progress. His report back is we have an amazing culture that is ready to be challenged. This is really what was testing the governance of our regent leadership. It was testing our faculty, staff and administration to get this done in a timeframe. He wants to give credit to everyone involved here and he does not want the Board to undersell what they approved. He is excited to go on to the next goal. This plan will set 3-5 goals. This will be a growth period for the college.

## **VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Scott Braley, Faculty Senate President stated our major accomplishment was the Strategic Plan. He knows they caused angst and delay and appreciates the administration's response and really appreciate the product and thank you for approving it. Other than administrative trivia, this was the major accomplishment this month. Hopefully they will catch on some of the stuff they had to delay at their next meeting.

## **VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Dolores Gurule stated she has a brief report today. She wanted to report President Balderas joined the last Student Senate Meeting and provided many updates as well as opportunities that may be coming to the students as a result of partnerships. He invited them to work on the committee for the café area. She has designated Christian Olivas, Vice President to be the designee on the committee. Thank you, President Balderas, Dr. Lopez and Dr. Montoya for all the work in navigating all the work in the strategic planning. She is in awe of how they navigated this and allowed everyone to come back to have an agreement regarding mission, values and strategic pillars.

Christian Olivas is the new Vice President. They did have two senators who were interested in the position and presented.

Regent Swentzell wanted to recognize the comment about recruiting. It could be challenging but they should keep moving forward.

Regent Batista Daus and Regent Archuleta had no questions.

Board President Martin thanked the Student Senate for all they do, it is a lot of hours and all their support.

Ms. Gurule stated they will finalize the plans for the Virtual Giving Tree kicked off as well. They will reach out to Ms. Pena to reach out for donors.

## **IX. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Vice President for Finance & Administration**

#### **1. Fiscal Watch Reports**

Theresa Storey, CFO presented the Fiscal Watch Reports to the Board of Regents.

Board President Martin asked when we would get the 25% from the Opportunity Scholarship. Ms. Storey stated in October and December for fall term and May/June for Spring.

Regent Swentzell stated we used to, one of the expenditures is over the budgeted amount. Ms. Storey stated last fiscal year we saw the approval of BARs at the end of the fiscal year. It has been a challenge to align the budget under the new chart of accounts. She would refer back to the unadjusted disclaimer and would hope to clean it up in December and May. Regent Swentzell

stated under revenues, when you 786% higher than expected and the category is other, it is not a lot of money, what is that category. Ms. Storey stated she would like to get investigation and get this information back to him. This should probably include branch activity and she will get information back to him.

Board President Martin asked if she would have a branch budget as part of the presentation. Not everything together, it is hard to compare when you have two separate entities. Ms. Storey stated we would like to evolve the Fiscal Watch to what the Board would like to see. If the Branch activity is part of it, we should include that. The presentation can get overwhelming and the more information crammed into this document can get overwhelming. She would like to see this. Board President Martin stated this should be set this as a goal.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the Fiscal Watch Reports for the period ending September 30, 2023. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed.**

## 2. Probationary Employee Policy

Dr. Denise Montoya presented the Probationary Employee Policy to the Board of Regents.

Board President Martin asked if these policies have to go in front of the union. Mr. Baca stated they require promulgation throughout the campus and opportunity for feedback throughout the campus. They do not need to be negotiated in terms of the CBA (inaudible). Ms. Montoya stated we are not required to reach out to the union for this, as probationary employees are not covered under the CBA. Board President Martin asked Karen Baker-Jepsen if she had anything to add. Ms. Baker-Jepsen stated she did not.

Board President Martin asked if we haven't done any since 2006, is this a goal to work and update the policies. Ms. Montoya stated there will be strategy meetings in the next couple of weeks on how to work on the packet or as they come up to make sure they are updated and revised. We are doing an assessment of all policies as we speak.

Regent Swentzell stated this was his question. Sometimes it is important to go through them with a fine-tooth comb and find all the language that is no longer relevant. Especially with the new strategic plan, really finding that alignment. He appreciates this.

Regent Archuleta stated this is a good idea to look at policies as some are outdated.

**Regent Archuleta moved to approve the Policy Revision. Regent Batista Dauz – second. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed.**

### 3. Law Enforcement Recruitment Funds (grant)

Dr. Montoya presented the LERF to the Board of Regents (attached). We were notified we could request a grant for funds to enhance for our safety and security campuswide.

Regent Swentzell congratulated the college and this is good and given the situation in the world and more closely on this campus. You cannot get enough to support safety and security. Regarding the initial disbursement and tiered down, in terms of hitting the funding cliff, what is the plan to absorb those funds. Dr. Montoya stated this is going to be reviewed in attrition. The budget will be reviewed long term and we will make sure we stay within the budget. Regent Swentzell asked if there are plans to increase the compensation. Dr. Montoya stated we are working on how we can absorb the budget with the hopes for increases in the next three years for the legislative process and will be working with the person in this position (Director of Safety and Security) for an increase.

Dr. Montoya stated this is also going to allow us, right now we have funding in place, it will allow us to free up some funds to purchase one time equipment enhancements to enhance security systems for this year.

Regent Batista Daut had no questions.

Regent Archuleta stated \$15.00 is low when you can make \$17-\$20 at Lotaburger. This is something to look at, increasing down the road.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the recommendation.

**Regent Swentzell moved to accept the FY2023 Law Enforcement Recruitment Resolution. Second – Regent Batista. Daut. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Batista Daut – yes. Motion passed.**

### 4. IT Updates – Informational

Ms. Stokes state he would like to give some updates over the last couple of months. He appreciates Mr. Gallegos here all the work he puts into every day.

Mr. Stokes stated earlier this month he was invited to the Governor's Mansion by the Governor to attend a Cyber Security and AI Summit with other state leaders and representation of Northern where they discussed certain topics. They also discussed cybersecurity front line as cybersecurity professionals are also first responders as they are tasked with keeping IT infrastructure and data security resilience. Another topic they discussed was investing in our future and how AI and cyber skills are the most sought skills in the digital age and as leaders how can we prepare the workforce to meet the demand and transform New Mexico to be a leader in AI and Cybersecurity. The last topic discussed was women in cyber and how leaders in every industry in support provide resources for women and girls who are interested in pursuing a career in cyber and how important it is to have women join the ranks of cyber-professionals to lead and diversify and improve the security posture of every organization. It was a very good conversation with other state leaders, there were CIOs, Presidents of other institutions. It was a very productive conversation. As the Board may or may not know it October is cyber security awareness month. The launched several initiatives this month. The first thing was communication to promote safe online practices along with tips on how to identify phishing attacks and scams. He got good feedback on this. We have also launched

a new Eagle Help Center. The Eagle Help Center provides NNMC with new and improved IT Help Desk and Facilities Request solution to streamline and improve our experience with IT Support and Facilities Support. This includes a ticketing system and a self-serve knowledge base where people can find answers. Recently this week to many dismays we have implemented a stronger security password requirements and multifactor authentication aimed at safeguarding our sensitive data and strengthening our cybersecurity. This has become a compliance thing and this was a huge feat and Mr. Gallegos knows all the work that went into it. A lot of time people don't consider there is a lot of things to do to get to this point. There was a lot of auditing and configurations to be done and it took three months to get to this point. It takes us to our next step and Mr. Stokes is very comfortable where we are in security to date. We have also implemented cybersecurity tools to increase visibility and proactively hunt cyberthreats among our digital ecosystem. We are also adopters of the HED Institution Cybersecurity System. This is at no cost to the College; penetration testing and those tools are pretty pricy. As mentioned by President Balderas, we did perform a test of our Eagle Alert System. We were able to verify functionality and provide user training to the Safety and Security Team. We were able to send out something and asked for updates if needed. Ongoing efforts include further process improvements and enhancements, automation, seamless integration within the network and (inaudible). We realize these improvements can have a transformative impact on our institution, operational efficiency, better decision making, enhanced student experience, and compliance with data and privacy requirements. We are also engaged with a vendor that is doing an overall assessment of our technical capabilities at this point. Mr. Stokes is very excited of what our future holds to do an update of our systems and provide a better experience across the Board.

Regent Swentzell stated he appreciated getting the message saying he can't login unless he changed his password. He had the same password since 2019. It is good to see that take place.

Regent Batista Daus and Regent Archuleta – no question

Board President Martin asked how we are funded for cyber security issues. has basically given an appropriation to DoIt along with our initiatives. It started with State agencies and Mr. Stokes was part of the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee in his previous position. They were able to design and build out that structure of how to help organizations, state agencies and colleges and now it is going to trickle down to K-12. Mr. Stokes stated the Governor has graciously funded this DoIt push out those services. H was part of it and now a recipient and they contacted him. The threats evolving these days it is good to have that tool for your infrastructure. It is important for institutions to get these tools at no cost. You are talking about \$20,000-\$50,000 for this. It also gives us the visibility of where our attack vendors are and it is very important.

## **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**None.**

## **XI. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**None.**

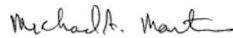
## XII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

The Board of Regents Meeting adjourned at 10:34AM.

Approved:



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Michael A. Martin  
Board President

  
Erica Rita Velarde (Feb 13, 2024 15:05 MST)

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Erica Velarde  
Vice President