



NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, December 15, 2023, in person and Via Zoom in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola. Regents Present in person and Viz Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Porter Swentzell, Casandra Batista Dauz, Regent Archuleta and Regent Velarde.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Ivan Lopez Hurtado, PhD, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Larry Guerrero, Associate Vice President for Student 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, Rishi Poudal, Institutional Research Assistant, Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Haylie Baca, Test Coordinator, Arin McKenna, Staff Writer/Reporter Communications & Marketing, Analise Lopez, IT, Joshua Lopez, Dual Credit Outreach Specialist, Chris Trujillo, IT, Cindy Martinez, Human Resources Admin/HR Tech, Kristy Alton, Title V Project Director, Rishi Poudyal, Institutional Research Analyst, Donna Jaramillo, Interim Director of EOC, Patrice J. Trujillo, Health and Safety Manager, Deborah Trujillo, IT, Frank Loera, Carmella Sanchez, Director, Institutional Research, Maria Cedillo, IT, Janice Baca, Registrar, Jessica Ortiz, Associate Registrar, Vince Lithgow, Accountant III, Ann-Marie Draeger, Grant Writer and Amy Peña, Executive Office Director.

Faculty Present: Ana X Gutierrez Sisneros, Scott Braley, Frank Loera

Others Present: Jake Arnold, Samantha Chavez, Jennifer Garcia, Bill Boas, Jake Arnold

President Balderas introduced and recognized the apprentice students to the Board of Regents.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:07AM

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

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

III. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

1. Housing Committee

Regent Archuleta stated he, President Balderas and Shawn Madrid attended a meeting at and tour of San Juan College. It was a nice trip; they were really friendly with them. They were able to give them a lot of information, not just on the dorm part but the academic and fundraising part. They got some good ideas and are going to meet with them again and they had lots of information for us. President Balderas and Regent Archuleta would like to send executive staff to get ideas. It was very informational and a very nice trip.

President Balderas stated they were specifically visiting a most recent completed dormitory. It was a \$15M job and what was more impressive is they built it around respect for Native American Culture. There was various pieces and they consulted with tribal communities. We are going to use it as a blueprint to do further research San Juan started with public/private and ended up self-financing and there were pros and cons and they will keep the Board apprised as they do more research.

2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

Regent Velarde stated there was not a meeting this month because they had one item that is pretty cut and dry. The Board will review that later on.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Swentzell stated the committee met yesterday and there are two items on the agenda as action items and they will be discussed.

4. Board Assessment Committee

Board President Martin reviewed the documents that counsel put together and there are five or six categories that received poor. Board President Martin would like to assign these to the Board committees at the January meeting. Board President Martin asked if the Board had anything to address. Board President Martin asked the Board of Regents if they have anything else to address. Regent Velarde – nothing, Regent Swentzell – nothing, Regent Batista Daus – nothing. Regent Archuleta – no response. Board President Martin stated the outcomes were from the self-survey the Board of Regents Received. What he did is he went through and picked out the categories that had poor and the Board will address those first. Regent Archuleta stated this sounds good.

5. Recognition of Dr. Ivan Lopez Hurtado, PhD

Board President Martin stated it is now time for the sad part. We have to well, sad and happy. We want to recognize Dr. Lopez who is leaving us and thank him for his vision and leadership over all the years and all the improvements he has helped facilitate here at Northern. He is going to be missed but we want to wish him the best in the future and thank you for all your time you spent at Northern over the years.

Dr. Lopez thanked the Board of Regents. It has been an honor, a pleasure to serve this awesome institution. Thank you to the Board for its leadership and he will be always grateful to this institution. Years ago, he will be always grateful for this institution. He told President Balderas if they need something he will always be there. He will never forget this institution. All that institution has done for him and his family. He is a US citizen because of this institution, they opened the doors for him to stay in this country and it learning after learning. He is leaving with a heart full of gratitude for this institution. Thank you to President Balderas because he really helped Dr. Lopez with this transition and he allowed him to leave with dignity. He never wanted to leave in the middle of the academic year but this opportunity was not going to wait and he thinks this institution is ready for new vision, fresh ideas, new leadership. He wishes the best to Dr. Guerrero in his transition as an Interim. He has seen him work already and he is going to be able to accomplish what he hasn't been able. He is coming with a lot of fresh ideas and energy and he really believes the best for Northern are coming.

Regent Velarde thanked Dr. Lopez for his dedication not only to this institution but to our students more than anything. Dr. Lopez is willing to go above and beyond for our students, his daughter, every time she is on a meeting she goes, oh my God is that Ivan, she loved hi, she thought he was awesome and she knows there are so many students who feel the same so thank you for your dedication and your vision that you brought here and helping us get out of that hole that Northern was in and not giving up on us. He could have many times but he didn't, so thank you for continuing to being dedicated to us even as you go to your next phase. Thank you so much. Dr. Lopez thanked Regent Velarde.

Regent Swentzell stated he was on the Student and Academic Affairs Committee meeting and thought this was our last time and he shed some words in that meeting. It has been a real pleasure and before being a Regent, Dr. Lopez face was very familiar on campus and student leader, seeing his work. He has seen a lot of things happen at Northern during his tenure here. He has made big differences, contributions and continue (inaudible) to where it is at now. He really enjoyed their conversations in the committee and the Board and other places. It is really good as a humanities person to get an engineer's insight. That makes for great conversation. Regent Swentzell wished Dr. Lopez Godspeed and good luck in his new position. He will be rooting for Dr. Lopez. Dr. Lopez thanked Regent Swentzell.

Regent Batista Dauz thanked Dr. Lopez for everything he has done. Every student she talks to about him sings his praises. They never have a negative thing to say. He has always been there for Regent Batista Dauz when she has a question, even if it is a small thing, he always gives her a good explanation a good answer to the question and she appreciates that so much. She appreciates everything he has done for her and students appreciate everything he has done. Dr. Lopez thanked Regent Batista Dauz.

When Regent Archuleta first became a Regent, Dr. Lopez reached out to him and immediately out to him answered questions that he had and answered questions that he had. He was very helpful when he was a new Regent. He appreciated anything with students at the high school or his own kids, he was always helpful and answer questions and get the right help for him. Regent Archuleta wished Dr. Lopez good luck and wished him the best. Dr. Lopez thanked Regent Archuleta.

The Board of Regents presented Dr. Lopez with a token of appreciation.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2023.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2023. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas reported the following:

President Balderas stated he did want to remind everyone we are having our wonderful unveiling of the park at 4:00PM this afternoon and feeding the community. We would like to invite everyone to attend.

We were proud that the UA Local 412 Plumbers and Pipefitters and Northern New Mexico Workforce Integration Network chose Northern to host the launch of their WIN Mobile Training Unit, which will travel to seven Northern New Mexico counties over the next two years offering three-week Skilled Training Camps to get unemployed and under-employed adults' apprenticeship ready. We're the first to host this, and class members demonstrated the skills they're learning during the launch.

At the mobile unit launch we also signed an MOU with the Local 412 for a joint educational venture to offer an Associate's Degree and a Certificate Program in Technical Trades (Plumbing) to participants of the Local 412 Apprenticeship Program. As part of our collaboration, the union has agreed to make strategic investments in equipment; facilities renovations and other campus infrastructure improvements to benefit programs served by this collaborative. Both the WIN program and this new collaboration demonstrate Northern's commitment to the technical trades and to provide our students with marketable skills.

President Balderas met with Butch Clark in Gunnison, Colorado. President Bailey was instrumental in starting this relationship. Butch has been a generous supporter of our tech trades program, donating a mobile lab van and equipment for plumbing and electric teaching labs. President Balderas wanted to thank him for his generous support of our programs and to discuss future plans for the Trades Programs at the college.

President Balderas stated he hopes many of you were able to attend the "Century Bank Classic" Tournament last weekend. I want to thank Thomas Martinez and Century Bank for their generous donation to fund this event. I was pleased to join Mr. Martinez at halftime last Friday to honor Lincoln Coach Gary Payton, a legendary former NBA player who is in the Hall of Fame, and Northern's own Coach Terry Tyler, who played 15 years in the NBA.

Northern got some great coverage from Assistant Basketball Coach Tj Stukes participation in Netflix' "Squid Game: The Challenge." Tj was featured in numerous articles about the show, and all but a couple of them identified him as an Assistant Coach here at Northern. Some of the articles even focused on Tj's wife Samantha Stukes, our Women's Basketball Head Coach. I don't want to give any spoilers for those of you who haven't watched yet, but I will say that Tj really represented us well.

Congratulations to Northern alumni David Chaloupka, who was just promoted to Senior Banker at Bank of America. David graduated with a BBA in Management in May 2022, the same month he began his career at B of A as a Relationship Banker.

Congratulations our students Madelyn Martinez and Savannah Schaum from the Cell Biology Laboratory, who presented their work at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists Nov 18. The research was funded by New Mexico INBRE and the virtual conference attendance for the students was made possible by Title III.

President Balderas stated we also had several notable events:

The Española Chamber of Commerce held their first Enchanted Fall Festival on campus October 28. There were nearly 2,000 attendees, 50 vendors, several food trucks and lowriders from the Española Lowrider Association. It's great to see these kinds of successful collaborations that bring the community to campus. Thanks to Tammy Winston for her work organizing that from our end and for putting on Student Life's Spooktacular Halloween Costume and Door Decorating Contest the following week.

We had a wonderful Native American Heritage Month celebration on November 15. President Balderas thanked all our Native American faculty and staff who helped organize the event and provided a wonderful luncheon with traditional foods. I also want to thank the Ohkay Owingeh Community School Dance Group, The Aguino Dance Group and all the Native American artists who participated. A special shout out to our Library Director, Martin Shupla, for his help with this event and for scheduling a screening of the film "Fighting Over Sioux" and panel discussion the following day.

At the invitation of Dr. Ana X, Adam Baca from Counseling and Student Support Services, our Sostenga Farm Manager Jose Luis Ortiz, Matt Baca and President Balderas visited the HOY Recovery Program on November 15. Executive Director JR. Sandoval gave us an overview of their program followed by a tour of their farm. Northern hopes to strengthen partnerships with community organizations such as HOY, and in particular we hope to work on an Adult Education GED endeavor with HOY and to post job openings at their residential center in Velarde, NM, for our students.

NNMC's Counseling & Student Support Center hosted a Hunger & Homelessness Awareness event and a Suicide Prevention Training. We appreciate all the work you do to support our students.

NNMC's Health & Safety Officer, Joleen Trujillo, provided us with a De-escalation Training earlier this month. Trainings like this are important for helping to keep our community safe.

President Balderas stated he would like to give Kudos to Northern's Student Nurses Association for hosting a blood drive October 30.

B. CUP/NMICC Report

With the historic President Balderas stated with the historic economic growth from oil and gas revenue Northern is well positioned to potentially secure increase investment in capital funding for renovations of classrooms, cultural arts center, campus beautification. However, there are some risks and also, we are fighting hard for potentially increased salary increases. Those look all well positions with the legislative session starting mid-January. Some of our priorities we are asking for on the front end are to continue dual credit funding, a technology enhancement fund, workforce training, campus safety equipment, cybersecurity initiatives, we will keep the Board of Regents apprised as the session starts. Many of the Presidents and Community Colleges are gearing up to begin to testify in early January.

Board President Martin asked what CUP recommended as a salary increase. President Balderas stated between their request and LFC there is a projection of about 5%-6% is what it is right now. President Balderas would encourage all of us to develop an advocacy. If we want to argue for more, we can try to help that or make sure that we defend that they don't receive any less than that.

Regent Swentzell sated regarding the advocacy; he knows one of the issues was those increases in the past have been across the board rather than having the flexibility to bring up some of the lowest paid. President Balderas stated he would defer to the Vice President or CFO to add any color to that. Dr. Montoya stated she thinks they are having some average language in there which allows the flexibility of getting between zero and 5% or 6%, however, in her experience, it has always changed at the very end. Even though that is what we are going in to ask for, it could be changed. The other thing is they are also going to be proposing 3% for faculty in a way that gives flexibility to the institution to use that 3% specifically for faculty in a way that is helpful to that institution. It gives lots of flexibility if we get that funding as well.

Regent Velarde asked if there is any support from CUP to increase funding to wrap around services and she knows that is something that HERC has been advocating for a long time. Dr. Montoya stated yes, there is a request for student services that NMICC/CUP and the third institution have put together as a request for bulk funding. If we get that bulk funding then it will be divided into every school, using some formula. Student Services was one of those asks. Regent Velarde asked if this is access to counseling, those types of wrap around services and if it is included in there. Dr. Montoya stated, yes, it is student services and that would give us the flexibility. It says, student support initiatives are asking for \$15.8M for all the institutions and there are three organizations coordinating this. It includes tutoring, advising, behavioral health and wrap around services. Because the language is loose it would allow us should be funded, to use it as we deem fit.

Board President Martin asked Dr. Montoya to refresh her memory, when they offer a salary increase it is for the fully time employees not for the adjuncts. Dr. Montoya stated what they are asking for. Board President Martin stated he is asking if we are going to have money to increase our adjuncts this year. Dr. Montoya stated potentially yes. What the specific ask is that is united for all the institutions in New Mexico is a 6% increase with the flexibility to budget an average increase so institutions can address pay inequities for some of the lowest paid employees and successfully employ and retain qualified faculty. They are also asking for an additional 3% for targeted faculty compensation increases to retain and attract full and part time faculty. We would have the flexibility to use it as we wish. We only get 80% of this increase funded from the State and our budget has to incur the additional 20% that we provide to our employees.

Board President Martin stated last year we did not receive any funding for adjuncts so we had to come up with the increase that we gave the adjuncts. Dr. Montoya stated this is correct.

Board President Martin asked if there were any questions. Regent Archuleta - none. President Balderas stated we are going to have a very aggressive lobbying effort and we will come with a legislative plan.

C. NNM Foundation

President Balderas reported the following to the Board of Regents:

- 1. FY24 Northern Scholarship \$60,000 Campaign**
\$65,925 raised to date.

2. N3B Dennis Huddleston and Danny Nichols Memorial Scholarship awards \$18,000 to NNMC.

NNMC Students Jade Madrid and Felicia Rodriguez, each received a \$9000 from N3B, and an all-expense paid attendance to the annual Waste Management Conference held in Phoenix, AZ in Feb, 2024.

N3B established this scholarship in 2019 and has since provided \$64,000 in awards to NNMC students. The scholarship is available to all AA and BA seeking students pursuing STEM degrees to enter the radioactive waste management, environmental remediation or energy industries.

3. NNMC Technical Trades Program

Ralph E. "Butch" Clark donated \$50,000 to assist with the creation of a Trades laboratory on the Espanola Campus and the development of new courses in areas such as Welding, HVAC, Carpentry, and enhancement of the existing curriculum for Plumbing and Electrical Technology.

4. Escala Angel Completion Scholarship Fund is Established

Dr. Melissa Salazar, principal of Escala Educational Services, Inc., has pledged \$25,000, beginning Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2027, with \$5000 annually for 5 years, to fund an innovative concept for Completion Scholarships. It will provide financial assistance to students who are within 15-30 hours to graduate but have unpaid debt to NNMC and are ineligible to enroll until debt is paid in full. The Fund will provide up to \$2000.00 for an eligible student. The award will help the student complete their academic requirements for graduation.

D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following staff and faculty:

Larry Guerrero, EdD

Interim Provost/Vice President for Student Affairs

I'm pleased to announce that I have appointed Dr. Larry Guerrero as interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Guerrero joined us in November as Associate Vice President for Student Success. He has almost 30 years of experience in higher education, most recently serving as Dean of the Health Sciences Division at Kilgore College in Texas. His career includes Vice President of Academic Affairs at Seminole State College in Oklahoma, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of the Southwest in Hobbs and Dean of the College of Professional Studies at Sul Ross State University in Texas. He has led prior institutions through their accreditation process and

instituted student success initiatives. Dr. Guerrero earned a Doctor of Education in Applied Educational Studies at Oklahoma State University.

Melissa Herrera, M.S.

Holistic Retention Counselor, Counseling & Student Support Center (CASSC)

Melissa is a lifelong resident of the Española Valley and joins Northern New Mexico College as a Holistic Retention Counselor with the Counseling & Student Support Center. Melissa previously worked at RAC STOP and the TA Detention Center. She joins us after retirement from New Mexico State Government Adult Protective Services, where she was the NE Region Supervisor of Investigative Case Workers. She has taught Psychology and Sociology courses for several years at Northern and UNM as Adjunct Faculty. Melissa was a student at Northern and graduated from Grand Canyon University with her Masters in Addiction Counseling.

Maria Romero

Data Technician, Continuing Education/Adult Education

Maria Romero is the new Data Technician in our Adult Education Program. Melissa also grew up in Española. She has a master's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of New Mexico and received her bachelor's degree in biology from Northern New Mexico College. As an alumna of NNMC, she is excited to work with students of the Española Valley and help others reach their goals.

Henry Trujillo

Director of Safety & Security

Henry Trujillo is our new Director of Safety & Security. Henry has spent over 23 years in the field of public safety, including serving in the United States Marine Corps. He is retired from the New Mexico State Police, where he was the Sergeant in Governor Security for Governor Gary Johnson's administration. He was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned as an Internal Affairs Investigator and assisted with the Research and Development unit. He was selected to attend an Executive Level Leadership Fellows Program with the DOJ/FBI at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, where he instructed new FBI Agents, FBI National Academy Law Enforcement Executives, Latin Law Enforcement Executives from all over South America and at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest, Hungary. He has also worked as a State Police sub-district Commander in Socorro, New Mexico and as the State Police Hazardous Materials Commander/Coordinator for the state of New Mexico at the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He was an MPA from the University of New Mexico.

President Balderas also welcomed two new members of our Custodial staff, Leonard Atencio and Cesar Lopez

E. College Updates

President Balderas stated the purpose of this report is to highlight some of the work that we are undertaking that aligns with the Soaring to New Heights Strategic Plan 2028 strategic pillars (SP) and presented the following:

SP1: Transformational student experience

Hired an Associate Vice President for Student Success. Dr. Larry Guerrero started on November 6th and has ample experience from several institutions and roles. Transitioned his role to serve as the Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs starting in January 2024.

On December 10th, Northern is sending a team of faculty and staff to attend the Complete College America (CCA) Annual Forum. Northern is part of a cohort of institutions selected by HED that will start implementing research-based practices under a project with CCA funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve student success.

SP2: Academic Excellence

Hosted a Plumbers and Pipefitters mobile unit to introduce prospective students, partners, and the communities to trades educational programs. Nine students participated in the 3-week program.

Renovations of the Barbering and Cosmetology facilities allow the program to restart face-to-face instruction.

NNMC hired the CFA and Events Coordinator, Mr. TJ Hilton who will start on January 2nd, 2024.

SP3: Organizational Excellence

Hired a Safety and Security Director with Law Enforcement Recruitment Funds. NNMC was able to apply for and acquire close to \$4K funding extended over three years. Henry "Geno" Trujillo, for State of New Mexico Police Commander, starts on December 4, 2023.

One-stop shop renovations and moves continue anticipating a student services section completed prior to the 2023 Spring semester start.

Coordinated a campus-wide De-Escalation training to provide participants training on increasing awareness of physical responses to situations where you feel threatened; techniques to calm yourself; and how to succeed at de-escalation.

Created a Flexible Work Policy for the College; requested feedback College-wide. Will provide a final draft for Board review and approval at the upcoming board meeting.

Building and housing facilities assessment in El Rito campus will begin on December 15, 2023, to determine how to maximize \$700,000 Casa Connection Grant funds.

Hosted the kickoff meeting on December 5, 2023, that included management and union representatives.

SP4: Strategic Partnerships

Attended the Department of Energy to the People Conference in California to memorialize the Mentor/Protege partnership Northern New Mexico College has with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). This is the first partnership nationally intended to enhance collaboration between the College and LANL.

The Higher Learning Commission approved the request for an additional location at the Espanola Valley High School. This approval allows NNMC to offer full degrees at the high school, thus promoting access and enrollment. We have high ambitions and hope for this. Since this is the third location for Northern, the institution can add more without seeking approval from HLC but only by notifying them. Thank you, Dr. Lopez, for your leadership in this effort.

Board President Martin asked how the renovation is going with the CFA, did we get the roof done. Dr. Montoya stated the CFA is now completed and we have done a few remediations for the building. We are also going to request additional funding for renovations and improvements in the building. They are in the middle of the conversation of moving back to the CFA.

Regent Velarde stated Kit Carson Electric was given a grant to build out a true microgrid. El Rito campus is going to be part of this with two other locations. We are starting those conversations. We will start looking at what it will look like for the El Rito Campus and community. It will be one of the first in the state. President Balderas stated the significance of the microgrid project, this is a partnership that will provide backup generation to the elder population if there was a national blackout. This is high level public safety plan. As we draw down fund, we could offer up El Rito as an emergency planning center, this would be a central hub to prepare from blackouts due to climate crisis, forest fires, blackouts. This would also potentially give some to our trades program

as well. They want us to trade the students to manage the microgrid. This grant is for energy and fire engagement. President Balderas stated to all the Amy's and Sally's who try to heat the place and Board President Martin who advocate and see the buildings decaying. We are asking Kit Carson to commit to the electrification of the old buildings. We would try to build transfer possibilities so that solar grid would not only serve backup generation for our community but we could heat some of the buildings with the solar panels and that would be the fourth benefit. Because some of those buildings are so inefficient and that is part of why they shut them down because we had propane bills of over \$200,000. There is a potential of all of that. There is a lot of work to be done next year in the planning and assessment phases. Thank you, Regent Velarde, for setting up that meeting and pushing for that partnership.

VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Faculty Senate President Braley stated they had two senate meetings this past month. A lot of the committees report out at the end of the fall semester. They had a lot of program changes and recommendation will come to the Board of Regents. They also wanted to honor Dr. Lopez and presented him with a gift. The next regular meeting will be in February. The January timeslot is reserved for the Faculty Association Meeting.

VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Vice President Olivas stated she is going to present the report on behalf of Student Senate President Gurule. Vice President Olivas stated student senate would like to express their sincere gratitude to those who signed up to be donors. They would also like to express their gratitude to those who donated warm clothing during the winter drive. They will be distributing the clothing between campus, homeless shelters and (inaudible). They would also like to give an honorable mention to Amy Pena who has been an integral part of the holiday giving tree process and organization. Thank you, Amy, for all you do for Student Senate and Northern. They are also happy to announce (inaudible). They have also have a backup person to be trained for Secretary, two people for treasurer and a backup person for (inaudible). Both the Vice President and Secretary are being cross trained for Vice President. On November 8, Student Life participated in the Career Day Event. Students participated in the First-Generation Event. (inaudible). The event was a success. There was a total 80 students and staff participating. The Hunger Awareness Event on November 8th had many resources for our students and staff. On November 15, 2023, Student Life was asked to partner with Northern New Mexico Native American Committee to celebrate Native Americans and staff and students at Northern. (inaudible). We had a total of 100 students at the event. With another semester completed, Student Life was kind enough to offer students donuts, hot chocolate and coffee for a very stressful week. Khiana Seaboy, offered students Yoga event for students to help with the stress. They are happy to announce that Student Life was asked to help with this year's

holiday pot luck for staff and students who provided a tasty dish. The President's Office gave a \$250.00 stipend to students to help pay for books for students. Thank you.

Board President Martin thanked Student Senate for all their work. They are rock stars. Regent Velarde thanked Student Senate. Regent Swentzell thanked them and told them to keep up the good work.

Regent Batista Dauz stated she is with them every day and they know how she feels, they help students and they are doing incredible. They have helped her personally, she is always there for guidance, they help her destress. Finals week is stressful, the donuts were amazing to have breakfast on campus, they weren't healthy but it was breakfast. Thank you and Ms. Olivas did a great job presenting.

President Balderas stated he has seen the campus is booming because of all their leadership. He has seen them at Balloon Fiesta, all over, thank you for what you are doing for other students. This region deserves to have all the fun, the student opportunities and student life. It was beautiful to see students and some of administration serving at the Thanksgiving Dinner. They made it a huge success. Thank you.

Regent Archuleta thanked Student Senate for all they do.

President Balderas stated he knows the leadership will be very important to the type of Native American Student Center that is developed. He forgot to report that we just had the acceptance of DezBaa who will be the Native American Student Center Director and is a former adjunct and has already had a successful career in film and television.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Provost & Vice President

1. Approval of the Academic Calendar

Dr. Lopez stated the first item (page 53) was presented to the Board of Regents. Approval of the Academic Calendar. There will be two years in advance to approve. This document was submitted for comments to the union. They had a question but no more comments. They do not have to approve but can express comments. Dr. Lopez asked if there were questions of the Board. No questions from the Board of Regents.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Academic Calendar for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

Regent Swentzell moved to approve the proposed 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Suspension of the Associate of Arts in Substance Abuse

Dr. Lopez presented the Suspension of the Associate of Arts in Substance Abuse Counseling. This was terminated by the Board of Regents in March of this year. When the motion passed, Dr. Lopez asked not to terminate this program, there was an action to terminate four programs, because they were going to be replaced by an associate degree in integrated studies which would include the four degrees. Dr. Lopez has asked that they would be terminated with the caveat that they would be approved by HED. Dr. Lopez stated unfortunately, HED who was going to look at this program in April has some reservations and unfortunately someone passed away at HED and This meeting was delayed until late August. Unfortunately, when they considered the program, the program was not approved. The associate in integrated studies. This means this was not terminated. The Board passed the policy on elimination of programs. We now have a new policy that just passed. Dr. Lopez went with the book and followed the new policy on the elimination of programs. They sent the programs to this committees are integrated by leadership in academic affairs, members of the faculty senate and student affairs. They reviewed these programs and they recommended was the suspension of this particular program. They didn't recommend the suspension of the other associate degrees. They feel that we have the capacity to enhance those programs without additional money. That was not the consideration for this particular one. This program is deficient according to the program review process done a year ago. We do not have the faculty members to teach this program to put it at the level that we would consider to be high quality and therefore the recommendation is suspension. The difference is suspension prevents new students to be enrolled and it allows us to teach out the 6 students currently enrolled in the program. However, if the conditions of the institution improve in the years to come and there is a desire to bring back the program, we don't have to go through all the external approvals with the HLC. We spoke with the HLC and they recommended the number of years to go under suspension. The faculty did not recommend the number of years. HLC recommended 3 years. That is why we have that recommendation and in 3 years we can see if we want to go all the way to termination or have the resources.

Regent Velarde asked if the 6 students could finish their path out and it is not going to inhibit that. Dr. Lopez stated that is true and it is policy. It is part of the accreditation assumed practices. The institution must teach out the 6 students.

Board President Martin asked where students would go to get this class in the next few years. Dr. Lopez stated he does not have a good answer of who is offering this program right now but he will get the information for him.

Board President Martin asked if there were questions.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the Suspension of the Associate of Arts in Substance Abuse. Second – Regent Batista Daux. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daux - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. T-Mobile lease agreement

Dr. Montoya stated there is one action item for Theresa Story to present. Ms. Storey presented the T-Mobile Lease Agreement for approval to the Board of Regents. It is five terms of five months each. Regent Velarde stated we should be asking for

Regent Martin asked about those kinds of funds remaining in El Rito to improve things in El Rito and we will continue to have conversations of how those funds will be used. President Balderas stated we are having those conversations and will have something for the Board of Regents in the spring.

Board President Martin entertained a motion for approval of the T-Mobile Lease Agreement.

Regent Swentzell moved to approve the T-Mobile Lease Agreement. Second – Regent Batista Daux. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daux - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XI. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Regent Batista Daus 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 Batista Daus - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 10:13AM.

Approved:



Michael A. Martin
Board President



Erica Rita Velarde (Jan 30, 2024 19:34 MST)

Erica Velarde
Vice President







0156_001

Final Audit Report

2024-01-31

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