

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
ENMU-Ruidoso, Rm. 201
February 28, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Regent President Trish Ruiz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Regents Trish Ruiz, Ray Birmingham, Logan O'Brien, Lance Pyle, and Phillip Bustos were present.

Roll call: Regent Ruiz– Yes; Regent Birmingham– Yes; Regent O'Brien – Yes; Regent Pyle– Yes; Regent Bustos – Yes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Bustos moved to approve the minutes from the January 22, February 4, and February 18, meetings. Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. ENMU Clinical, Incorporated

Dr. Jamie Laurenz stated that in support of the continued growth of our healthcare programs, the University wishes to establish Eastern New Mexico University Clinical, Incorporated, a non-profit New Mexico Research Park Act Entity. This entity will enhance clinical training and practicum training support for our students by allowing the healthcare and social work programs to enter into agreements with clinical support vendors and practicum partners that include third-party indemnification clauses.

Dr. Laurenz introduced Page Dumahel of Sutin, Thayer, and Browne to expound on the legal qualifications of this proposal. Ms. Dumahel stated that their firm has been involved in creating and reviewing the bylaws and articles of incorporation for this new entity, which are comparable with existing programs at UNM Regional Sandoval and the Nuclear Technology Science development program at New Mexico Highlands University.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the ENMU Clinical, Incorporated resolution as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

2. Addition of Stunt as a Varsity Sport

Dr. James Johnston said that as a follow-up from the December 2024 meeting, we have been looking for a sport that would support women athletes and continue our efforts to balance Title IX requirements. Stunt is an emerging sport under NCAA, and we plan to start with twenty athletes but could easily support up to forty.

Women's stunt has been researched after the discontinuation of the Men's Soccer program. Men's soccer did not have the success and student interest that we had hoped for. The University has committed to honoring scholarships and support men's soccer athletes to complete their education at ENMU if they choose.

3. ENMU-Ruidoso Recommended Course Fees FY 2025-2026

Mr. Ryan Trosper presented recommendations for course fees to support current technical programs. The course fee changes would impact EMS, IS, Art-Digital Media, HVAC, and ELTR courses. The ENMU-Ruidoso Community College Board has approved these proposed fee changes.

Regent Bustos moved to approve the ENMU-Ruidoso Course Fees for FY 2025-2026 as presented. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

REPORT FROM THE ENMU FOUNDATION

Ms. Noelle Bartl reported on a tremendous collaboration between the ENMU Foundation and the Advancement division, and said it is an exciting time to work on fundraising and stewardship endeavors. Scholarship season is underway, and it is expected that \$550,000 – 600,000 will be awarded this year. In addition, new donor relation software is being implemented, and they are eager to fill the positions of Alumni Coordinator, Research Analyst, and Director of Annual Giving and Engagement.

The FY25 fundraising goal was set at \$7.5M, and they are at the 64% mark in reaching that target. This goal is being achieved by the diligence of John Houser, Noelle Bartl, and Kemet Gatchel, and Warren Lloyd who have visited with potential donors and delivered forty-two giving proposals.

Ms. Bartl introduced Mr. Peter Serena, ENMU Foundation Vice President. Mr. Serena commented that the Wallstreet Journal has listed Eastern New Mexico University at sixty-ninth in the nation and looks forward to us moving up in status next year. The Foundation had \$34M in total assets as of December 2024 and is sitting at \$33.9M in total investments with Bank of America as of January 31, 2025.

Mr. Stephen Doerr has served on the Board since 1990 and as President since 2002. Mr. Doerr has recently resigned from this role due to health concerns. The proposed new officers will be voted on at the March 1, 2025, Foundation meeting. These include:

- Bobby Hamilton President
- Peter Serena Vice President
- Renee Neely Secretary
- Jose Mendoza Treasurer

Lastly, the Foundation is working on a new logo they hope to unveil soon. The Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee is reviewing and preparing proposed revisions to the current ENMU Foundation Bylaws and the Commitment to Serve Agreements. Dr. Patrice Caldwell is working on these revisions with the goal of presenting the changes at the October 24, 2025, ENMU Foundation meeting.

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-ROSWELL PRESIDENT

Dr. Shawn Powell reported that enrollment numbers are down 3.7% from last year, and semester credit hours show a 3.6% decline.

ENMU-Roswell is housing forty AmeriCorps volunteers who are in the area assisting with flood recovery efforts. Sixty staff members hired through Title III/V federal grants (GearUp and TRIO) are affected by the federal government's grant review. This accounts for 23% of the total workforce on campus. These employees are being updated as information becomes available.

The Air Race qualifications will take place in May and the campus and community is working to accommodate the influx of visitors to the area. The ENMU-Roswell campus will allow the use of space during the pilot qualifications in May, and the actual races will occur September 10-14.

The Community College Board authorized the exploration of increasing the mill levy from one to two million. If the results are positive, this will be placed on the November 2025 general election ballot. If affirmed by the voters, the funds will focus on increasing career and technical education programming.

The ENMU-Roswell Foundation Golf Tournament fundraising event will take place on April 15 at the NMMI Golf Course.

REPORT FROM THE ENMU-RUIDOSO PRESIDENT

Mr. Ryan Trosper welcomed everyone to the Ruidoso campus and introduced several of his personnel, including Christy Melton – HR Generalist; Olivia Withrow – Student and Food Security Specialist; Robin DeMott – Vice President for External Affairs; Dr. Patrick Brown – Science faculty, and Chris Trujillo – IT Technician.

As the region approaches another fire season, disaster preparedness training is underway. A national group has provided disaster resiliency and recovery information to the village hospital and schools for a collaborative effort when there are power outages and other situations.

Spring headcount numbers are up 3.5%, and there has been a 1.8% increase in headcount since last spring. These numbers present an enrollment record for the campus.

The ENMU-Ruidoso Community College Board has filled their vacant position by the appointment of Frizzell Frizzell Jr. The campus will host a Maze of Life event in March in conjunction with Region IX Cooperative to show middle school students the campus and engage them with life choice topics.

The Nexus Phase 4 has received a notice to proceed, which will cover exterior improvements, including paving the back of the building, the installation of insulation and fencing.

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENMU SYSTEM and Dashboard Presentation

Dr. James Johnston reported spring enrollment headcount up for the third straight year – 5,378. Enrollment gains were evident in both undergraduate (3.7%) and graduate students (9.6%), with the graduate numbers representing the most graduate students ever enrolled in a spring semester. The enrollment growth resulted primarily from a 9.7% increase in continuing students, which reflects the increased number of degree-seeking students added in past recruiting cycles. Semester credit hour production is the highest recorded in over a decade. Recruitment efforts work on a year-round cycle and are well underway. One Eastern is concentrating on 2+2 programs that are already in place. We are looking at proactive methods to attract students, clear pathways, and marketing plans to make it known what programs ENMU provides, including athletic programs.

We are at the mid-point of the 2025 Legislative Session and continue to advocate for ENMU requests, including a \$8M supplemental for capital projects and increases in I&G funding. This week, two ENMU Regents were confirmed, which included the reappointment of Regent Lance Pyle and Emily Wilbanks, Student Regent.

The men's and women's basketball teams will compete in the LSC semifinals in Frisco, Texas next week.

Regent Lance. A. Pyle, and Emily B. Wilbanks were given their Oaths of Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Pyle moved to enter executive session at 2:30 p.m. to discuss one limited personnel matter pursuant to section 10-15-1(H)(2), NMSA (1978), pertaining to the Presidential contract renewal, and to discuss honorific recognitions for spring 2025 commencement. Also, the discussion of one threatened or pending litigation matter involving the University pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7), NMSA (1978). Regent O'Brien seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

OPEN SESSION

Regent Pyle moved to return to open session at 3:38 p.m. Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos – Yes. Motion approved.

Regent Ruiz stated that one personnel matter was discussed, and honorific recognitions for spring commencement were discussed. In addition, one matter pertaining to threatened or pending litigation was discussed, no action was taken.

1. Presidential Contract Renewal
No discussion.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the contract renewal for Chancellor Johnston, effective March 1, 2025, as presented. Regent O'Brien seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

2. Honorific Recognitions for Spring 2025 Commencement
No discussion.

Regent Pyle moved to approve the honorific recognitions of Mr. Steve Loy, Mr. Max Merrick, and Mrs. June Merrick for spring 2025 commencement as presented. Regent O'Brien seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes; O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.

Regent President Trish Ruiz said she is thankful for the leadership, increasing enrollment numbers, and funding that ENMU is seeing under the current administration.

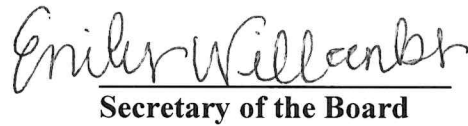
ADJOURNMENT

Regent Bustos moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

*Regent Birmingham seconded the motion. Vote: Ruiz – Yes; Birmingham – Yes;
O'Brien – Yes; Pyle – Yes; Bustos - Yes. Motion approved.*



President of the Board



Secretary of the Board

*Minutes recorded and prepared by Karen Van Ruiten
Senior Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Regents*