

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico  
February 20, 2025 at 9:00 AM  
Open Session - UNM Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom B  
Executive Session - immediately following, SUB Cherry Silver Room  
Livestreamed at <https://live.unm.edu/board-of-regents>

Members Present

Jack Fortner, Acting Chair  
William Payne  
Christina Campos  
Patricia Williams  
Victor Reyes  
Paula Tackett

Members Not Present

Paul Blanchard

Administration Present

Garnett S. Stokes, President; James Holloway, Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs; Teresa Costantinidis, EVP for Finance and Administration; Mike Richards, EVP for Health Sciences and CEO of the Health System; Rebecca Napier, VP Finance & Administration, HSC; Norma Allen, University Controller; Shawna Wolfe, VP Institutional Support Services; Fern Lovo, VP Athletics; Assata Zerai, VP Equity and Inclusion; Eric Scott, VP Student Affairs, Dan Garcia, VP Enrollment Management; Scot Sauder, Interim General Counsel; Francie Cordova, Chief Compliance Officer; Kevin Stevenson, VP HR; Terry Babbitt, President's Chief of Staff; Cinnamon Blair, Chief University Marketing and Communications Officer; deans and others

Advisors Present

Anthony Tomaziefski, ASUNM President; Michel Rivera Ramirez, GPSA President; Ivan Olay, Staff Council President; Cris Elder, Faculty Senate President; Kennith Armijo, Alumni Association Board President

Presenters

Kate Becker, CEO, UNM Hospitals  
Mike Chicarelli, COO, UNM Hospitals  
Jason Strauss, President/CEO, Lobo Energy Inc.  
Thomas Neale, Interim Executive Director, Lobo Development Corporation  
Lisa Kuuttila, CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer, UNM Rainforest Innovations  
Gary Mlady, Interim President & CEO UNMMG

CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Acting Chair Jack Fortner called the meeting to order at 9:09 am in the UNM Student Union Building, Ballroom B, and confirmed a quorum with 6 members present in person (Campos, Payne, Fortner, Reyes, Williams and Tackett).

Land Acknowledgement Statement of the University of New Mexico

Regent Campos affirmed UNM's Land Acknowledgement Statement by reading it aloud:

*Founded in 1889, The University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico – Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache – since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.*

VOTE TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

- The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously with six regents present and voting (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett).

VOTE TO CONFIRM THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **The motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024 Regular Meeting & January 17, 2025 Special Meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Payne).**

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments related to items on the agenda.

ADVISORS COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no advisor comments related to agenda items.

PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

President Stokes welcomed Regents Christina Campos and Patricia Williams and congratulated Regent Reyes on his 2-year term appointment. She then presented her administrative report (Attachment A).

REGENTS' COMMENTS

There were no regents' comments.

Election of Interim Secretary and Treasurer of the Board pending elections to be held at the annual meeting of the Board of Regents on March 10, 2025

Scot Sauder, Interim General Counsel, explained that under Section 21-7-5 of the New Mexico Statutes, the Board is required to elect a President and Secretary-Treasurer annually. This annual meeting must occur on the second Monday in March yearly. Regents Policy Manual Section 1.2 states that the regents will also elect a Vice Chair, who serves as "chair pro tem" in the absence of the Chair. Regent Fortner, Vice Chair, is serving as Acting Chair until the March 10, 2025 meeting. A vacancy in the position of Secretary-Treasurer, due to the end of their term, required an immediate election of an Interim Secretary-Treasurer to serve from this day until March 10, 2025. Regent Fortner called for nominations. Paula Tackett nominated Victor Reyes, who was the sole nominee. Regent Fortner closed nominations.

- **The motion to elect Victor Reyes as the Acting Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Regents passed unanimously 6-0 (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos).**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT DOCKET

1. Create the Davis-Kozoll Endowed Professorship for Prevention Research and Practice
2. Appoint Dr. Carmella Kahn as the inaugural Holder of the Davis-Kozoll Endowed Professorship for Prevention Research and Practice
3. Appoint Christopher Amos, PhD, as the recipient of the Carolyn R. Surface Endowed Chair in Cancer Population and Data Science
4. CERT Welding Tech TA (New-Taos)
5. CERT Medical Biotechnology (New-Valencia)
6. AA Psychology (New-Valencia)
7. UNMMG Board of Directors Appointments
8. 933 Bradbury – Public Corridor Flooring Replacement - \$400,000
9. OSIS Air Handling Unit #1 (AHU-1) Replacement - \$1,000,000
10. UH-Main Fluoroscopy Room #1 Equipment Replacement - \$600,000
11. Financial Actions Report and Certification through December 31, 2024
12. Board Appointments and Reappointments to LEI Board of Directors Public Members
13. Project Construction Approvals (all items above \$2 Million):
  - a. UNMT Pueblo Hall East HVAC and Roof Replacement
  - b. Alvarado Hall Dormitory Elevator Install
  - c. Alvarado Hall Dormitory Community Restroom Modernization
  - d. Humanities Building Demolition
14. 2025 UNM Valencia County Local Obligation Bond Sale Resolution
15. Proposed Revisions to Regents' Policy 7.7 Travel Reimbursement and Per Diem

\*Docket Note: Number(s) 1-6 moved from Student Success, Teaching and Research [SSTAR] Committee; 7-10 from Health Sciences Center Committee; Numbers 11-15 moved from Finance & Facilities [F&F] Committee.

Tackett)

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER COMMITTEE (HSCC) Jack Fortner, Co-Chair

The Health Sciences Center moved three items forward for approval by the Board. Kate Becker, CEO, UNMH, and Mike Chicarelli, COO, UNMH presented each of the three items.

SANDIA VISTA PRIMARY CARE CLINIC - \$19,000,000

- The motion to approve the Sandia Vista Primary Care Clinic passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

UH-MAIN 2nd FL. OR SUITE RENOVATION - \$40,000,000

- The motion to approve UH-Main 2nd Fl. OR Suite Renovation passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

UNM HOSPITAL PAVILLION BACKFILL DESIGN - \$6,000,000

- The motion to approve UH-Main 2nd Fl. OR Suite Renovation passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

VOTE TO RECESS THE BOARD OF REGENTS

to hold the 'Meeting of the Member' for Lobo Energy, Inc.; Lobo Development Corporation; Rainforest Innovations; and UNM Medical Group, Inc.

- The motion to recess the Board of Regents meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes)

VOTE TO CONVENE THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING – LOBO ENERGY, INC.

- The motion to convene the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

Jason Strauss, President/CEO, Lobo Energy Inc. briefly presented the agenda items below for approval.

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE LOBO ENERGY, INC. SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETING

- The motion to accept the summarized minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Blanchard)

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE LOBO ENERGY, INC. FY 2023-24 AUDIT

- The motion to accept the FY2023-24 Audit meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING – LOBO ENERGY, INC.

- The motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

VOTE TO CONVENE THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING – LOBO DEVELOPMENT

- The motion to convene the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Payne)

Thomas Neale, Interim Executive Director, Lobo Development Corporation briefly presented the agenda items for approval.

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE LOBO DEVELOPMENT SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETING

- The motion to accept the summarized minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes)

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE LOBO DEVELOPMENT FY 2023-24 AUDIT

- The motion to accept the FY2023-24 Audit meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Williams; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING – LOBO DEVELOPMENT

- The motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes)

VOTE TO CONVENE THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING – RAINFOREST INNOVATIONS

- The motion to convene the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Blanchard; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)  
Lisa Kuuttia, CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer, UNM Rainforest Innovations, briefly presented the agenda items for approval.

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE RAINFOREST INNOVATIONS SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETING and TO ACCEPT THE RAINFOREST INNOVATIONS FY 2023-24 AUDIT

- The motion to accept the summarized minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting and to accept the FY2023-24 Audit meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes)

VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING –RAINFOREST INNOVATIONS

- The motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

VOTE TO CONVENE THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING –UNM MEDICAL GROUP

- The motion to convene the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

Gary Mlady Interim CEO, UNM Medical Group briefly presented the agenda items for approval.

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE UNM MEDICAL GROUP FY 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT

- The motion to accept the FY2023-24 Annual Report and Audit meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEMBER OF THE MEETING –UNM MEDICAL GROUP

- The motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Member passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

VOTE TO RECONVENE THE BOARD OF REGENTS

- The motion to reconvene the Board of Regents meeting passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)  
ADVISORS COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO AGENDA

Cris Elder, President, Faculty Senate, welcomed the new regents and introduced herself and her work. She thanked all those working at UNM to lead the University through the tumult of federal executive actions, including the rapid response teams. She also noted, in the context of teaching a course on visual rhetoric, the arrangement of seating for vice presidents and advisors, with advisors in the second row rather than in the first. Ivan Olay, President, Staff Council, congratulated Regents Campos and Williams on their appointments and introduced himself and his work. He noted that Staff Council recently passed a resolution on Narcan training and accessibility. He also stated that a key Staff Council priority is fair compensation, and he looked forward to further discussion on how to fund increases. He invited the regents to the green chile cheeseburger staff event on May 21 from 11 am – 2 pm.

Anthony Tomaziefski, President, ASUNM, also congratulated Regents Campos and Williams on their appointments and introduced himself and his work. He emphasized that student support groups were under threat and that the foundations of the motto “each of us defines all of us” was being tested in the current political climate.

Michel Rivera Ramirez, President, GPSA, congratulated Regents Campos and Williams on their appointments and welcomed Regent Reyes back to the board. He introduced himself and his work. He thanked the regents and administration for their support of the graduate student scholarship act, noting GPSA priorities are UNM

speech issues on campuses and public comment time allotments.

Kenneth Armijo, President, UNM Alumni Association, congratulated Regents Campos and Williams on their appointments and thanked them for their service. He noted alumni events including one honoring African American alumni, the upcoming alumni awards event, a recent legislative reception, career networking events, Lobo Living Room events, and the UNM alumni green chile roasts, which help to fund scholarships.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA

Jillian Grandinetti, student, urged the regents to divest from Israeli companies and other entities.

Sara Koplik, staff, urged everyone to look beyond divestment from Israel and unite against the current United States administration.

Jennifer Jordan, faculty, spoke against the UNM Bookstore's Accessible Equity program.

Feleecia Guillen, student, LEAF representative, Jay Edwards, student, SFS representative, Benjamin Abbott, faculty, FSJP representative, and Sophie Hecht, graduate student, SJP representative, urged the university to further disclose and divest from fossil fuels and Israel and related entities, and declare a climate emergency.

#### VOTE TO CLOSE THE MEETING AND PROCEED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **The motion to close the meeting and proceed in executive session passed unanimously with six regents present and voting (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos; roll call vote – all members voted yes)**

*[The regents proceeded upstairs to the Cherry Silver Room.]*

#### Executive Session agenda:

- Discussion and/or determination of matters subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the University is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H(7);

*Regent Reyes left the meeting at 11:40 am.*

#### VOTE TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING

- **The motion to re-open the meeting passed unanimously with five regents present and voting (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett; roll call vote – all members voted yes).**

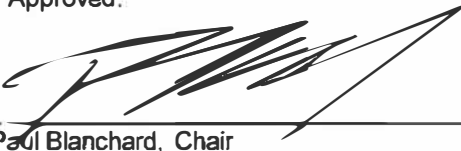
*[The doors to the Cherry Silver room were opened.]*

Regent Fortner reconvened open session at 12:10 pm and certified that only those matters described in the Executive Session Agenda were discussed in the closed session. No actions were taken regarding closed session items.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, Regent Payne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Regent Williams seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.

Approved:

  
Paul Blanchard, Chair

Attest:

  
Paula Tackett, Secretary-Treasurer





President's Remarks  
Garnett S. Stokes  
February 20, 2025



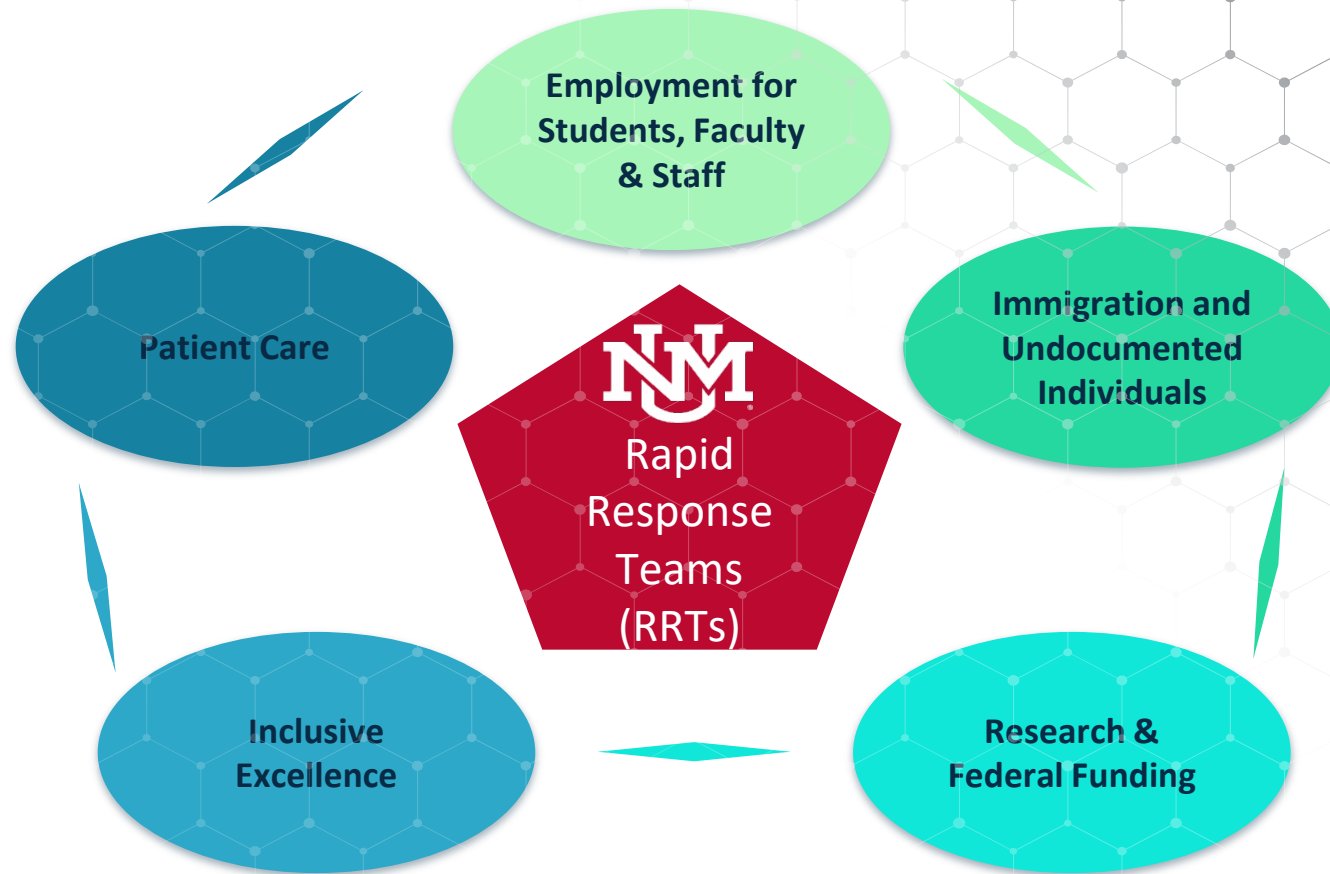




**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 at 11:00 AM**

**UNM SUB BALLROOM C | LIVESTREAMING ON [PRESIDENT.UNM.EDU](https://president.unm.edu)**

# Significant Activity in Washington



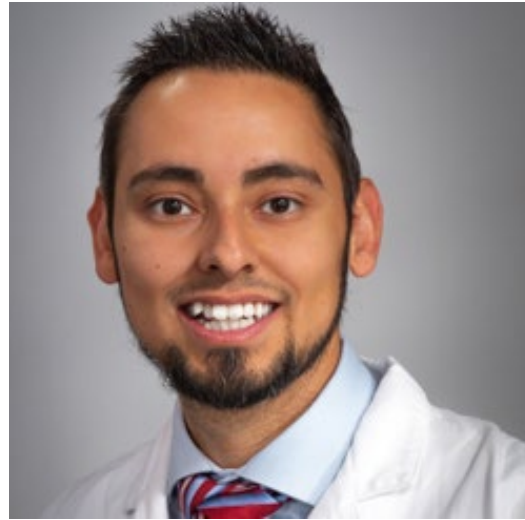




# Child Health Grand Challenge Team



**Rebecca Girardet**



**Christopher Torrez**



**Theresa Cruz**

# Coming Soon: Student Hub

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STUDENT  
**HUB**

# 2025 Legislative Update



# UNM Day at the Roundhouse





# 2025 Legislative Session



- LFC recommendation includes
  - For Central and Branch Campuses
    - 2.5% new money through the funding formula
    - an additional 0.4% for non-formula adjustments
  - For the Health Sciences Center
    - 2.5% increase in I&G
    - \$2 million for medical faculty compensation
  - For all campuses, an average 4% compensation increase

Campus	I&G
Central	2.6%
HSC	2.5%
Gallup	1.4%
Los Alamos	1.4%
Taos	1.8%
Valencia	1.4%

# Selected Higher Education Related Bills

- HB 11 Paid Family & Medical Leave Act
- HB 60 Artificial Intelligence Act
- HB 64 Expand Post-secondary Tuition Eligibility
- HB 67 Reasonable Assurance For Higher Ed Employees
- HB 89 Graduate Scholarship Act Changes
- SB 10 Anti-hazing Act
- SB 19 Boards Of Regents Training Requirements
- SB 68 Graduate Scholarship Act Changes
- SB 133 Educational Retirees Returning To Work
- SB 148 Anti-hazing Act
- SB 268 UNM & NMSU Athletics
- SJR 7 Regent Nominating Committees, CA







The University of New Mexico

**ATTACHMENT B to February 20, 2025 BOR Meeting Minutes:**  
**Written Public Comment**

**2.20.25 BOR meeting**

My name is Sofie Hecht and I am a Graduate student in the Communications and Journalism Department and a member of Students for Justice in Palestine. I am a Jewish granddaughter of Holocaust survivors in their 90s and am proud to be standing here in coalition with the Students for Socialism, Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine, UNM Leaf, and many more members of our university and Albuquerque community in this interconnected struggle for a more just world.

At the last Board of Regents meeting, Board of Regents Chair Kim Sanchez Rael introduced a new proposed policy for public comment. To go beyond or outside of these imposed limits was not only discouraged, but actively policed when the audience responded to Regent Schwartz's call for neutrality in UNM's investment decisions.

From our own research, we know that UNM is invested in many companies profiting off of the war on Palestine. Thus, UNM is not a neutral player in this war—they are complicit in Israel's human rights violations that [have been internationally condemned](#).

Regent Schwartz's emphasis on "neutrality" is consistent with the University's neoliberal agenda that uses a rhetoric of objectivity to mask state violence. Rules of professional "decorum" are often used to silence and censor certain voices. A report in 2014 by Palestine Legal details incidents of censorship for speaking up in support of Palestine, emphasizing that most 80-90% of the incidents reported to Palestine Legal came from students and scholars at universities. As [stated by Palestine Legal](#),

"These tactics...threaten the First Amendment rights of people who seek to raise awareness about Palestinian human rights and challenge the dominant perspective in this country, which discounts Israel's discriminatory and violent government policies. They further undermine the traditional role of universities in promoting the free expression of unpopular ideas and encouraging challenges to the orthodoxies prevalent in official political discourse. Our constitutional tradition cannot tolerate an exception to the First Amendment simply because Palestinian



human rights advocacy makes powerful listeners uncomfortable. The remedy for speech with which one disagrees is more speech, not enforced silence.”

We have seen increased censorship of university students across the world since October 2023, especially of Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students<sup>1</sup>. [Even the social media platforms](#) we use to communicate information and news have targeted Palestinian and pro-Palestinian voices by banning accounts and deleting posts. If that wasn't enough, [students and scholars of Middle Eastern studies](#) are now *self-censoring* for fear of retaliation from their institution at a level higher than during McCarthyism.

Universities and their administrators are not above politics, but you continue to claim a superficial neutrality that makes students feel unsafe. The Trump administration threatens to deport international students if they engage in pro-Palestine activity, but UNM has not made any effort to protect its students in the face of these claims.

UNM's treatment of the Palestine solidarity movement is a repression in defense of colonialism. Appeals to civility [too often maintain the status quo of oppression](#) and resort to the crude physical violence of law enforcement. Those in power have an established pattern of declaring justice movements uncivil and wielding norms of decorum against social change. Over the past year, this university administration has repeatedly called in the police and armed guards to threaten, arrest, and brutalize students and community members speaking out against genocide. Supposed principles like freedom of speech and democracy disappear as soon as people challenge the material structure that perpetuates settler colonialism here on occupied Tiwa land and in Palestine. The Board of Regents' security measures and use of police against alleged disrupters at the last meeting are an extension of this repressive pattern. Ironically, the University

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<sup>1</sup> For more info, please see:

- <https://www.middleeasteye.net/trending/columbia-and-nyu-pro-palestine-students-face-censorship>
- <https://www.thefire.org/news/texas-tramples-first-amendment-rights-police-crackdown-pro-palestinian-protests>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/nypd-moves-in-columbia-university-student-protests/>
- <https://gwhatchet.com/2024/04/26/seven-protesters-suspended-from-gw-for-encampment-organizers-say/>
- [https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-colleges-have-responded-to-student-encampments?bc\\_nonce=oxwa2qy5nalmmx78qyx32e&cid=reg\\_wall\\_signup](https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-colleges-have-responded-to-student-encampments?bc_nonce=oxwa2qy5nalmmx78qyx32e&cid=reg_wall_signup)
- <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/pro-palestinian-us-high-school-students-accuse-school-censoring-speech-2024-04-24/>
- <https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/fighting-campus-censorship-the-aclu-defends-pro-palestinian-voices-in-florida>

has recently amended their free speech policy to include provisions that [permit white supremacist groups to operate on campus.](#)

Your land acknowledgments are hollow without sincerity or substance, especially without any strategic plan to return Indigenous land to the land's original caretakers or support reparations for Black Americans. The university is more than happy to take the work and research of black and brown people but when push comes to shove, do you really back them up?

As the government continues to instill fear in many of our community members, the university has not offered any comprehensive plan to support students facing the unique challenges of this administration. UNM speaks about caring for the future of New Mexico, but is actively invested in projects and companies that threaten the possibility of future for many of us. This includes fossil fuels, private prisons, underpaid faculty and graduate work, and weapons manufacturing. The investments clearly matter more than students to you—more than our collective future on this planet. You have avoided numerous attempts to collaborate on a plan for divestment and expressed no desire to truly work in alignment with your stated values of democracy, fairness, diversity, sustainability, inclusivity, and excellence. When UNM's investments helped commit scholasticide in Palestine, you never wavered. You don't hesitate to fund weapons and technology that accelerate global destruction and oppressive regimes.

The work of universities is directly under attack under this administration. Your most valuable voices are on the brink of erasure, and yet, we still feel unsupported and unprotected, with fear sweeping over faculty, staff, and students. You are not free from responsibility when we begin to see students hurt by these administrative measures.

The toxic environment caused by your inaction will hurt everyone. We know UNM money is backing investments in genocide and scholasticide and we implore you to act responsibility towards your community. I stand in alignment with the asks of UNM Leaf to demand that you take immediate action and put divestment back up for discussion amidst your Board. Divest from fossil fuels. Divest from apartheid. Declare a climate emergency.

Thank you for your time.

UNM Board of Regents

MSC05 3200

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131

February 20, 2025

Dear Board of Regents,

My name is Jennifer Jordan, and I am UNM's OER Librarian. OER stands for Open Educational Resources, which are openly licensed materials faculty can distribute for free without violating copyright. I'm also the principal investigator on a Department of Education grant that awarded UNM nearly 2.125 million dollars to create an OER consortium in New Mexico. A focus of my work has been to save students money on textbooks.

I am speaking out to request that UNM appeal its decision to implement the Equitable Access program, a flat-rate automatic textbook rental program set to charge all undergraduate students \$279 each fall and spring to rent their course materials, unless they opt out. There is little academic research to confirm that a flat-rate, campus-wide automatic textbook rental supports positive student outcomes. The current peer reviewed research is scant and has mixed outcomes. I created a petition to appeal the program, which so far has been signed by 77 people including 62 faculty and instructors, 10 graduate students, and 3 administrators.

Two hundred and seventy nine dollars is almost double what the college bookstore industry claims students spend at college stores in a year. I asked the bookstore how the price was calculated, but the formula hasn't been shared with me.

At first look, this model might seem fair because students are being charged below-market-value prices; however, between the 1980's and early 2000's, textbook prices increased at 3-4 times the rate of inflation, creating the textbook affordability crisis. Through Equitable Access, publishers are giving students discounted access to already inflated materials. They compare their discounted rate to the full price of brand-new print textbooks, and that's how they calculate savings. But if students were never going to buy brand new textbooks, does the savings actually exist? Publishers would never make a deal that actually undercuts their profits.

Under Equitable Access, I am concerned students will not have the access they need to be successful in college because:



1. Students lose access to digital books at the end of the semester because this program is really a digital rental program.
2. Copyright restrictions prevent students from printing up material from publisher's digital books.
3. Digital materials need to be accessible, but is the Accessibility Resource Center at UNM ready for the increased demand in fall 2025 to create accessible materials?
4. Lastly, how will students without reliable internet access be able to do their homework?

It doesn't make sense for UNM to enter into an automatic textbook rental contract with for-profit publishers whose business model depends on federal financial aid. Federal loans are administered by the Department of Education, which the current presidential administration is attempting to dismantle. Meanwhile, in Congress, representatives are introducing legislation that could impact our students. For example, H.R.899 calls to dismantle the Department of Education. And the College Cost Reduction Act aims to save the federal government \$185 billion through eliminating some student loan programs, restricting debt relief, and reducing student borrowing. These bills have not advanced to the senate, but they illustrate why it's too volatile a time to lock our students into a contract with a for-profit industry that has a history of gouging its consumers.

UNM should stop the implementation of Equitable Access and research the efficacy of this program using evidence-based research to determine whether students will really benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jordan

Assistant Professor and OER Librarian

College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences

University of New Mexico

## Board of Regents' Office

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**From:** Susan Schuurman <susanjschuurman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** Board of Regents' Office  
**Subject:** Re: Written Comments: 2/20 Board of Regents Meeting

[EXTERNAL]

Dear UNM Board of Regents,  
Thank you for disclosing generally investments the UNM Endowment has in Israel. I urge you as an alum from 2007 to please divest from Israel's ongoing apartheid, ethnic cleansing and genocide on Palestinians as UNM divested from South African apartheid in the 1980s.  
Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Susan Schuurman  
Masters in History  
UNM

[susanjschuurman@gmail.com](mailto:susanjschuurman@gmail.com)  
505-702-4203

On Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 10:00 AM Board of Regents' Office <[regents@unm.edu](mailto:regents@unm.edu)> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your comments at last week's Board of Regents meeting.

Just a reminder to everyone to submit written comments if you'd like them published with the 2/20 minutes.

Best regards,  
Emily