



Agenda
REGENTS' GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
February 28, 2022; 3:00 PM

Virtual¹ Livestream: <https://live.unm.edu/board-of-regents>

Regent Members:

Rob Schwartz, Chair

Kim Sanchez Rael, Vice Chair

Doug Brown

Members from Administration:

Loretta Martinez, University Counsel

Terry Babbitt, President's Chief of Staff

- I. Call to Order and Confirmation of a Quorum, *Regent Rob Schwartz*
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
- III. Comments from Regents
- IV. Public Comment² (*comments related to agenda items; limit 3 min.*)
- V. Discussion and Possible Recommendation—Revisions to Regents' Policy 1.5, "Appeals to the Board of Regents" **(See Attachment A)**
- VI. Discussion and Possible Recommendation—Revisions to Regents' Policy 1.6, "Special Recognition and Awards" **(See Attachment B)**
- VII. Other Discussion
- VIII. Adjourn

¹To minimize the transmission of COVID-19, the UNM Board of Regents and Regents' Committees will meet virtually over the Zoom platform. Meetings in open session will be livestreamed for public viewing. To view the livestream, go to the following link: <https://live.unm.edu/board-of-regents>

²Public comment will be heard during the meeting. Due to the nature of online meetings and the logistics of getting speakers connected, anyone wishing to provide public comment during the meeting *must register their intent to speak before noon on Monday, February 28, 2022*. In order to sign up for public comment, please email regents@unm.edu with the subject, "Request to provide public comment at 2/28 Regent's Governance Committee Meeting", and include the following information: 1. First name and last name; 2. Email address and telephone number; 3. Affiliated organization & Professional Title (if applicable); 4. Topic you would like to address. Comments may also be submitted in writing to, regents@unm.edu.

ATTACHMENT A - alternative 1

Regents' Policy Manual - Section 1.5: Appeals to the Board of Regents

Adopted Date: 09-12-1996

Applicability

This policy applies to all appeals ~~of administration, faculty, student government, or hearing board decisions~~ to the Board of Regents.

Policy

All administrative decisions at the University except those rendered by the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee may be appealed to the President, who may delegate the authority to hear and decide appeals as appropriate. The Board of Regents may review any final decision of the President or the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee only if:

(1) the decision is one that sanctioned a faculty member's tenured status at the University in a way that substantially affected that status;

or

(2) the President has referred the appeal to the Board of Regents.

Faculty, staff, or students affected by a decision of the administration, faculty, student government, or hearing board may appeal the decision to the Board of Regents. The Board has discretion to determine whether the appeal will be considered, except for those appeals from ~~Except for~~ decisions of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, all review by the Regents is discretionary with the Regents, which the Board is required to hear. ~~The Board may refer appeals to a committee of the Board for recommendation as to whether the appeal should be heard.~~

Implementation

A person wishing to appeal a decision to the Board must submit a written petition to the Board ~~through the President of the University~~. The petition must be filed within thirty (130) days from the date the decision being appealed was rendered, unless expressly provided by University policy to the contrary. The petition must describe the decision being appealed and the basis for the appeal.

In considering whether to take a discretionary appeal and in considering the appeal itself, the Board (or a committee if one is appointed to consider whether an appeal should be heard) may request written briefs, oral arguments, or both. If the Regents decide to hear an appeal, the Regents may establish a subcommittee or appoint a hearing officer to receive evidence or otherwise participate in the Regents' review.

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The Board shall render its final decision within 12090 days from the date the appeal was filed, ~~unless a delay is requested by one of the parties and approved by the President of the Board.~~ If no decision is rendered within the deadline, the appeal shall be deemed denied.

References

Other documents and policies that specifically mention appeals to the Board of Regents include, but are not necessarily limited to: *Faculty Handbook Section B*, UAP 3220 ("Ombuds Services and Dispute Resolution for Staff"), *Student Grievance Procedure*.

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ATTACHMENT A - alternative 2

Regents' Policy Manual - Section 1.5: Appeals to the Board of Regents

Adopted Date: ~~09-12-1996~~03-22-2022

Applicability

This policy applies to ~~certain decisions concerning appeals of administration, faculty, staff and students that may be appealed government, or hearing board decisions~~ to the Board of Regents.

Policy

Faculty, ~~staff,~~ or students affected by a final decision of the administration ~~or a faculty body;~~ that would 1) terminate their relationship with the University, or 2) suspend their privileges as a faculty member or student in excess of one year government, or hearing board may appeal the decision to the Board of Regents. ~~The President may also refer any staff, faculty or student matter to Board of Regents deemed appropriate.~~ The Board has discretion to determine whether the appeal will be considered, ~~except for those appeals from decisions of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee which the Board is required to hear. The Board may refer appeals to a committee of the Board for recommendation as to whether the appeal should be heard.~~

Implementation

A ~~faculty member or student person~~ wishing to appeal a final decision as described above to the Board must first submit ~~their appeal to a written petition to the Board through~~ the President of the University. The ~~petition appeal to the President~~ must be filed within ~~ten (10) working days thirty (30) days~~ from the date the decision being appealed was rendered, unless a different number of days is expressly provided by University policy, ~~to the contrary.~~ An appeal from the President's decision to the Board must be submitted within ten (10) working days from the date the President's decision was rendered. The ~~appeal petition~~ must adequately describe the decision(s) being appealed and the basis for the appeal.

~~If the Board accepts an appeal for consideration, it is considering whether to take a discretionary appeal and in considering the appeal itself, the Board (or a committee if one is appointed to consider whether an appeal should be heard)~~ may request documents from relevant offices and may choose to hear from the affected individuals and decision-makers ~~written briefs, oral arguments, or both.~~


The Board shall render its final decision within 90 days from the date the appeal was filed or at its next Board meeting after the 90 days has expired, whichever is longer. ~~unless a delay is requested by one of the parties and approved by the President of the Board.~~ If no decision is rendered within the deadline, the appeal shall be deemed denied.

References

Other documents and policies that specifically mention appeals to the Board of Regents include, but are not necessarily limited to: ~~**Faculty Handbook Section B**, UAP 3220 ("Ombuds Services and Dispute Resolution for Staff"), **Student Grievance Procedure**.~~

February 24, 2022

To: Rob L. Schwartz
Chair of Governance Committee, UNM Board of Regents

From: Terry H. Babbitt 
Chief of Staff

Re: Regents Special Recognition and Awards

This is follow-up to President Stokes' information gathered at your request regarding recommendations to revise Regent Policy 1.6. We continue to enthusiastically support your interest in improving this policy to enhance the opportunity to use these very meaningful tools to recognize outstanding accomplishments and our great supporters within and outside of the university community.

I am including a mark-up of the current policy that has some edits from the 2017 recommended revisions to Regent policy along with suggested guidance from President Stokes and her team. The highlights to consider are referenced below.

- The 2017 reviews included a recommendation to change the Regents' Meritorious Service Medal Regents' Recognition Medal to "Awards" instead of medals. We believe this should be a Regents decision.
- The "Implementation" section was recommended for deletion in 2017 but the team feels strongly it should be retained and enhanced to clarify the process. The language is intended to allow the University President the maximum latitude to appoint a committee, gather nominations and make a recommendation to the Board of Regents. It calls for a small, manageable committee that is representative of various constituents.
- Specific physical description of the actual award to be presented was recommended for deletion by some to allow flexibility to design the artifacts. There could be some historical nostalgia regarding the specific description and Regents should decide if this is important to retain.

We appreciate the anticipated guidance from the Governance Committee before presenting a policy revision at the next appropriate Board of Regents meeting as an action item.

ATTACHMENT B - alternative 1

Regents' Policy Manual - Section 1.6: Special Recognition and Awards

Adopted Date: 09-12-1996

Amended: 11-14-1996

Applicability

This policy applies to awards of honorary degrees and other types of special recognition given on behalf of the University at the discretion of the Board of Regents. This policy does not preclude other kinds of awards and recognition by other units or officials of the University.

Policy

It is the practice of the Board of Regents of the University to recognize from time to time the contributions of special people to the University, to the state of New Mexico, or to the national or international community. The Board has established the following awards for this purpose.

1. **Honorary Degrees.** The University ~~of New Mexico~~ wishes to recognize and thereby encourage individuals by awarding special honors to those persons who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. At the same time, due regard should be paid to eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance and transcend geographic limitations. In no case should a passing courtesy to the University ~~of New Mexico~~, such as the delivery of a commencement address, be the sole or principal cause for such honorary awards. The award of an honorary degree to a person seeking or holding a political office does not indicate endorsement by the University ~~of New Mexico~~. Political involvement should not prevent selection of an individual for an honorary degree. It is not the University's policy to award honorary degrees to active members of the faculty, staff, or administration. This does not preclude, in an exceptional case, the awarding of an honorary degree to an emeritus member of the faculty or to a former employee whose stature remains or becomes eminent in the years following active service with the University. In such exceptions, sufficient time shall have elapsed to insure objectivity in the process of selection. Honorary degrees will be awarded only upon the approval of the Regents, based on recommendations from the Honorary Degree Committee, whose membership is set out in the Faculty Handbook.
2. **Regents' Meritorious Service Medal.** The Regents' Meritorious Service Medal will be awarded to a member or members of the faculty and staff of the University ~~of New Mexico~~ in recognition of extraordinary and distinguished service to the University. The criteria for the faculty award will be outstanding teaching, service to students, research, scholarship, publications, performance in faculty and University governance, or other such contributions which have enhanced the institution. The criteria for the staff award will be outstanding

Commented [TBI]: The 2017 revisions recommend changing the #2 and #3 awards from "Medals" to "Awards."

performance of duties and meritorious service which have enhanced the University. Nominations for these awards may be submitted to the President by students, faculty, and staff. ~~Selection. The final decision~~ will be made by the Regents.

3. **Regents' Recognition Medal.** The Regents' Recognition Medal will be awarded ~~by the Regents of the University of New Mexico~~ to a person or persons, other than faculty or staff, who have performed outstanding service to the institution. The criteria for the award will be extraordinary and unselfish assistance to the University over an extended period of time. However, a single service might be recognized if, in the judgment of the Regents, circumstances warrant. Selection will be made by the Regents.
4. **The University Medal.** The University Medal will be awarded by the Regents ~~of the University of New Mexico~~ to a person of national or international accomplishment deserving of high honor. In keeping with the universal nature of the knowledge and public service which are embodied in the very essence of the University, the University Medal will be used to express the appreciation of the University for the accomplishments and contributions of the individual, which may be in any field of knowledge or public service of national or international character. No limits of residence or national origin are to be placed on this award. Since the desirability of honoring such persons should be both obvious and compelling, the Regents will not grant this award on a systematic basis, nor institute fixed time periods for making the award. The medal will be awarded only in the event that the attainments of a qualified individual are such that the administration and Regents are persuaded that this rare and special recognition is clearly deserved.

Commented [TB2]: The 2017 revisions recommend changing the #2 and #3 awards from "Medals" to "Awards."

Implementation

~~Potential recipients of the Regents' Meritorious Service Medal, Regents' Recognition Medal and The University Medal will be reviewed by the Regents Special Recognition and Awards Committee appointed by the University President. The Committee will review the nominations and charge provided by the President and compile recommendations for the President to present to the Board of Regents.~~

Commented [TB3]: The intent is to have one committee recommend the appropriate recipients for the various awards. The President will consider the committee report on nominations and make a recommendation to the BOR for action. The President's charge will include parameters and vetting to take place as part of the review. Honorary Degrees are not included because there is an existing process.

~~The Regents Special Recognition and Awards Committee membership will include: At least one (1) member selected by the University President; one (1) member of the general faculty recommended by the Faculty Senate; one (1) staff member recommended by Staff Council; one (1) member recommended by the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) and one (1) member recommended by the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico. Additionally, the University President will appoint the committee chair from within or outside this membership and may add additional representation from the UNM Foundation, health sciences, athletics, branch campuses, alumni and other constituent groups.~~

Commented [TB4]: Membership based on some information from honorary degrees, naming etc. This represents broad constituency because faculty, staff, students and community members are all eligible for various medals.

~~Awards will be a silver alloy medal, or other appropriate device, bearing the seal of the University of New Mexico and other appropriate designs and will be accompanied by a certificate upon which the nature of the service will be cited.~~

Commented [TB5]: This line was recommended for deletion by some to allow for maximum flexibility in award design.

ATTACHMENT B - alternative 2

Regents' Policy Manual - Section 1.6: Special Recognition and Awards

Adopted Date: 09-12-1996

Amended: 11-14-1996

Applicability

This policy applies to awards of honorary degrees and other types of special recognition given on behalf of the University at the discretion of the Board of Regents. This policy does not preclude other kinds of awards and recognition by other units or officials of the University.

Policy

It is the practice of the Board of Regents of the University to recognize from time to time the contributions of special people to the University, to the state of New Mexico, or to the national or international community. The Board has established the following awards for this purpose.

1. **Honorary Degrees.** The University of New Mexico wishes to recognize and thereby encourage individuals by awarding special honors to those persons who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. At the same time, due regard should be paid to eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance and transcend geographic limitations. In no case should a passing courtesy to the University of New Mexico, such as the delivery of a commencement address, be the sole or principal cause for such honorary awards. The award of an honorary degree to a person seeking or holding a political office does not indicate endorsement by the University of New Mexico. Political involvement should not prevent selection of an individual for an honorary degree.

It is not the University's policy to award honorary degrees to active members of the faculty, staff, or administration. This does not preclude, in an exceptional case, the awarding of an honorary degree to an emeritus member of the faculty or to a former employee whose stature remains or becomes eminent in the years following active service with the University. In such exceptions, sufficient time shall have elapsed to insure objectivity in the process of selection.

Honorary degrees will be awarded only upon the approval of the [University faculty and the Regents](#), based on recommendations from the Honorary Degree Committee, whose membership is set out in the Faculty Handbook.

2. **Regents' Meritorious Service Medal.** The Regents' Meritorious Service Medal will be awarded to a member or members of the faculty and staff of the University of New Mexico in recognition of extraordinary and distinguished service to the University.

The criteria for the faculty award will be outstanding teaching, service to students, research, scholarship, publications, performance in faculty and University governance, or other such contributions which have enhanced the institution.

The criteria for the staff award will be outstanding performance of duties and meritorious service which have enhanced the University.

Nominations for these awards may be submitted to the President by students, faculty, and staff. The final decision will be made by the Regents.

3. **Regents' Recognition Medal.** The Regents' Recognition Medal will be awarded by the Regents of the University of New Mexico to a person or persons, other than faculty or staff, who have performed outstanding service to the institution.

The criteria for the award will be extraordinary and unselfish assistance to the University over an extended period of time. However, a single service might be recognized if, in the judgment of the Regents, circumstances warrant. Selection will be made by the Regents.

4. **The University Medal.** The University Medal will be awarded by the Regents of the University of New Mexico to a person of national or international accomplishment deserving of high honor.

In keeping with the universal nature of the knowledge and public service which are embodied in the very essence of the University, the University Medal will be used to express the appreciation of the University for the accomplishments and contributions of the individual, which may be in any field of knowledge or public service of national or international character. No limits of residence or national origin are to be placed on this award.

Since the desirability of honoring such persons should be both obvious and compelling, the Regents will not grant this award on a systematic basis, nor institute fixed time periods for making the award. The medal will be awarded only in the event that the attainments of a qualified individual are such that the administration and Regents are persuaded that this rare and special recognition is clearly deserved.

5. **Special Commendation.** A special commendation may be awarded to particularly meritorious nominees for any of the Regents' Meritorious Service Medal, the Regents' Recognition Medal or the University Medal.

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Implementation

Potential recipients of the Regents' Meritorious Service Medal, Regents' Recognition Medal, The University Medal and the Special Commendation will be reviewed by the Regents' Special Recognition and Awards Committee appointed by the University President and approved by the Chair of the Regents. The Committee will review the nominations and charge and compile recommendations to present to the Board of Regents. The Regents Special Recognition and Awards Committee membership will include: At least one (1) member selected by the University President; one (1) member of the general faculty recommended by the Faculty Senate; one (1) staff member recommended by Staff Council; one (1) member recommended by the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) and one (1) member recommended by the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico. Additionally, the University President will appoint the committee chair from within or outside this membership and may add additional representation from the UNM Foundation, health sciences, athletics, branch campuses, alumni and other constituent groups.

Commented [RS1]: This is all taken from Terry's draft.

Except for the Special Commendations, awards will be a silver alloy medal, or other appropriate device, bearing, as appropriate and as room permits, the seal of the University of New Mexico and other appropriate designs and will be accompanied by a certificate upon which the nature of the service will be cited. The Special Commendation shall be in the form of a certificate.