



December 16, 2025

**SUBJECT: Amendments to Regents' Policy Manual Sections 1.1 through 1.4**

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### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve revisions to Regents' Policy Manual (RPM) Sections 1.1 through 1.4, which address Responsibilities of the Board of Regents; Structure of the Board of Regents; Public Notice of Regents' Meetings; and Appointment of the President of the University.

### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

The proposed amendments to RPM Sections 1.1 through 1.4 primarily consist of simplifying language and streamlining the Regents' policies to ensure consistency with applicable law and existing Board governance practices.

The proposed amendments to RPM Section 1.1 clarify the Board's plenary authority to govern the University consistent with applicable state and federal law, including the responsibility for adopting an annual operating and capital budget for the University, approving all degree programs and degrees awarded by the University, and approving major revisions to the University's organizational structure proposed by the President. The proposed amendments to RPM Section 1.2 clarify the structure and procedures of standing and ad hoc committees of the Board and the process for preparation of the written agenda for Board meetings. The proposed amendments to RPM Section 1.3 clarify and streamline the process for public notice of Board and Committee meetings, the process for conducting remote and closed meetings of the Board, and the process for public input at Board meetings. And, finally, the proposed amendments to RPM Section 1.4 clarify the Board's process for appointment of the University President consistent with equal employment opportunity and inclusive excellence principles and procedures.

The proposed amendments will take effect immediately upon approval by the Board of Regents.

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## Section 1.1: Responsibilities of the Board of Regents

Adopted Date: 09-12-1996  
12-14-2004, 06-12-2012

### Ultimate Responsibility for the Governance of the University

The Board of Regents (the "Board") is a constitutionally-created body pursuant to Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution responsible for the governance of the University of New Mexico. This responsibility may be exercised only by the Board as a unit; individual Regents are without power to act separately in the transaction of University business, except when one of the Board's officers is specifically authorized to act on behalf of the Board. The Board has plenary authority to govern the University in the accomplishment of the University's purposes.

The Board's power to govern the University includes fiduciary responsibility for the assets and programs of the University, establishment of goals and policies to guide the University, and oversight of the functioning of the University. Consistent with NMSA 1978, § 21-7-7, ~~t~~The Board vests

responsibility for the operation and management of the University in the President of the University.

### Duties and Functions of the Board

The Board ~~will shall~~ carry out this plenary authority to govern the University in a manner not otherwise prohibited by applicable laws, rules and regulations and as specified in this policy manual including, but not limited to the following:

1. Appoint a President of the University who serves as Chief Executive Officer; and delegate authority to the President for effective operation of the University.
2. Adopt Board of Regents' policies for the governance of the University, ~~and~~ periodically review the Regents' Policy Manual for compliance with applicable law and University practice, and revise the Regents' Policy Manual as required. ~~for compliance and revision, in addition to revisions submitted, as necessary, at any time.~~
3. Establish, and periodically review, the mission, goals, objectives of the University, and a long-range campus master plan for the physical development of the University; create colleges, schools, and branches.
4. Adopt an annual operating and capital budget for the University, as required by applicable law.
- 4.5. Approve the constitution or other governing document of faculty, staff, and student governing bodies and component or affiliated organizations, as determined to be appropriate by the President and the Board.
- 5.6. Approve all degree programs and degrees awarded by the University.
- 6.7. Enter into, and review biennially, operating agreements with the Board of Advisors of each branch college.

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~~7.8.~~ Approve the organizational structure for the University, ~~including and any~~ major revisions to the University's organizational structure proposed by the President.

~~8.9.~~ Take any other actions required by law to be decided at the level of the Board.

The Board reserves the right to consider and determine any matter relating to the University.

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## References

N.M. Constitution Art. XII, § 13; NMSA 1978, §§ 21-1-1 *et seq.* and 21-7-1 *et seq.*

## Section 1.2: Structure of the Board of Regents

**Adopted Date: 09-12-1996**

**09-09-2003, 08-10-2004, 12-14-2004, 03-14-2005, 10-10-2006, 12-14-2010, 09-12-2014, 06-12-2015, 08-14-2015, 03-14-2016, 02-16-2021, 10-19-2021**

### Appointment of Members

The Board of Regents is composed of seven (7) members who are appointed by the Governor of New Mexico, with the consent of the Senate, for staggered terms of six (6) years except for the student regent who is appointed for a two (2)-year term. The Governor and the Secretary of Education are designated as ex-officio, non-voting members, and the Presidents of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Associated Students of the University of New Mexico, Graduate and Professional Student Association, Alumni Association, UNM Retiree Association, UNM Parent Association, and the Chair of the UNM Foundation are non-voting advisors.

### Removal of Members

Members of the Board of Regents shall not be removed except for incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. A member may not be removed without notice of hearing and an opportunity to be heard. The New Mexico Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over proceedings to remove a member of the Board of Regents in accordance with such rules as the Court may promulgate, and its decision in such matters is final.

### Officers

The Board of Regents is required by statute to meet in Albuquerque on the second Monday in March of each year to elect a president, who shall be chair of the Board of Regents, and a secretary-treasurer. At this time the Board shall also elect a vice chair. The Chair presides at all meetings of the Board and signs all instruments required to be executed by the Board. When the Chair of the Board of Regents is absent, the Board of Regents hereby appoints the Vice-Chair to serve as chair pro tem.

### Compensation

Members of the Board are not remunerated for their services, except for the student regent, who is eligible for a leadership stipend. Regents are eligible for travel reimbursement, pursuant to the University's travel reimbursement policies. (See, [RPM 7.7](#) and [UAP 4030](#).)

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## Conflict of Interest

Members of the Board are subject to the "Regent Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy." ([See, RPM 1.8.](#))

## Orientation of New Members

When a new member is appointed to the Board, the member may choose to receive hard copies of the Faculty Handbook and the Regents' Policy Manual, or elect to access the manuals online at <http://handbook.unm.edu> and at <http://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/index.html>, respectively. New members also will receive a compilation of current New Mexico statutes pertaining to the Regents. The President and Chair of the Board of Regents will arrange briefing sessions for newly appointed Regents.

## Standing Committees

In order to facilitate the work of the Board of Regents, the Chair of the Board of Regents appoints members to standing committees each year and appoints chairs and vice-chairs of each committee. The Chair of the Board of Regents may become a self-appointed member, [and chair or vice-chair](#), of any standing committee. The Chair of the Board of Regents shall consult with the [individual members of the](#) Board of Regents concerning such appointments to committees.

Consistent with the requirements of the University Research Park and Economic Development Act ("URPEDA"), the Chair of the Board of Regents nominates members to serve on the various boards of directors of URPEDA corporations in which the University is a member following the approved bylaws of each URPEDA corporation and nominees will be appointed to each such Board upon the vote of a majority of the Regents.

The standing committees of the Board of Regents are Audit and Compliance; Finance and Facilities; Student Success, Teaching and Research; Governance; and the Health Sciences Center (HSC). The Chair of the Board of Regents may name other standing committees with the consent of the Board of Regents.

Each standing committee shall consist of [no more than](#) three (3) Regent members.

A quorum of a Regents' committee consists of a majority of the appointed members of that committee. The Chair of the Board of Regents may self-designate, or designate other Regents to serve as alternate voting members of standing committees or boards ~~if when the~~ Regent members are not present.

~~Each standing committee shall have a designated vice chair responsible for assisting the chair of the committee.~~ The chair of each committee shall be responsible for preparing the agenda for the committee meetings, in consultation with the University President, the Chair of the Board of Regents, and committee staff. The University President may submit agenda items for the committee to the Chair of the Board of Regents and the chair of the committee. Action items for the Board of Regents are [typically reviewed first by a standing committee.](#)

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Each standing committee shall have a designated vice-chair responsible for assisting the chair of the committee.

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The duties and responsibilities of the HSC Committee are set forth in [RPM 3.5](#). The duties and responsibilities of the Audit and Compliance Committee are set forth in [RPM 7.3](#). The other standing committees' duties and functions are determined by the Board of Regents, and shall include at least gathering information; conferring with members of the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and public on the topics within the committees' duties; and making recommendations for action by the Board of Regents. The chairs of the standing committees (or vice-chairs in the absence of the chairs) shall report the committee recommendations to the Board of Regents at its meetings. Standing committees do not constitute a quorum of the Board of Regents and have no authority to act for the Board of Regents except with regard to disposal of surplus property per [RPM 7.9](#). ~~All standing committees will abide by the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, except that in addition to the exclusions listed in the Act, the standing committees may close meetings, when less than a quorum of the Board of Regents is present, in the following instances: (1) to meet with internal or external auditors to discuss any examination or audit prior to the release of an audit report; and/or (2) to meet with attorneys from the Office of University Counsel and/or hired outside counsel to discuss any matter that is protected by the attorney-client privilege.~~

## Ad Hoc Committees

From time to time the Chair of the Board may appoint ad hoc committees consisting of two (2) or three (3) Regent members to gather information and make recommendations to the Board of Regents about specified matters. Public notice of such meetings will be given and public attendance and participation permitted as deemed appropriate by the committee chair.

## Consent Agenda Matters Committee Procedures

~~Certain matters, or categories of matters, may be referred by the Board of Regents for discussion and recommendation by a standing committee and thereafter placed on the Board of Regents' consent agenda for approval by the Board of Regents without further discussion. All matters, or categories of matters, within the subject matters regularly assigned to a standing committee shall be deemed to have been referred by the Board to that standing committee. Upon request, any member of the Board of Regents shall have the right to remove an item from the Board's consent agenda and place the item on the Board's regular agenda for discussion.~~

All Standing and Ad Hoc committees shall post public notice of meetings at which votes will be taken consistent with the notice requirements of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Closed sessions of Standing and Ad Hoc committees may be held for purposes of fact-finding or information gathering; to meet with internal or external auditors to discuss any examination or audit prior to the release of an audit report; to meet with attorneys from the Office of University Counsel or hired outside counsel to discuss any matter that is protected by the attorney-client privilege; or as otherwise required or permitted by law or the Regents' Policy Manual. Votes shall only be taken during a publicly noticed meeting unless otherwise required or permitted by law or the



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Each Standing or Ad Hoc committee shall consider matters under its jurisdiction and matters referred to the committee by the Board of Regents, and (except with regard to disposal of surplus property per RPM 7.9), make recommendations to the Board. Items are typically considered by the appropriate Board of Regents' Committee before going to the full Board of Regents unless the Chair determines that action should be taken by the full Board without consideration by a Standing or Ad Hoc Committee.

Except in cases where applicable law requires consideration on the regular agenda by the full board, unanimous recommendations from a Standing or Ad Hoc committee shall be placed on the Board of Regents' consent Agenda for approval by the Board without further discussion. Upon request, any member of the Board of Regents shall have the right to remove an item from the Board's consent agenda and place the item on the Board's regular agenda for discussion.

## ~~Ad Hoc Committees~~

~~From time to time the Chair of the Board may appoint ad hoc committees consisting of two (2) or three (3) Regent members to gather information and make recommendations to the Board of Regents about specified matters. Public notice of such meetings will be given and public attendance and participation permitted as deemed appropriate by the committee chair.~~

## **Quorum for Meetings of the Board**

Four (4) of the seven (7) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

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## Agenda for Full Board Meetings

~~Items are typically considered by the appropriate Board of Regents' committee before going to the full Board of Regents.~~ The University President is responsible for preparation of the written agenda, including items eligible to be placed on the consent agenda, for Board of Regents meetings. ~~;~~The President consults with the Chair of the Board of Regents about each agenda, including matters proposed to be placed on the agenda by individual Regent members. Copies of the Agenda are distributed to the Regents, the University President, other administrators, representatives of the news media, other interested parties, and posted on the University's website.

Additions to the agenda may not be made less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting, except in the case of an emergency as defined in the Open Meetings Act. The Board of Regents will consider such emergency changes to the agenda at the beginning of each meeting, but once the Board of Regents formally approves the agenda, it will be followed.

Persons or groups wishing to place an item on the agenda of the Board of Regents, whether for possible Board of Regents' action or for purposes of addressing the Board of Regents about an item, must submit a letter to that effect to the Chair of the Board of Regents via the University President normally not less than ten (10) business days prior to the scheduled meeting. Final decisions to place items on the agenda or to refer items to committee will be rendered by the Chair of the Board of Regents after consultation with the University President.

## Conduct of Meetings

Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most current revision of Roberts' Rules of Order, except that New Mexico law or other applicable Regents' policies will govern if there is a conflict with Roberts' Rules of Order.

## References

N.M. Const, art. XII, § 13 ("Board of regents")

N.M. STAT. ANN. §§ 21-1-9 ("Expenses of members of boards of regents"), 21-1-13 ("Ex officio board memberships of governor and superintendent of public instruction"), 21-7-5 ("Annual organization meeting of board; election of officers; bond of secretary-treasurer; conditions"), 21-7-6 ("President; secretary and treasurer; duties and powers") (1978)

## Section 1.3: Public Notice of Regents' Meetings

Adopted Date: 09-12-1996

12-08-1998, 03-11-2002, 09-09-2003, 03-14-2005, 06-12-2012, 05-01-2013,  
05-01-2014, 12-13-2016

### 1. Policy

This policy is adopted pursuant to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1, et seq.

### 2. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Regents will be held on the second Monday in March and at regular pre-announced intervals, which are generally monthly, unless otherwise announced in the Notice of Regular Meetings pursuant to this policy.

#### Notice of Regular Meetings

Notice to the public of the regular meetings of the Board of Regents will specify the date, time, and place thereof and will state that a copy of the agenda will be made available on the public [regents.unm.edu](http://regents.unm.edu) website, at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting. Notice will be given to those newspapers and broadcast stations that have filed a written request with the University Communication and Marketing Department for such notices of meetings. Notice will be by email at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and the written Notice will be placed on the public [regents.unm.edu](http://regents.unm.edu) website. The agenda for regular meetings shall be placed on the regents.unm.edu website. Except for emergency matters, the Board shall take action only on items appearing on the agenda.

### 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Regents may be called by the Board President or any four (4) members of the Board.

#### Notice of Special Meetings

Notice to the public of special meetings of the Board of Regents will specify the date, time, and place thereof and will state that a copy of the agenda will be made available on the public [regents.unm.edu](http://regents.unm.edu) website, at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting. Notice will be given to those newspapers and broadcast stations that have filed a written request with the University Communication and Marketing Department for such notices of meetings. Notice will be by email at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting and the written notice will be placed on the public [regents.unm.edu](http://regents.unm.edu) website. The agenda for special meetings shall be placed on the regents.unm.edu website. Except for emergency matters, the Board shall take action only on items appearing on

| [the agenda.](#)

## **4. Emergency Meetings**

Emergency meetings of the Board of Regents may be called by the Board President or any four (4) members of the Board only in the event of unforeseen circumstances

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that, if not addressed immediately by the Board, will likely result in injury or damage to persons or property or substantial financial loss to the University. The Board will avoid emergency meetings whenever possible.

## Notice of Emergency Meetings

Notice to the public of emergency meetings of the Board of Regents will specify the date, time, place, and subject matter thereof and will be given to those newspapers and broadcast stations that have filed a written request with the University Communication and Marketing Department for such notices of meetings. Notice will be by email, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting or by such other notice as soon as possible and as may be practicable under the circumstances.

## Report to the New Mexico Attorney General

Within five (5) days of taking action on an emergency matter, the Board of Regents shall report to the New Mexico Attorney General's Office the action taken and the circumstances creating the emergency.

## 5. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

In addition to the information specified above, all notices shall include the following language:

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in a meeting of the Board of Regents, please contact the University Communication and Marketing Department with as much advance notice as possible to allow for arranged services. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the University Communication and Marketing Department if an accessible format is needed.

## 6. Remote Participation in Meetings

~~A member of the Board of Regents may participate in a conduct regular, special, or emergency meetings of the Board by means of a conference telephone or other similar communications equipment when necessary it is otherwise difficult or impossible for the member~~

~~to attend the meeting in person.~~ Each member participating remotely must be identified when speaking, all participants must be able to hear each other at the same time, and members of the public attending the meeting must be able to hear any member of the Board who speaks during the meeting. The minutes of any meeting at which there is remote participation shall identify any Regents who were not physically present but who participated remotely.

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## 7. Closed Meetings (Executive Sessions)

### Exceptions to Open Meetings Act

Meetings of the Board of Regents may be closed, according to the procedures set out below, only if the matter to be considered falls within one of the enumerated exceptions defined in § 10-15-1(H) of the Open Meetings Act or if closure can be implied from or required by other laws or constitutional principles ~~that~~which specifically or necessarily preserve the confidentiality of certain information.

### Closing an Open Meeting

Closing of a meeting shall be by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board during the open meeting, with the vote of each member being recorded. The motion shall state: (1) ~~the authority for the closure~~ (the statutory provision authorizing the closure); and (2) the subject ~~to matter to~~ be discussed with reasonable specificity and in a manner that does not compromise the confidentiality of the information. The ~~matter to be discussed must have been~~closed session must be included on the agenda, except for emergency matters.

### Calling a Closed Meeting Outside of an Open Meeting

Notice that a meeting will be closed, in whole or in part, will be given as specified above for a regular, special or emergency meeting, as appropriate, by so specifying either in the notice of the meeting or on the agenda. The notice shall state the statutory provision authorizing the closure; and (2) the subject matter to be discussed with reasonable specificity and in a manner that does not compromise the confidentiality of the information. ~~the specific provision of the law authorizing the closed meeting and shall state the subject to be discussed with reasonable specificity.~~

The minutes of the next open meeting shall contain information about the closed meeting, including the date, time, place, and subject matter of the closed meeting, the names of the Regents present at the closed meeting, the names of the absent Regents, and a statement that the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the notice of the closed meeting.

### Action

Any final action taken as a result of discussions in a closed meeting shall be made by a vote of the Board of Regents at an open public meeting, with the exceptions allowed under § 10-15-1(H).

## 8. Agendas

~~A copy of the agenda for each regular and special meeting of the Board of Regents will be available at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting (and the notice of the meeting shall so state) and will be placed on the [regents.unm.edu](http://regents.unm.edu) website. Except for~~

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| ~~emergency matters, the Board shall take action only on items appearing on the agenda.~~

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## **9.8. Public Input at Meetings**

An opportunity for public input regarding agenda items shall be provided at each regular meeting ~~before~~during ~~full~~ Board consideration of the agenda item in question. The Board President shall determine the length of time to be allowed for public input for each agenda item, the sequence in which individuals may address the Board, and the length of time that will be allowed for each person to address the Board. The Board President may request that a group designate a spokesperson.

## **10.9. Minutes**

The Board of Regents shall approve and keep written minutes of all its meetings. The minutes shall include, at a minimum: (1) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (2) the names of Regents in attendance and those absent; (3) a statement of what proposals were considered; and (4) a record of any decisions made by the Board and how each Regent voted.

Draft minutes shall be prepared within ten (10) working days after the meeting and must be available for public inspection. The draft minutes must clearly indicate that they are not the official minutes and are subject to approval by the Board.

Draft minutes shall be approved, amended, or disapproved at the next regular meeting where a quorum is present. Minutes shall not become official until approved by the Board of Regents. Official minutes are subject to public inspection.

No minutes need to be kept during closed sessions, but information about the closed session must be recorded as specified in the "Closed Meetings" section of this resolution.

Recordings of Board of Regents' meetings shall be kept for, at minimum, three (3) years.

## **11.10. References**

- NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1 et seq. ("Open Meetings Act")
- NMSA 1978, § 21-7-5 ("Annual Organization Meeting of Board; Election of Officers; Bond of Secretary-Treasurer; Conditions")



## Section 1.4: Appointment of the President of the University

Adopted Date: 09-12-1996  
10-13-1998

### Applicability

This policy applies to the selection and appointment of the President of the University.

### Definition

The term "candidate" includes both applicants and nominees for the position of President of the University.

### Policy

The Board of Regents is responsible for selecting and appointing a President of the University. The Board considers this to be one of its most important responsibilities.

### Implementation

Whenever the position of President becomes vacant, the Regents shall conduct a search for qualified candidates for the Presidency. The Board shall be guided by equal employment opportunity and ~~affirmative action~~ inclusive excellence principles and procedures.

The Board may appoint an advisory search committee to aid in identifying qualified candidates for the Presidency. Such a committee should be representative of the various segments of the University community and may include Regents and one or more members from the community at large. The Board will carefully consider the committee's recommendations before taking final action but cannot be bound by those recommendations, because the Board has sole legal responsibility for appointing a President of the University.

All Regents, search committee members, or employees involved in the Presidential search process at the University shall keep confidential the identity of candidates for President and the details of the deliberations of those responsible for screening candidates, except as provided in this policy. Under all circumstances, letters of reference, the deliberations of the search committee, and other similar evaluative materials shall be kept confidential with respect to all candidates. Preliminary interviews of candidates by the search committee or any member or subcommittee of the search committee prior to the public identification of finalists shall also be confidential.

At least twenty-one days before the date of a meeting of the Board of Regents at which final action is taken on selection of the President, the Board shall give public notice of names of the finalists being considered for the position. The Board shall consider in the final selection process at least five finalists. The required notice may be provided

through various methods which must include publication in a newspaper of statewide circulation and in a newspaper of county-wide circulation in Bernalillo County. The required publication shall be made at least twenty-one days and not more than thirty days before the described meeting. Copies of the resumes or curriculum vitae of the finalists shall be made available at the same time public notice is given of their names.

The Board may appoint an interim president pending completion of a search for a permanent president.

The President serves at the discretion of the Board, subject to the terms of the President's contract.

## **References**

Inspection of Public Records Act, §14-2-1, NMSA 1978, as amended, Special Session 1998.

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