



REVISED May 05, 2026

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**SPECIAL MEETING
REVISED Notice & Agenda
Friday, May 08, 2026, 4:00 PM
McKinnon Center
2032 Large Group Study Room (2nd Fl)**

The University of New Mexico Board of Regents will hold a special meeting at 4:00 PM on Friday, May 08, 2026 in the McKinnon Center 2032 Large Group Study Room. Some members of the Board may attend virtually.

The purpose and agenda for the meeting are as follows:

- I. Call to Order and Confirmation of a Quorum, Chair Paul Blanchard
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Certification that only those matters described in the Executive Session Agendas for the April 20 and April 21 closed sessions were discussed during the closed sessions.
- IV. Public Comment Related to the Agenda [2 min]
Register here: [Board of Regents Public Comment Registration](#)
- V. Consideration and Approval of the Naming of the School of Business
- VI. Adjourn

In compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act (10-15-1 NMSA 1978), this notice and agenda is made available at least 72 hours before the meeting and accessible on the public website, <http://regents.unm.edu/>.

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2026
To: Dr. Garnett S. Stokes, President, The University of New Mexico
From: Shawna Wolfe, Chair, UNM Naming Committee
Re: April 27 UNM Naming Committee Approval

Per [UAP Policy 1020](#), the University Naming Committee has reviewed and voted unanimously on the following request at the April 27 meeting and recommends your approval. Copies of the requests are attached for your reference.

Naming Request from the UNM Foundation:

Request to name the **James and Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership**
(3.2.5 Programs; 2.2 Private Financial Support)

Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss them in further detail.

Approved: *Garnett S. Stokes*
04/29/2026



Background on UNM's Business School

The University of New Mexico's business school, originally called the School of Business Administration, was established in 1947 and named the Anderson School of Management in 1974 in honor of Roswell resident Robert O. Anderson, founder of the Atlantic Richfield Company and one of the most prominent businessmen in the United States at that time. Today, the UNM Anderson School of Management is a leader of business education in New Mexico, preparing graduates to thrive in an increasingly competitive global workforce and to lead with impact, innovation, and integrity.

The UNM Anderson School of Management offers top-quality business management studies at all skill and experience levels, including undergraduate and graduate business degrees, certificates, skills development courses, and executive leadership programs. Award-winning faculty design and deliver highly ranked degree programs that prepare students to impact communities globally. Recognized among the top 6% of business schools worldwide with dual AACSB accreditation in business and accounting, the Anderson School of Management fuels New Mexico's economic future by educating diverse and capable leaders.

In 2024-2025 alone, more than 2,100 students participated in Innovation Academy initiatives, nearly 280 received donor-funded scholarships, and UNM students earned top rankings in national business competitions. Experiential programs like the Student-Led Regents Portfolio, which manages over \$5.3 million in assets, and the Behavioral Lab, which serves more than 400 students each semester, continue to define the business school's hands-on, student-centered approach.

The foundational learning that students experience at the Anderson School of Management leads them to myriad career possibilities. The business school's graduates, some 24,000 strong, have secured positions at companies such as Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, KPMG, Intel, MetLife, Presbyterian Healthcare Services, HP, Albuquerque Public Schools, and PNM.

The business school is now entering a period of intentional advancement, focused on student success, faculty excellence, and innovative academic offerings. Each investment made is

designed to elevate UNM's national visibility, attract top-tier talent, and solidify our university's position as a leader in business education. Reputation matters: it influences the quality of UNM's applicants, the strength of UNM's partnerships, and the value of a UNM degree.

Record Gift and Naming Request

With extraordinary support from a recent, unprecedented and transformational gift from donors Gail and Jim Ellis of **\$25 million to the business school, plus a \$5 million challenge fund to match new \$250K-minimum endowments**, UNM has the opportunity to build on this momentum, ensuring that our University continues to be the home of one of the top business schools in the country.

Gail and Jim's vision for this gift is to make the business school a pioneer in supporting students facing economic and class barriers, enabling them to graduate with less debt burden while gaining best-in-class business credentials and professional skills. The Ellis's extraordinary support is especially crucial for our first-generation college students, who comprise a significant portion of UNM's population. By opening more pathways to higher achievement, earnings, and innovation potential, this gift will empower economic transformation at individual, state, national, and global levels.

The initiatives supported by this investment will allow the business school to increase the quality of its programs and its national reputation, surpassing current rankings. The ultimate and largest beneficiaries are the students of the future, who will have access to a top-tier business school designed to springboard them into unparalleled professional opportunities.

To honor this incredibly generous contribution—**the largest individual gift in UNM history**—we seek approval to change the name of The Anderson School of Management to **The James and Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership**. This celebratory naming would be the first named college or school at UNM due to philanthropic support. The new name will serve multiple purposes, most importantly inspiring our university and community to envision greater possibilities throughout the Accelerate New Mexico Campaign. The James and Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership adds prestige to our programs and sets a new standard for philanthropy in the years ahead.

The majority of the Ellis's gift will go toward building an endowment to provide permanent support for the student initiatives described in this submission. During the initial years of the pledge, a portion of the funding will be dedicated to immediate use, while the fulfilled endowment pledge will produce spending distributions at that level and beyond in the future.

About Jim and Gail

Jim Ellis attended Jefferson Middle School and Highland High School in Albuquerque, then earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from UNM in 1968. In 1970, he earned an MBA from Harvard University. Today, he is an expert on global commerce and a prominent civic leader in the Los Angeles area. For twelve years, Jim served as Dean of the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He has received numerous teaching awards from USC students, alumni, and other organizations. Since 2021 he has served on the UNM Foundation's Board of Trustees as National Vice-Chair. Before joining academia, Jim had a lengthy career in the business world, working in senior management or director positions culminating with being CEO of American Porsche Design. He has served on the boards of directors of numerous corporations, including Mercury Insurance and the American Funds of Capital Group, and non-profit organizations including the Young Presidents' Organization and Kidspace Childrens Museum. He and his wife, Gail, have five children and sixteen grandchildren.

Gail Ellis, Psy.D, is a clinical psychologist. Gail earned two masters' degrees and a Doctor of Psychology degree in clinical psychology and worked with students at Pasadena City College in Pasadena, California. An avid equestrienne, Gail rides and competes with several horses. She served on the board of Kidspace Children's Museum in Pasadena and was a member of the California Institute of Technology's Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy Council.

Approval of Naming

Thanks to Gail and Jim's New Mexico connections and many business accomplishments, we anticipate that the business school's new name will inspire a new round of storytelling, raising the sights of our students and donors, and setting a higher bar for philanthropy at UNM during our **Accelerate New Mexico Campaign**. This gift and prominent naming will serve as a catalyst for further philanthropy, inspiring more donors to think bigger about their support for scholarships, infrastructure, academic initiatives, and the University in general. Jim's pathway to UNM from Highland High School in Albuquerque is relatable, instilling the belief that other business graduates can achieve the same levels of leadership and success.

We are requesting approval of the aforementioned naming opportunity in accordance with the University Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, UAP 1020: Honorary Naming Recognition.

<https://unmpolicy.policystat.com/policy/17084635/latest/>

Regents' Policy Manual, RPM 2.11: Naming University Facilities, Spaces, Endowments, and Programs.

<https://unmpolicy.policystat.com/policy/17101315/latest/>