

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico  
April 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM  
Executive Session – 12:00 PM, SUB Cherry Silver Room  
Open Session - UNM Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom B  
*Livestreamed at <https://live.unm.edu/board-of-regents>*

Members Present

Paul Blanchard, Chair  
William Payne (virtually)  
Christina Campos  
Victor Reyes  
Paula Tackett

Members Not Present

Jack Fortner  
Patricia Williams

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; Daneil Jones, 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; Aprilyn Chavez Geissler, Alumni Association Board President-Elect

CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Paul Blanchard called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm in the UNM Student Union Building, Cherry Silver Room and confirmed a quorum with 4 members present in person (Campos, Blanchard, Reyes and Tackett). Regent Bill Payne joined virtually.

VOTE TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

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

VOTE TO CLOSE THE MEETING AND PROCEED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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).
- Discussion and/or determination of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H(2).
- Discussion of personally identifiable information about an individual student, as permitted by NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1.H(4).

*Regent Payne joined the meeting virtually at 12:17 pm.*

VOTE TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING

- **The motion to re-open the meeting passed unanimously with five regents present and voting (1st Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos).**

*[The doors to the Cherry Silver room were opened at 1:01 pm.]*

**VOTE TO DECLINE TO REVIEW A STUDENT APPEAL (1)**

- **The motion to decline to review a student appeal passed unanimously with four regents present and voting (1st Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett).**

**VOTE TO DECLINE TO REVIEW A STUDENT APPEAL (2)**

- **The motion to decline to review a student appeal passed unanimously with four regents present and voting (1st Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett).**

*[The regents proceeded to Ballroom B]*

Regent Blanchard reconvened the Open Session in SUB Ballroom B at 1:10 pm and certified that only those matters described in the Executive Session Agenda were discussed in the closed session and that action was taken as recorded above. He noted that Regent Payne was present virtually.

**Land Acknowledgement Statement of the University of New Mexico**

Regent Blanchard 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 CONFIRM THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **The motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025 & March 10, 2025 Meetings passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes).**

**PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Devon Hatcher, graduate student, Abigail Granath, international graduate student, Gabriel Garcia, graduate student, Olivia Kelly, graduate student, spoke about the need to increase graduate student wages and healthcare benefits in current contract negotiations.

Kendall Jacobsen, graduate student, Alissa Cabada-Gomez, graduate student, and Natalie Rojas, student, spoke about UNM's commitment to affirmative action and concerns about policy changes.

Nicole Maphis, post-doctoral research fellow and Kalina Fahey, post-doctoral research fellow, expressed concern about cuts to grant funding for post-docs and the need for support from University administrators.

Aaron Canter, graduate student, Will Tatman, graduate student, Nicholas Chavez, graduate student, Eric Lang, faculty, Ramiro Jordan, faculty, and Carolina Shaheen, student, spoke about the erosion of academic freedom and the deportation of students with dissenting opinions by the federal administration and the need for universities to protect academic freedom.

Luca Berkley, graduate student, advocated for full tuition coverage for graduate students in the Fine Arts.

Matison McCool, faculty, spoke about cuts to science funding, grant cancellations, and concerns about UNM's ability to serve the state and community.

Manuel Martinez-Ramon, faculty, Eric Lang, faculty, and Ramiro Jordan, faculty, spoke against proposed increases in health premiums.

Jose Palacios, faculty, advocated for greater compensation increases for faculty to counteract inflation.

Regent Chair Blanchard thanked the speakers for their respectful and polite behavior and thoughtful comments.

#### ADVISORS COMMENTS

Chris Elder, Faculty Senate President, read a resolution proposed to the Faculty Senate regarding the protection of vulnerable populations at UNM and urged University administrators to support it in collaboration with faculty, staff and students.

Ivan Olay, Staff Council President, spoke in support of a tuition increase to support staff compensation increases.

Michel Ramirez, President of GPSA, spoke about policy changes, the importance of graduate workers, freedom of academic expression and the University's obligation to support students, faculty and staff.

Aprilyn Chavez Geissler, Alumni Association President-Elect, updated the regents on recent activities including career collaboration and professional development, regional alumni outreach, and the upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

President Stokes expressed gratitude to those who made public comments and reiterated the importance of perspectives and stories to the University. She noted that higher education is under pressure far more than it ever has been during her career, citing Executive Orders, compliance directives, immigration actions, and threat to research funding. She reiterated that UNM serves the people of New Mexico and will navigate, adapt, comply with law as a pre-requisite to serving the state, but will not abandon its values and commitments.

She also congratulated two students named 2025-2026 Goldwater Scholars for the pursuit of STEM doctoral degrees, a faculty member named 2024 fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science and mentioned the upcoming Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference.

She noted recent campus activities related to sustainability, faculty, staff and student community services, successes in athletics including in basketball and track and field and academic and research successes. She noted that the legislative session concluded with funding for high priorities impacting faculty, staff, students and the UNM community. She concluded by stating the importance of funding athletics in light of the changing landscape of college sports.

#### REGENTS' COMMENTS

Regent Reyes made a statement in response to student comments regarding community, justice, academic freedom, the responsibilities of leadership in creating safe spaces for dialogue and collaboration and the obligation of creating an atmosphere of safety and inclusion.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### VOTE TO APPROVE THE HEALTH SCIENCES COMMITTEE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT DOCKET

- The motion to approve Health Sciences Committee items listed on the consent docket passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

##### VOTE TO APPROVE THE STUDENT SUCCESS, TEACHING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT DOCKET

- The motion to approve Student Success, Teaching and Research Committee items listed on the consent docket passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

##### VOTE TO APPROVE THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT DOCKET

- The motion to approve Finance and Facilities items listed on the consent docket passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes)

VOTE TO APPROVE THE UNM-LA BOND SALES ITEM AS A CONSENT ITEM

- The agenda item of UNM-LA Bond Sales was added to the Consent Agenda and approved unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO POLICY c140 "Extra Compensation"

Cris Elder, President, Faculty Senate, presented the proposal.

- The motion to approve proposed revisions to Policy c140 passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett) VOTE TO APPROVE CAPITAL OUTLAY SUBMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Shawna Wolfe, VP, Institutional Support Services, presented.

- The motion to approve the capital outlay submission to Higher Education Department passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Blanchard)

VOTE TO APPROVE FY26 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS FOR MAIN AND BRANCH CAMPUSES

Jeremy Hamlin, Director University Budget Operations, Office of Planning Budget & Analysis (OPBA), Joe Wrobel, Chief Budget & Facilities Officer HSC, Health Science Budget Office

Regent Blanchard suggested tabling the item. Regent Reyes motioned to table the item. The motion failed to pass due to the lack of a second.

Regent Payne requested a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Assumptions.

Regent Reyes requested to amend Regent Payne's motion to approve a 1% tuition increase with 10% set aside for financial aid.

There was discussion among the regents with EVP Costantinidis, President Stokes and others regarding compensation coverage, the Land Grant permanent fund, recurring costs, parking costs, medical insurance premiums, consideration of long-term impacts, and the perils of the use of reserves for recurring expenses.

- The motion to approve a 1% tuition increase with 10% set aside for financial aid passed with a 4-1 vote (Payne – no) (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)
- The motion to approve a 4% compensation increase passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)
- The motion to approve two technology fees and two tuition differentials passed with a 4-1 vote (Reyes –no) (1<sup>st</sup> Campos; 2<sup>nd</sup> Blanchard)

APPROVAL FOR REVISIONS TO REGENTS' POLICIES 2.3 and 6.2

General Counsel Jones provided a summary of policy changes in compliance with Executive Order 14173 before April 21, 2025.

Regent Reyes proposed an amendment to policy 2.3 adding a bi-annual report detailing statistics of the student body and faculty along with efforts to promote inclusive excellence as discussed to the Governance Committee, with demographic data categorized by school or department and shared with the full board through the Governance Committee and where disparities found, the University will examine policy 2.3 to determine if it places a barrier to equal opportunity.

Chair Blanchard requested that Regent Reyes' amended motion be tabled and the original changes be accepted due to the fact that the amendment to policy was not distributed to the administration previously, and that the original approval move forward. Regent Tackett concurred.

After discussion regarding the deadline for compliance and the ability to revisit the policy to discuss Regent Reyes' amendment at a future meeting, the motion to amend the motion to add Regent Reyes' addition to the policy failed due to the lack of a second.

- The motion to approve revisions to Regents Policies 2.3 and 6.2 as proposed by the administration and approved by General Counsel passed with a 4-1 vote (Reyes – no) (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

Regent Campos stated that she supported the consideration of Regent Reyes' proposal for reporting. Regent Tackett and Regent Blanchard also supported further discussion on proposed changes and reporting at the next Governance Committee meeting.

**APPROVAL OF BOR SCHEDULE REVISIONS FOR A TRIAL PERIOD**

- The motion to approve the BOR Schedule Revisions for a Trial Period passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Tackett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Campos)

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Regent Campos motioned to adjourn the meeting, Regent Tackett seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Approved:

  
Paul Blanchard, Chair

Attest:

  
Paula Tackett, Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes originated and finalized by Emily Morelli