

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico
March 17, 2026 at 12:00 PM
UNM Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom B & Cherry Silver Room
Livestreamed at <https://live.unm.edu/board-of-regents>

Members Present

Paul Blanchard, Chair
Christina Campos
William Payne
Victor Reyes, Vice Chair
Paula Tackett, Secretary-Treasurer
Patricia Williams

Absent: Jack Fortner

Administration Present

Garnett S. Stokes, President; Barbara Rodriguez, Interim 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; Kate Becker, CEO, UNM Hospital; Bruce Cherrin, Acting University Controller; Shawna Wolfe, VP Institutional Support Services; Fern Lovo, VP Athletics; Assata Zerai, VP Change & Empowerment; Eric Scott, VP Student Affairs; Dan Garcia, VP Enrollment Management; Daniel Jones, General Counsel; Francie Cordova, Chief Compliance Officer; Kevin Stevenson, VP Human Resources; Terry Babbitt, President's Chief of Staff; Ben Cloutier, Executive Director of Strategic Communications; deans and others.

Advisors Present

Andrew Norton, ASUNM President (virtual); Travis Broadhurst, GPSA President (virtual); Damion Terrell, Staff Council President

Presenters

Vahid Staples, Associate Director, University Budget Operations; George Williford, Municipal Advisor, Hilltop Securities; Katherine McKinney, Bond Counsel, Modrall Sperling Law Firm; Jeremy Hamlin, Executive Director, University Budget Operations; Joe Wrobel, Chief Budget & Facilities Officer HSC, Health Science Budget Office

CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Paul Blanchard called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.m. in the UNM Student Union Building, Ballroom B, and confirmed a quorum with 6 members present in person, confirmed by roll call. Regent Fortner was not present.

VOTE TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

- **The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously with six regents present and voting (1st Reyes; 2nd Tackett)**

Land Acknowledgement Statement of the University of New Mexico

Regent Blanchard affirmed the University of New Mexico Land Acknowledgement Statement. Emily Monteiro Payne, Secretary to the Board of Regents, read 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 December 20, 2025 meeting passed unanimously. (1st Payne; 2nd Campos).**

PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

President Stokes provided an overview of recent institutional progress, legislative outcomes, and key campus initiatives. The President highlighted the conclusion of the legislative session, noting increased state support and the importance of aligning those resources with university priorities moving forward. She emphasized ongoing efforts to address rising operational costs while maintaining a stable financial outlook. The report also underscored several institutional initiatives, including preparations for new federal digital accessibility requirements, with significant work underway to improve inclusive course

design, web content, and campus-wide support systems. Additional updates included recognition of campus programs and community engagement efforts, such as Women's History Month programming and continued support for military-affiliated students, reflecting the university's broader commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and student success.

REGENTS' COMMENTS

No comments were made by the regents.

ADVISORS' COMMENTS

Damion Terrell, Staff Council President, raised concerns related to employee compensation and institutional support for staff, emphasizing the importance of ensuring competitive salaries and addressing equity considerations. The remarks reflected a broader focus on maintaining a strong and supported workforce as a critical component of the university's overall success.

Andrew Norton, ASUNM President, emphasized strong opposition to the proposed tuition increase, stating that it would place an unnecessary financial burden on students and was not supported by the broader student population. He noted that many students and campus stakeholders believe the increase is not justified given recent gains in state funding and urged the Board to prioritize affordability and student financial well-being in its decision-making.

Travis Broadhurst, GPSA President, echoed these concerns, reinforcing that graduate students share similar opposition to the tuition increase. He highlighted that the proposed increase would generate relatively limited additional revenue while adding cost pressures for students, and emphasized that student voices are actively engaged in governance and should continue to be meaningfully considered in institutional decisions.

Joe Ortiz, Alumni Association President-Elect, highlighted continued alumni engagement and support for the university's mission, while also emphasizing the importance of preserving access and affordability for current and future students. The remarks underscored the role of alumni as ongoing stakeholders invested in the institution's long-term success and reputation.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA

There were no public comments related to the agenda.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Blanchard confirmed that no items were removed from the originally published Consent Agenda, then called for a vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

- **The vote to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1st Payne; 2nd Tackett)**

NEW BUSINESS - ACTION ITEMS

VOTE TO APPROVE AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION SUBORDINATE LIEN SYSTEM REFUNDING AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS UNM SERIES 2026

Vahid Staples, Associate Director, University Budget Operations; George Williford, Municipal Advisor, Hilltop Securities and Katherine McKinney, Bond Counsel, Modrall Sperling Law Firm stood for questions in follow up their presentation at the earlier Finance & Facilities meeting.

Discussion differing perspectives, with some emphasizing the importance of moving forward to support critical infrastructure and capture favorable financial conditions, while others expressed hesitation due to concerns about transparency, student burden, and the overall approach to financing.

Regent Reyes motioned to table the item, and Regent Williams seconded. The motion failed by a 3-3 vote. A roll-call vote was taken, with Regents Blanchard, Reyes and Williams voting to table the item and Regents Payne, Campos and Tackett voting against tabling the item.

Regent Payne motioned to approve the item and Regent Tackett seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 3-3 tie. A roll call vote was taken, with Regents Payne, Campos and Tackett voting in favor of approval and Regents Blanchard, Reyes and Williams voting against approval.

VOTE TO APPROVE BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS FOR FY27

Jeremy Hamlin, Executive Director, University Budget Operations stood for questions in follow up

to the Finance & Facilities committee presentation.

After minimal discussion, Regent Reyes motioned to approve 1) a salary increase of 1% for faculty and staff, consistent with state compensation amounts provided and 2) School of Medicine – Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Differential Tuition increase from \$143.00 to \$163.08 per credit. Regent Campos seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1-1 vote. A roll-call vote was taken, with Regents Reyes, Campos, Williams and Tackett voting for approval, Regent Payne voting against approval, and Regent Blanchard abstaining.

Regent Tackett made a motion to approve the 3% increase in student fees at UNM-Taos. The motion failed without a second.

The Regents did not vote on the remaining items, 1) approval of a \$30 increase to the student facility fee and a \$30 decrease to the mandatory student fee and 2) approval to increase base tuition by 1% for undergraduate and graduate, resident and non-resident students, with 10% set aside for financial aid, and excluding SOM MD.

INFORMATION ITEM

No information items were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

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 (1st Tackett; 2nd Reyes; roll call vote - all members voted yes)**

[Regents proceeded upstairs to the Cherry Silver Room for the Executive Session luncheon at 2:07 p.m.]

Executive Session agenda:

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

VOTE TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING

- **The motion to re-open the meeting passed unanimously with six regents present and voting (1st Reyes; 2nd Tackett).**

Regent Blanchard re-opened the meeting at 3:15 p.m. in the Student Union Building, Ballroom B and certified that only matters listed in the above Executive Session agenda were discussed in Executive Session.

VOTE TO CERTIFY THAT ONLY THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WERE DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION


- **The motion to certify that only the items listed on the Executive Session agenda were discussed in closed session passed unanimously with six regents present and voting (1st Payne; 2nd Reyes).**

VOTE TO DECLINE TO REVIEW APPEALS TO THE BOARD

- **The motion to decline to review two student appeals to the board passed 6-0 with six regents present and voting (1st Campos; 2nd Payne).**

There being no further business, Regent Blanchard moved to adjourn the meeting, Regent Reyes seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Approved:



Paul Blanchard, Chair

Attest:



Paula Tackett, Secretary-Treasurer

