A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, Via Zoom. Regents Present: Michael A. Martin (Via Conference Call), Erica Velarde (Via Zoom), Porter Swentzell (Via Zoom), Damian Martinez (Via Zoom), Tomas Rodriguez (Via Zoom).

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Richard J. Bailey, Jr. (Via Zoom), Ph.D.; Ricky Bejarano, Vice President for Finance & Administration (Via Zoom); Ivan Lopez Hurtado, PhD, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs (Via Zoom); Vince Lithgow, Comptroller, John Ussery, El Rito Campus Director (Via Zoom); Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Don Apparius, Assistant Provost; Ryan Cordova, Athletic Director and Men’s Basketball Coach; Evette Abeyta, Budget Director Carmella Sanchez, Director, Institutional Research; Andy Romero, Director, Facilities/Safety and Security; John Ussery, Director, El Rito Campus and Amy Peña, Executive Office Director.

Faculty Present: Anna X. Gutierrez Sisneros, PhD

Others Present: Tim Crone

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Bailey stated Tim Crone from the Union is joining the Board of Regents Meeting. Also, Andy Romero has joined the meeting as well as Evette Abeyta. President Bailey stated all five board members are on the meeting, a lot of senior staff, Tim Crone and Dr. X, Faculty Senate President. Also, in attendance is John Ussery, El Rito Campus Director and the rest of the Northern team.

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 1:35PM.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President entertained a motion to approve the Agenda.

Regent Martinez moved to approve the Agenda. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Martinez – yes, Regent Rodriguez - yes. Motion passed unanimously.
III. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

1. Audit/Finance/Facilities Committee – Informational

Regent Velarde stated she wanted to report on the amazing meeting last week regarding Nepotism Policy. It was a really good discussion and great to be able to hear concerns and also just discuss different things we were able to fix format wise on the policy itself. We are going to be meeting for the EEOC and have discussions and she looks forward to more good conversations and keeping us strong and understanding that we all have our own thoughts on different things and where we can come together and compromise.

The Audit/Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting was a great meeting and we will have presentations later on today. Board President Martin asked Regent Martinez if he has anything to add as he serves on these committees. Regent Martinez agreed with Regent Velarde it is refreshing to talk about issues with the college and everybody go in with an open mind and no one indvivial attacking anyone and it was very user friendly and he appreciates everyone’s time and thoughts on the issues brought up in both meetings. Board President Martin asked if Regent Swentzell if he had anything to add or any questions for Regent Velarde or Regent Martinez. Regent Swentzell stated it sounds like a good meeting. Board President Martin asked Regent Rodriguez if he had anything to add. Regent Rodriguez had nothing to add.

2. Academic/Student Affairs Committee – Informational

Regent Swentzell stated committee meet last week and had an extremely brief meeting with the main Agenda item which will be covered by the Provost a litt le bit later and he doesn’t want to steal the thunder. Board President Martin asked Regent Rodriguez if he had anything to add. Regent Rodriguez had nothing to add.

3. Executive Committee – Informational

Nothing to report.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Swentzell moved to approve the minutes. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Martinez – yes, Regent Rodriguez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Celebrate Northern – Informational

President Bailey stated he would like to mention three things:

1. Juneteenth: On Friday, the College commemorated Juneteenth with a socially distant observant ceremony at the flagpole at the Española Campus. This was also in the Santa Fe New Mexican. There a presentation from the Black and African American Student Organization along with Willie Williams and Patricia Trujillo. They raised the Juneteenth flag. Thanks to Andy Romero, Shawn Madrid and Michael Rivera for their assistance. Right now, flying at the College is the American Flag, the New Mexico State Flag and Juneteenth Flag and they will be flying for the next 30 days in observance and commemoration of Juneteenth and there will be a proclamation for consideration.

2. Food Pantry: The Food pantry did their third round of distributions on Friday. There were 22 student food bags prepared. That program is working really well. Special thanks to Gwen Orona, Frank Orona and Richard Sedillo who helped to stalk the pantry. Thank you to Mike Rivera, Sarah McCormick, Anna X and Patricia Trujillo all of whom helped out. We will try to do this every couple of weeks.

3. Biology: President Bailey stated if the Board of Regents was in person, he would have asked her to attend. Evelyn Juarez was just chosen as one of 10 students nationwide for Arches as part of Georgetown University. This summer she will be part of a research seminar it will be virtual and next year it will be in person with Georgetown University. This is helping getting her set up for a degree in medicine. President Bailey wants to now publicly recognize her. She now works for the LANL Foundation and they are blessed to have her. A really good example of excellence in the student body. Congratulations to Evelyn.

B. CUP/NMICC Report – Informational

CUP spent all weekend monitoring the State Legislative Special Session. We will not have specifics until the Governor signs the budget bill. Our expectation, not official, all Colleges and Universities can expect a 4% in I&G, 6% for RPSPS to include a 6% in Dual Credit Funding and another cut over and above that will be close to equivalent to the funding from the federal government, the institutional portion of the CARES Act. As we get clarity we will come with expectations from the budget. Thanks to everyone especially the Business Office for what they have done in terms of the fund balance and getting control of the fiscal house and getting it in order for the past few years. It is not pretty and not optimal but if you take them out of the mix, it would be a much bigger crisis.

C. NNMC Foundation – Informational

Regarding the foundation, Amy is going to set up a meeting for the Board. We did have a quick Board Meeting recently. James Owen from LANL has rejoined the Board. It is a very
strong Foundation Board. We are looking at a meeting in the next several weeks. We are going to look at the long-term foundation strategy for investment. It will help Charles Stephen our manager and new internal manager which is City National Rochdale which manages the fund of the Foundation. At that meeting they will address the remainder of the funding owed to the College from the Foundation.

D. Eagle Corporation Update – Informational

Eagle Corporation had its initial meeting and adopted Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. There is a meeting scheduled for July 6th to consider a potential partnership with Up$tart, LLC for work they will do in providing more state and federal funding for our students and potential outreach to students we have lost over the last five years who did not transfer.

E. Juneteenth Proclamation

There is a Juneteenth Proclamation for consideration in the packet which acknowledges June 19th at Juneteenth for Northern New Mexico College. With that President Bailey stood for questions on the Proclamation. Board President Martin asked if there were questions for President Bailey. Regent Velarde stated she did not know whose initiative this was but she did want to say thank you because we were the only higher education institution who did this and she is proud of us and thank you for putting this forward. Regent Swentzell stated he would echo what Regent Velarde said this is an awesome thing for Northern to do and he is all for it. Regent Martinez stated he would echo his colleagues, it is not only awesome but important that we recognize Juneteenth. He would like to ask if the formatting things are resolved. President Bailey stated the formatting has been worked out and there will be a seal on the proclamation Board President Martin and President Bailey will sign. Regent Rodriguez stated he would echo the comments from the Board. Board President Martin thinks it is a great thing for the College and would like to entertain a motion.


President Bailey thanked the Board of Regents for their support of the Proclamation. President Bailey would like to say a special thank you to Dr. X and Dr. Trujillo, they were the spirit for moving this forward. The other thing this did and all of the awareness Juneteenth brought about, it more importantly brought out in New Mexico important conversations we have had for years but has called for a dialogue of the relationship between all of the cultures that call New Mexico home to include the original inhabitants of this land. The State is undergoing a lot of conversations about the place of Juan de Onate and DeVaragas and others and that historical legacy that can be the point of contention. Recently, there is an initiative by one of our former state historians, Estevan
Rael Galvez, he has asked for a multi-city series of dialogues, Dr. Trujillo held a series of dialogues at the College about this last year that was very important, inciteful and informative. We look forward to working with Dr. Galvez in Espanola which will be one of the cities this is focused, Northern will be one of the anchor institutions virtually to hold a series of these dialogues to help us as a State in the spirit of respecting and appreciating the very diverse landscape which is our biggest strength. We look forward to supporting those important conversations.

Regent Velarde asked if Ms. Peña and Dr. Bailey can send her information to become involved in the Food Pantry process. She would like to get involved the next time. President Bailey stated we will get Regent Velarde involved. The group goes in on Thursday to get the items ready and distribution will be done on Friday morning. They would love to have Regent Velarde involved in this.

VI. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Bailey stated Dr. X, Anna Gutierrez Sisneros is now the new Faculty Senate President. President Bailey asked Dr. Lopez when her term started. Dr. Lopez stated she is already the President for the Faculty Senate but she is out of a contract right now, a reduced contract compared to the Chairs, a ten-month contract that is going to start in August. President Bailey stated typically we will keep them on the Agenda in case they want to join but typically for the summer we keep it on the Agenda but there likely will not be a Faculty or Student Senate Report for the summer meeting. Ms. Peña stated that Anna might try to join. President Bailey stated the Board of Regents knows her from the tenure package.

Board President Martin thanked Dr. X and thanked her for her commitment for being Faculty Senate President. Dr. X thanked Board President Martin and she has been in Espanola for 37 years. She does not have a report but will have a meeting the first Friday during Convocation week, Friday at 1:00PM. She will be planning this and preparing the Agenda for this. Dr. X. also thanked President Bailey for putting the flags on the flagpole. President Bailey stated the Faculty Senate is in good hands and we look forward to her benevolent reign and we are blessed and honored to having her as the head of the Senate. Thank you for taking on this role. Dr. X state she is going to follow Dr. Winterer’s work.

VII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Board President Martin asked if the Student Senate would have a report. President Bailey asked Amy Peña if there was going to be a report. Ms. Peña stated Meghan Trujillo was going to try to login for the meeting.

There was not a Student Senate Report for this meeting.
VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. Fiscal Watch Reports – Action Required

Mr. Bejarano stated he would like to report on the CARES Act money. There is confusion on the institutional portion. We discussed this at the finance meeting. One of the things all Regents need to understand is with the CARES Act money, all the guidance we are receiving actually precludes us from using that money to make up for revenues or to use it towards any general operational expenses. Currently, the guidance is it has to be associated with COVID-19 spending. The best example is the computer work and equipment we had to purchase that will most likely be eligible for that. When you are talking about a $500,000 credit against the general appropriation it is a pretty big hole. The College has done a good job of maintaining fund balance and watching spending over the last three years. We are in better shape he would say than larger universities but it will still be painful.

Mr. Bejarano introduced Mr. Lithgow for financial reports. Mr. Lithgow stated regarding Statement of Net Positions (Balance Sheet), under current assets we have cash in the bank of a little over $5M, noncurrent assets and capital outlay stayed the same. Liabilities, we have significantly reduced our payables because we have not spent any money due to COVID. This time of year, we do reduce spending anyway. Significant importance is we have for term endowments this is the estimated amount reverting for Anna, Age Eight based on appropriations of current level spending. The $1.66M is the amount received for the Branch Community College for the Mill Levy. Estimated unrestricted is about $2.8M.

Mr. Lithgow stated the Income statement tells us where we are at, revenues, we have collected about 86%. In line with that we should be about 91% on a budgetary basis. We are a little low because we have budgeted a lot of federal awards and they have not materialized because we do not have of people on staff to perform those functions. We are online. Percentage of revenues over expenditures is 86% over 75%. The bulk of that under part is under research and federal awards we are not doing at this point in time. We are currently solvent based on the budgetary basis. Regarding the balance sheet we have spent about $1.8M dollars on capital projects, estimate will be expended by year end.

Mr. Lithgow stated on Page 22, it is a comparison of the income statement from last year to this year. We did have a larger budget this year than in 2019. Lastly, page 23 is the Statement of Cash Flows, we have collected $3.3M in tuition and fees another $6.7M in grants and our greatest outflow is salaries and benefits of another $6.8M. We have also $1.1M in scholarships. We have received all our general fund year to date.

2. Budget Adjustment Reports (BARs)

Mr. Bejarano stated this item is here for a formality because it is Budget Adjustment Reports. He is glad Ms. Abeyta is on because she deserves a lot of credit as does the Comptroller and all the accountants. We have absolutely no budget adjustment requests to report for the second month in a row. We will most likely have adjustments for the year end. Mr. Bejarano stated they will not be as voluminous as in the past. He would like to recognize Evette for this and she deserves a heavy round of applause.

3. 2020 NMHED Capital Outlay Summer Hearing Documents

Mr. Bejarano introduced Mr. Romero for this presentation. Mr. Romero stated he would like to ask the Board of Regents for approval of the summer hearing requests for FY20-FY21. One is the HVAC improvements on the Espanola and El Rito Campus. They are looking to divide the amounts $1.7M Espanola and $1.8M for El Rito. What they are trying to do is to go in and remodel all the HVAC units on all buildings on both campus with the money they get, if they get it. The Espanola campus was built in 1970 and the latest building in Espanola was built in 1980. Most of the buildings, there has not been new units placed in them other than fixing them to get them to work. These units have gone beyond their working force. We also did this off the energy audit from Ameresco but because we are having a hard time for the financing we are going through the State for this. For the Espanola campus it will be the same units, replaced like for like. The hydronics in buildings will be taken out and will be done with forced air. They will also change out regular forced air heaters in buildings. On the El Rito campus it is more of a challenge. They don’t have a solid view way, they want to get the money and look and visit with John Ussery and look at the best possible way of replacements. Either if it is to continue and modify or change the electrical for heating and air conditioning units for the same time for the same amount of money. It will be challenging but will not be impossible. This is the first project, $3.5M. However, it flows out to be it will be our flow. Mr. Romero asked if there were questions. Board President Martin asked if there were any questions and stated there are none.

Mr. Romero stated on the second project, this will only address El Rito and we are asking for $1.5M and we are looking to do the building water supply system and the sewer and fire systems. We would like to go into the North Dorm, Administration and Jaramillo Hall.
to replace the old water pipes that are galvanized and corroded. If they are turned on
they will be more of a mess so we need to put a new system. The south dorm has a new
system and it passed. We have contractors ready to stand by for any problems. We would
like to continue to the other three buildings and it would help with water control. With
water, we will have a lot of sewage. These were built in 1909 and there are a lot of
problems with the pipes. We may need to go in and clean and replace pipes and we also
need to look at the ponds on the back. Once we work on this system, we will need to do
some major work to the ponds. Those will need to be closed once we start work. On the
hydrant side, we would like to get those working again. They will run off the 5M tank we
get from the top of El Rito. This will make a big difference on the El Rito Campus. There
are a lot of things that will need to be fixed in El Rito. We have had to repair stucco,
heating, etc. there is a lot of work and they are ready to go and need to know when they
are ready to start. Mr. Romero asked if there were any questions.

President Bailey stated he wanted to make sure the Board understands the way the
system runs in terms of the State. Last year, those proposals, it ended up being a $2.5M
for wastewater treatment for Espanola. That got to this year’s GO Bond Campaign, the
vote the voters will take in November will lead to that. This year, the summer hearings
we are talking about would be tied to severance tax bonds. We are hearing informally
there is a possibility capital outlay goes as the State looks at budget cuts. There may be
a formality on what is done here because they may not be giving any funding to any
projects but we want to make sure they know it is a priority for us. The second thing he
wants to point out is that we are still, in terms of the El Rito Campus, we are not trying to
get the entire campus up and running, we know we do not have the funding for this. We
are looking at a priority system for El Rito to provide heat, water and power to the
facilities that are critical to reintroducing the career technical education programs. That
is the two lab spaces, for a dorm space and the kitchen. These are all things we are
working on.

Mr. Ussery stated as the Program Director he has been talking to the union about initial
focus on the drainage courses. He has ordered the equipment or went through the
bidding for a c-snake which is a camera that can run through the drainage as well as a
cutter and a jet for clearing pipes. He agrees with Andy that those systems are not reliable
and it is more of a mystery than anything that we can rely on. We have made somewhat
of a commitment to go renewable energy and they are doing an energy audit on strategic
deployment part by part to start having some COVID compliant socially isolated groups
working in a combination of tasks by contractors and also apprentices who are also
getting a training on campus. President Bailey stated as a Board of Regents, as an
Institution, as an Administration, Faculty, Staff, we have to be creative if we do not get
these projects funded. If they come back and say we do not have capital outlay for the
next three years, we have to look how we will do them as cheaply and safely as possible
and one of these things could be the opportunity that the Plumbers & Pipe-fitters Center
of Excellence is doing. If we could incorporate the academic programs and the students
for plumbing, we have a campus that could be real world training for those students and doing work we need for the infrastructure. He applauds the effort and there is more to come on this.

Mr. Bejarano stated we need a motion and approval for moving forward with the package to Higher Education. Board President Martin entertained a motion from the Board.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the summer packet for facilities for Higher Ed Capital Outlay Committee. Regent Swentzell – seconded and thanked everyone for working tirelessly on getting the El Rito Campus up and running there is a lot of parts to this and he appreciates the work. Board President Martin - yes, Regent Velarde - yes, Regent Swentzell - yes, Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Rodriguez - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board President Martin asked Mr. Bejarano if this was the end of his report. Mr. Bejarano stated it is.

B. Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. HLC Assurance Argument Update – Informational

Dr. Lopez stated he has an information item and this is the Assurance Report for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). For all the Board members, the College hasn't discussed the Accreditation cycle with the Board of Regents. It was discussed with prior Board members a couple of years ago. The cycle is a ten-year cycle started in 2016 after the visit from the HLC. With the HLC there is a mid-term or mid-cycle checkup right now. We have to prepare a document, which is in the Board packet and it is a 120-page document that was submitted to the HLC last week. Basically, what this document is trying to address is the five criteria for accreditation. The five criteria for accreditation are Mission of the Institution, Ethics and Integrity of the Institution, Teaching and Learning, Evaluation and Improvement in Teaching and Learning and Institutional Effectiveness at Resources and Planning. Through this document we are offering the narrative of how we have addressed the five criteria. At this time, Dr. Lopez shared his screen with a document that describes the policy we are trying to address from the HLC. We have five criteria and within that we have 21 core components we need to address. In order to be an accredited institution we need to meet the requirements of these 21 core components. Each one of these have subcomponents. We are not required to meet each one of the subcomponents but we need to meet the overall core components. Basically, this is what in this narrative. Unfortunately, the word document in the package does not allow the Board of Regents to see the evidence provided to the HLC and the reason is because this document lives inside an online system that the HLC has. In that system, when they review the document, they have the ability to click the links to see the evidence for the claims. There are blue links the reviewers are going to be able to see. The way this review works is we make a claim and within the narrative we provide a link
within the document we provide to demonstrate what we are claiming. This review process will start next week and will take four weeks for the reviewers to possibly ask for more evidence and sometime in September we will get the report back. This is very important because we need to maintain accreditation in order to be able to offer Title V funding to our students. Dr. Lopez stated the document the Board of Regents has, he hopes the Board of Regents will be able to read and it will tell the Board of Regents what has happened with the institution for the last four years. This document coincides with the current administration. Dr. Lopez stated this is where we are with the accreditation agency and we will not be required to develop this document again until 2026. Depending on the result of the review of this document. We may need to submit a two-year report if there is something the HLC does not feel we are accomplishing right now. Dr. Lopez stated he is open to questions from the Board of Regents.

President Bailey stated he would like to add two things. This was a huge lift and even though it is 120 pages when you add all the evidentiary support it is closer to 1,000 pages. Dr. Lopez and a team of people went line by line to research this. Every faculty and staff member had a hand in this. It captures everything we have done in the last four years to improve the College. He is supremely confident that the work that we have done, faculty, staff and the Board of Regents, it is the best position we have been in since President Bailey has been here and is reflected in this report and he is proud of what everyone has done. Board President Martin stated he would appreciate Regent Martinez comments since he has been on the Board of Regents the longest. Regent Martinez stated he would echo President Bailey's comments, the team his administration has put together and the trust the administration and faculty have with each other and the Board and administration have built over the past few years is why Dr. Bailey is saying he is sitting in the best position since he has been here. He thinks everybody has worked hard and President Bailey thanked the Board of Regents but he thinks everyone on the Board can attest that it is those guys that are on the ground like Dr. Bailey, Ricky and Ivan and all the people that pitches in at the school, they are really the reason why this school is where it is at. The Board of Regents attends meeting, we make policy but it is the inline people who are the superstars at this school. Board President Martin thanked Regent Swentzell and Regent Rodriguez that sits on this Committee that oversees this and keeps the Board of Regents apprised of what is going on.

Dr. Lopez stated he would like to thank Carmella Sanchez who is the liaison with the HLC. From the beginning she was in charge of putting together the teams and chasing people for this evidence. This was about 20 months of work to get the evidence and build all these documents. Special thanks to Carmella Sanchez who is at the Board Meeting. Board President Martin thanked Ms. Sanchez for all her help

IX. PUBLIC INPUT
Board President Martin asked if there would be any public input. President Bailey asked Ms. Peña and she stated she has not received any. Ms. Peña stated she has not heard of any.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Martin requested a Motion to Adjourn. President Bailey stated there will be a State of the College Address on Wednesday afternoon Via Zoom. The invite will go out today. Board President Martin asked if Graduation is going on soon. President Bailey stated Saturday at 11:00AM there will be a roll out of a Graduation Celebration Video that will individually look at the graduates, celebrate them, statements from President Bailey, Dr. Lopez, photo of the Board of Regents and a special keynote address which he will keep silent but it is someone who works in the Roundhouse in Santa Fe. All of this will be rolled out at 11:00AM Saturday and starting Saturday night the portion of that video, which celebrates the students with Ricky Bejarano reading the names of the graduates will be on the face of the Center for the Arts. This will be up until for a while.

Regent Martinez asked President Bailey if he is going to stream the State of the College and Celebration of the Graduates on Facebook so it is there forever. President Bailey stated yes, at 11:00AM it goes live and it will be a YouTube video. We will publicize this and it will be available moving forward. President Bailey stated the other thing we are doing in addition to the Graduation Video and Center for the Arts, faculty and staff is putting together special care packages together to each of the 2020 graduates. We will also send out packages to HPE and ABE students as well.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Regent Swentzell moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin - yes, Regent Velarde - yes, Regent Swentzell - yes, Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Rodriguez - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 2:36PM.

APPROVED:

Michael A. Martin, Board President