

**EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Virtual/Telephonic Board of Regents Meeting
Eastern New Mexico University - Portales
Administration Building – Regents Room
December 11, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Regent President Terry Othick called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and declared a quorum. Regents Terry Othick, Edwin Tatum, and Lance Pyle were present virtually. Regent Dan Patterson and Joseph Gergel were physically present.

Roll call: Regent Othick – Yes; Regent Patterson – Yes; Regent Gergel – Yes; Regent Pyle – Yes; Regent Tatum – Yes.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

*Regent Tatum moved to approve the agenda. Regent Patterson seconded the motion.
Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Regent Tatum moved to approve the minutes of November 13 and 30, 2020, as presented.
Regent Pyle seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.*

ROUTINE MATTERS

Report from the president of the Board

Regent Terry Othick said that this is the last meeting he will preside over as Regent President. It has been an interesting year and a unique time to be president. Through the advent of virtual meetings and events, a new University president, the sale of Blackwater Draw Stadium and negotiating the COVID-19 virus, he appreciates the support he has received from all three campuses.

Regent Othick recognized Kevin Wilson of the Eastern New Mexico News and commended him for his factual reporting of events that have taken place over the past several months.

Report from the ENMU-Roswell president

Dr. Shawn Powell stated that it is a pleasure to serve in the role of ENMU-Roswell president and has appreciated the service of Regents Othick, Tatum, and Gergel.

Dr. Powell thanked Dr. Caldwell and Dr. Laurenz for participating in their virtual graduation. He also thanked Dr. Caldwell and Regent Pyle for joining the recent Community College Board meeting.

Dr. Powell reported that they are in Phase I of their return to campus plan and are updating this plan for spring 2021. Since April, they have had a total of 41 COVID-19 cases; 20 faculty/staff/administrators and 21 students.

Dr. Powell said that the 2020-2025 Five-Year Campus Plan, which includes capital projects, has been forwarded to their campus. The Learning Resource Center is being modified to include a Veterans' area with more computer access. They are also aligning their tutoring efforts and library under the supervision of Annemarie Oldfield. Construction has begun on the maintenance building and will be ongoing for the next year.

Dr. Powell reported that several new scholarships are available through the Financial Aid Office. These include COSMO Cares Emergency Aid allocations from the CARES Act, a Displaced Worker Healthcare Scholarship, and Career and Technical Education Scholarships from Senate Bill 536.

Dr. Powell mentioned the upcoming retirement of several employees. Mr. Rollah Aston will be retiring after 30 years of service as librarian. Natalie Martinez, director of Upward Bound, and Lyle Lane, Aviation Program Director, will also be retiring in January. These individuals will be recognized at the January 8, 2021, in-service meeting.

Report from the ENMU-Ruidoso president

Mr. Ryan Trosper thanked Regents Othick, Tatum, and Gergel for their service and recognized that they have been instrumental in supporting the various construction projects on the Ruidoso campus. He also thanked Dr. Caldwell and Dr. Powell for their continued mentorship and collegiality.

Mr. Trosper reported seven current COVID-19 cases; three staff and four students.

Mr. Trosper said that the Nexus Phase II construction project is moving along well and looks for a completion date of April 1, 2021.

Mr. Trosper said that they have applied for the *Achieving the Dream – Building Resiliency in Rural Communities for the Future of Work* initiative, which is an opportunity focused on digital commerce and centered around tourism. Nicole DeLorenzo and Steve Lestarjett are leading this effort and will have results in January.

Mr. Trosper reported they have received 31 Chromebooks from WIOA and HED to assist adult education students. They have also hosted a virtual counselors' lunch to discuss dual enrollment and will soon host a virtual holiday party for staff.

Report from the chancellor of the ENMU System

Dr. Patrice Caldwell commented that she is pleased to learn that the COVID-19 vaccine is on the way. ENMU will continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC and our state government.

Dr. Caldwell stated that as of November 18, over 130 managers system-wide have received personnel policy training. Benito Gonzales, System HR Director, facilitated these training sessions, and a follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the future for anyone who missed this opportunity.

Dr. Caldwell reported that several recruiting initiatives are in the planning stages, particularly online programs and those attracting the interest of new or transfer students. Following Ruidoso's model, virtual meetings with high school counselors will be planned for spring.

Dr. Caldwell said the *ENMU Reads* outreach program has taken off, and we are partnering with several large market libraries. A total of 45 libraries and 87 branches are partnering with us, and more than 88,000 persons are "following" the *ENMU Reads* Facebook page.

Dr. Caldwell reported that preparations are underway for the 2021 Legislative Session. A System brochure is being developed by Steve Lestarjett, stressing the collaboration between the three campuses. The Legislative Finance Committee met on December 8, with a positive forecast of “flat” budgets for FY21. This forecast is much more favorable than previously thought. If capital funds are available, requests will be prepared for equipment at KENW, a roof for the theatre building, and the completion of the keyless access control project.

Dr. Caldwell stated that we have received funds from the Governor’s office to address technology needs. These funds will be used to purchase laptops and internet “hotspots” for students with financial need. Mr. Clark Elswick was instrumental in securing these GEER funds.

Dr. Caldwell mentioned two upcoming virtual events: the December 12 commencement and inauguration program; and the January 18, 2021, Martin Luther King Jr. celebration program.

Dr. Caldwell announced that three open-forum Q&A sessions will be held next week via Teams. She will invite questions and comments from attendees and intends to use this format as a means to talk about the upcoming spring and fall semesters. In addition, monthly “*Coffee with the President*” Facebook Live sessions are being facilitated to reach out to Alumni.

Presentation of Medallions

Dr. Patrice Caldwell commented that this has been an extraordinary close-knit group of Regents, and it has been a pleasure working with each of them. The terms of Regents Othick, Tatum, and Gergel will conclude in spring 2021 when their replacements are appointed by the Governor. She read the following prepared comments:

Terry Othick

In March 2015, ENMU alumnus Mr. Terry Othick was appointed by New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez to the Board of Regents for the Eastern New Mexico University System to a six-year term. It must have felt like 60. Serving as chair in 2016 and 2020, he was closely involved in leadership change (in Ruidoso and Portales) and a pandemic. One of these would probably have been enough for most presidencies (especially with Regent Othick’s added teaching responsibilities). During his watch, the campus developed a new vocabulary including “virtual” (as in virtual homecoming, commencements, meetings) and imperatives like “you’re muted” or “zoom me”-- Greek to all of us one year ago.

Throughout these experiences, Regent. Othick drew on his extensive reservoirs of optimism and competence fortified by a phenomenal work ethic to follow trends, research issues, and keep himself fully apprised of institutional directions, emerging issues, and information vital to System governance. I recognize, too, the invaluable (and occasionally visual) support of his spouse, our alumna Sissy Othick, who flitted in and out of virtual meetings.

In sum, Regent Othick has served with energy, insight, courtesy, and kindness. I have no way to thank him for this level of service. This institution has no way to thank him. But we are a better institution because, in 2015, he said, yes.

Edwin Tatum

Mr. Edwin Tatum was appointed by New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez to the Board of Regents for the Eastern New Mexico University System in August of 2017 to complete the term of his spouse and this University's dear advocate and friend, Susan Tatum. Anyone following in her footsteps would have to be very special. Fortunately, he is.

Regent Tatum served with distinction during his term on the Board and was elected president of the Board in 2019; during his presidency, he encouraged colleges to make presentations about their programs, recruiting strategies, and professional development efforts, taking a personal interest in each presenter. This was such an important message from the Board. He also guided Regents through a withering array of policy reviews, during which his legal expertise and sense of humor were equally invaluable. His navigation of the Dec 2019 meeting about the recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr Day as a University holiday was an example of grace under pressure that I found particularly commendable.

Regent Tatum's legal expertise and knowledge of business and corporate law regularly informed and assisted Board deliberations. His ability to lighten the mood of Board gatherings never failed to make those events more pleasant and productive. His commitment to the students and the mission of Eastern New Mexico University sets a high standard for all who will come after him.

Joseph Gergel

Mr. Joseph Gergel was appointed by New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to the Board of Regents for the Eastern New Mexico University System in February of 2019; he was elected secretary/treasurer of the Board in 2019, and 2020; and served the last months of his term while also completing graduate studies at Notre Dame.

Mr. Gergel utilized his "insider" understanding of ENMU to add new dimensions to Board issues and discussions. He was a conscientious member, well-prepared for meetings and frequently seeking additional details from University officers about issues coming before the Board or of interest to ENMU students. In his efforts to fully represent students at Eastern, he secured office space and held office hours, making time for students to come and talk with him about their concerns or about his role as a Regent. His term of office was characterized by a truly stellar commitment to representing, speaking for, and benefiting current and future students of the University. Honestly, we could not hope for a better representative of our student body and we will miss his intelligent, thoughtful contributions to the Board's deliberations.

On behalf of Eastern New Mexico University, it is with great pleasure that we publicly commend Mr. Joseph Gergel, Mr. Ed Tatum, and Mr. Terry Othick for their service to the ENMU System and for their many contributions to the success of its students, faculty, staff and administration on all three campuses.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Consent Agenda

1. Fall Graduation List, Portales (*Mr. Clark Elswick, Action*)
2. Fall Graduation List, Roswell (*Dr. Shawn Powell, Action*)
3. Budget Adjustment Request, Portales (*Mr. Scott Smart, Action*)
4. Budget Adjustment Request, Roswell (*Mr. Tony Major, Action*)
5. Budget Adjustment Request, Ruidoso (*Mr. Ryan Trosper, Action*)

Regent Pyle moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Regent Patterson seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

Other Business

1. Tuition and Fee Rates for 2021 – 2022 Academic Year, Portales

Mr. Scott Smart stated that much has changed since the original board materials were submitted two weeks ago. It has been thought that higher education would receive a 5% budget reduction (per LFC, DFA, and Legislature). Now, due to the V-shape recovery of the oil and gas industry in our state, it is expected that state agency budgets will be flat FY21.

Mr. Smart said that given this new information, he would like to alter the original request to the Board. He requested that there be no increase in tuition and fees for FY21 with the right reserved to come back to the Regents if this budget projection does not come to fruition.

Regent Pyle moved that there be no increase to tuition and fees for FY21 with the understanding that this may be brought back to the Board of Regents if things change at the state level. Regent Patterson seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

2. Proposed Rates for Room and Board for 2021 – 2022 Academic Year

Dr. Jeff Long proposed a 3% room rate increase and a 5% board increase for FY21. The board increase projection is derived from Sodexo's anticipation of the product price index and the realization that the minimum wage will increase in January. The proposed room rate increase follows the same increase from past years.

Regent Lance Pyle asked if there had been any negotiation with Sodexo on their original bid, and Dr. Long responded that there had not. Regent Pyle asked how many students are expected to live in West Campus housing in the spring. Dr. Long said there are 75 beds at West Campus for student use, and they are close to capacity.

Regent Patterson moved to approve the proposed room and board rates for FY21-22. No Second. Motion died for lack of second.

Regent Edwin Tatum recommended tabling this item and discussing again at a future meeting. Dr. Long mentioned that delaying this decision will impact Financial Aid packaging but he will be happy to reach out to Sodexo again.

Regent Othick suggested that Dr. Long negotiate this proposal with Sodexo. This matter will be rediscussed at a Special Meeting in the next few weeks. Dr. Long agreed.

REGENTS MATTERS

Information Only

Mr. Scott Smart

Update on HED Approval of the University House

Mr. Smart said this renovation project was approved this week. In advance of the LFC meeting, the Physical Plant crew has demolished the interior of this structure and is ready to move forward. He expects completion of this project in May/June 2021.

Update/Status of Greyhound Arena Roof Project

Mr. Smart said that this project has been completed in its entirety.

Update on 2021 Legislative Capital Outlay Requests

Mr. Smart stated that he and the Chancellor have worked on a list, which includes:

- Access control project (automated building entry system) - \$500K
- KENW equipment needs - \$350K
- Theatre building roof replacement - \$350K

Total requests = \$1.2 million

Regent Pyle asked about further building improvements across campus. Mr. Smart responded that approximately \$1-2 million is spent each year for maintenance and improvements on campus buildings.

Regent Joseph Gergel asked about the status of demolishing Bernalillo Hall. Mr. Smart stated that at this time, they are focusing on the rebricking of Eddy Hall and the electrical lines at West Campus Housing. These two projects are of a greater priority due to the safety issues they pose. The \$2 million set aside for the demolition of Bernalillo Hall will fund these projects instead.

Dr. Jeff Long

Update on Spring/Fall 2021 Recruitment

Dr. Long introduced Mr. Cody Spitz for this update. Mr. Spitz said Enrollment Services has taken part (virtually) in several state recruiting fairs. They have also arranged for our own preview weekend event, which provided opportunities for potential students and their parents to participate in breakout sessions. These sessions were devised to answer specific questions asked by the attendees. These events were also recorded and are available on-demand on our website.

Mr. Spitz said that regional high school counselors have been focusing on students' mental health issues during the fall semester but are gearing up for college enrollment in spring.

Mr. Benito Gonzales

Update on COVID-19 Employees Working from Home/Office

Mr. Benito Gonzales said the University is in compliance with mandates from the CDC, OSHA, and our Governor's Office. It has been a very eventful year. Buildings have been locked down, laptops have been ordered, classes have moved to an online format, and employees have risen to the challenge of working from home. Supervisors are now using Teams to monitor the productivity of their employees. In addition, we have seen the tireless work of our essential employees, including our postal workers, custodians, technical services, and grounds workers.

Mr. Gonzales provided data pertaining to the number of employees on each campus, the number of employees working from home, the number of employees working on campus, and a breakdown of employees working in a hybrid format.

ADJOURNMENT

Regent Tatum moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Regent Gergel seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.



President of the Board



Secretary of the Board

*Minutes recorded and prepared by Karen Van Ruiten
Executive Secretary to the President and Board of Regents*