

# NORTHERN New Mexico College



## Northern New Mexico College Board of Regents Minutes January 25, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, January 25, 2024, in Person and Via Zoom in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola. Regents Present: Michael A. Martin, Porter Swentzell, Casandra Batista Dauz, Regent Archuleta and Regent Velarde.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Ivan Lopez Hurtado, PhD, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Larry Guerrero, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Denise Montoya, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Finance, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Analise Lopez, IT, Carmella Sanchez, Director, Institutional Research, Juan Gallegos, IT, Ambrosia Tuero, Advisor II, Deborah Trujillo, IT, Vince Lithgow, Accountant IV, Evette Abeyta, Budget Director, Haylie Baca, Test Coordinator, Tara Downing, STEM Holistic Engineering Advisor, Julianna Barbee, Director, SBDC, Scott Stokes, CIO, Maria Cedillo, Senior Project Manager, Database Administrator, Cindy Martinez, Human Resources Admin, HR Tech, Jessica Archuleta, Associate Registrar, Janice Baca, Registrar,

Faculty Present: Scott Braley, Sandra Rodriguez, Rhiannon West,

Others Present: Jake Arnold, Felipe Martinez, Family of Past President Solano, Alejandro Lope

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:04AM.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Martin stated Item VI will be moved to Item I and there will be no Student Senate President Report. The Flexible Work Policy will be tabled until the February meeting.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve as amended. Second - Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – not present, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes.**

### III. PUBLIC INPUT

Jake Arnold stated he is from El Rito. Just for full disclosure because he is going to speak a little bit about the name of the college. His actual name is Jean Claude Fiore Arnold but he goes by Jake. He also brings greetings from Andy Lopez the founder and former Director of Las Clinicas in El Rito. He is wintering in Costa Rica. Andy reminded Mr. Arnold about one of the former

Presidents of the Institution Alex McCury. You folks may remember him. He was from Lumberton, Rio Arriba County and Jimmy Carter appointed him as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. At that time the school was known as the Northern New Mexico Vocational Technical School, not Technical Vocational but Vocational Technical. It operated the high school up through 1969. The actual diplomas issued to the students read Northern New Mexico State School. Which was in the bowels of bureaucracy and the statutes, it is still technically the name of the college. It was later on when University of New Mexico ceased its operations in Espanola and Santa Cruz and this school took over the Arts & Sciences curriculum that the legislature allowed the name Northern New Mexico Community College for common convenience and changed it many years later to Northern New Mexico College. There was a long history there about the names of the institution. He brings that up because of some of the historical record about what the college's name is and how it came to be Northern New Mexico Community College and later Northern New Mexico College. The naming of the college is the prerogative of the legislature, nobody else. Years ago, there was an attempt by previous members of this Board, none of which are serving now, to change the name to Northern New Mexico University. They later had to rescind that upon the discovery that the Board of Regents did not have the authority to do that, they could recommend. The name of the institution belongs to the legislature and some other bureaucratic history.

Mr. Arnold Stated he would also like to mention there is a proposed constitutional amendment introduced by two Democratic State Senators in Las Cruces and Silver City that if the legislature were to send this to the voters to the next election and it be approved there would be a whole new system for choosing the regents of all the state colleges and universities. All the four-year schools. It would basically set up, leaving up to the legislature, a nominating commission which in some way mirrors the nomination commissions for the state judges and that body would recommend regents to the Governor and the Governor would be required to choose from the slate of recommendations for the nominating commission. Mr. Arnold stated this is it and to reiterate (inaudible). Board President Martin thanked Mr. Arnold.

Felipe Martinez stated he lives in El Rito. Mr. Martinez stated he is here because every community has one person sometimes two or three and most of those people turn to those people for questions and answers. He takes pride in saying that he is one of those people, people turn to him for questions for market reports regarding livestock market, or they will call him up burials, acequias and other things. One of the other things is and the reason for his presence at the Board meeting and they asked him about issues regarding corruption. He has been asked over the course of a year if he could tell them the status of the Henrietta Trujillo case. He has the court record dated March 8, 2023. She agreed to pay \$81,910 plus an additional \$4,284 and he doesn't know who negotiated this deal on behalf of the college. She is required to pay and was ordered to pay \$200 a month. He created a little calculation last night, that is 33 years and 4 months. He does not know how old Ms. Henrietta is today but if she is 60 or so, she will not pay this bill until she is 93 if she makes it there. People in his community have been wondering if he could give them an answer. He does not have an answer but came to the Board of Regents meeting and will get back to them. He asked if there has been an accounting and how much has been paid, how much has been collected and how old is she really. He thinks this is important. That is his purpose for being at the Board of Regents meeting. If the information is not readily available, he could leave his number and someone could get back to him. His daughter will be attending Northern this fall.

President Balderas thanked Mr. Martinez for attending and stated he was not here when the issue occurred. He will be glad to look into the case and check the status. It would be his legal position as President to formally assert the college as a victim and monitor the restitution. We also took the first policy change in the history of Northern where institute our own internal legal counsel and certified law enforcement personnel. That did not quite exist in years past and so we are trying to bring reforms like that that safeguard public funds. President Balderas thanked Mr. Martinez for bringing this and stated he will get back to him.

Board President Martin stated in his tenure on the board in our deadlines with Risk Management the Board is never consulted. They just go ahead and they may say here is what we have come up with an you need to approve it. The College will get Mr. Martinez this information.

#### **IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

##### **A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports**

###### **1. Housing Committee**

Nothing to report.

###### **2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee**

Regent Archuleta stated they had a good meeting yesterday. Nothing really to address.

###### **3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Regent Swentzell stated the committee did not meeting, there was no business at this time.

###### **4. Board Assessment Committee**

Board President Board President Martin stated in the packet, we have conducted with the help of AGB a self-assessment back in October and we had five areas that received a poor vote from the Regents.

1. Review of the Mission of the College – this will be assigned Academic/Student Affairs Committee to review annually.
2. Review the Chief Executives Compensation before June 20, 2024 – he would like to set this up for a meeting in April to do this and to also assess the President’s performance from the last year. According to President’ Balderas contract as least once per fiscal year the Board will meet with the President to evaluate and discuss his performance. A written performance will be provided at the end of the meeting. The Board, the President (inaudible) oral and written reports as reasonably required by the Board. Board President Martin would like to put the Board on notice that if there is anything oral or written that you need from the President, you need to get him that information by the February meeting so he has some time to compile it by the April meeting. Board President Martin asked if there were any questions. No questions from the Board.

3. Sustainability of the Current Financial Model Endowment Performance. Board President Martin would like the Audit/Finance/Facilities Committee review that annually also. Regent Velarde and Regent Archuleta will get together and they can set a timeframe when they review the mission and the current financial situation.
4. Board Orientation. At our HERC meeting on April 23 that Regent Batista Daus and Board President Martin attended, Patricia Salazar Ives from Cuddy & McCarthy gave a very good presentation on orientation. Board President Martin thought we would reach out to her to include that in the packet for the new Regents and if individual Regents had input, they need to get that to Mr. Baca by the 30th so we could compile an orientation guide for the new Regents.
5. Assess Performance of the Board and Board President. Board President Martin would like to set that meeting date for the March meeting. That would occur in open session. This should be included in the March agenda.

Board President asked if there were any questions about the self-assessment. No questions from the Board of Regents

#### 5. Open Meetings Resolution

Board President Martin stated this is included

in your packet. This is something we do annually at the beginning of the year. Thank you, Counselor Baca for preparing this document for us.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the 2024 Open Meetings Resolution.

**Regent Batista Daus moved to approve the 2024 Open Meetings Resolution. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – not present, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes.**

#### 6. Recognition of Frank Anthony Serrano, III (this item was moved to Item I

Board President Martin stated Alex Serrano, Frank's wife and her brother Mr. Salazar. Board President Martin stated he went through Sigfredo Maestas book about the (inaudible) to get a little history on President Serrano. Board President Martin stated Frank Serrano was hired in March of 1972 for the purpose of preparing the (inaudible) for accreditation of the institution as a community college. At that time, it was Northern New Mexico Vocational School. In December of 1976 Representative Nick Salazar introduced HB326 creating a community college by merging the Northern Branch of University of New Mexico with the New Mexico Technical Vocational School. On July 1 of 1977 a new school was created and the Board hired Frank Serrano, III as the first president after his three-year tenure as Chief Executive Officer of the New Mexico Technical Vocational School. The budget was \$6M, resulting from combining the budget of the two preceding institutions. He served until 1983 and Board President Martin stated and would like to have them share any memories of Mrs. Serrano's husband and brother-in-law.

Mrs. Serrano thanked the Board of Regents for the invitation for being here. It makes them so proud and she wishes her husband would be here. He would have loved this. This was his love, this college, he put his all into it and even up to the latest date, every time they would pass by the college, he would say a little prayer and he would also say thank you lord, thank you for this college, thank you for the people that are still running it continue to bless them and just make it succeed as best as possible. What can we say. None of you were here, you don't remember his work but he gave 100% into it and they appreciate being here and being recognized and we miss him very much. He is gone now, two months tomorrow and that's it.

President Balderas stated he is learning that Northern has a long tradition of service and there are two areas that he thinks are remarkable about Northern. First is that it seems to be a family and we have a practice here as a Board to not only honor the service of individuals which we are doing today but really honor the families behind the public service. We would like to thank you all as being family and we would also like to recognize your niece who is a student here as well and so that tradition of service hopefully continues through our students and we want to thank you for trusting us to continue that legacy of education. Welcome back. Mrs. Serrano stated she is a product of NNMCC. She finished here, we have roots here. All three of our kids while we lived in El Rito and we are sorry they didn't come to school here and she is a product of here and this is what really started her and their businesses that they have been able to run for this many years, 40+ years and to them this is a very important and great thing.

Board President Martin presented the Serrano family with a certificate.

#### 7. Presidential Review Date – Informational

Board President Martin stated he would like to set this up for April meeting after AGB conference in March. This will take place in closed session.

### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Martin moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2023

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the minutes from December 15, 2023. Regent Batista Dauz – second. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – not present, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes.**

Board President Martin moved to approve minutes of Special meeting of January 5, 2024

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – not present, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes.**

## VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Regent Velarde joined the meeting at 9:31AM

#### A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas stated the following highlights for the last month:

Despite having to adapt due to a winter storm, we had a very successful Convocation week and New Student Orientation. As always, we are excited to welcome our new students to campus as they begin their educational journey, and it was a great time to gather as colleagues to share knowledge and renew our shared commitment to supporting student success this spring semester. It was a great opportunity for interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Larry Guerrero to further connect with faculty and staff as he works in his new role, and in addition to our usual trainings and meetings, we were also pleased to offer a workshop on the Power of Active Learning and a Safety and Security briefing with our new Director of Safety & Security, Geno Trujillo.

During Convocation week, we hosted the ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities in Education) kickoff celebration. Senator Leo Jaramillo really engaged the students as the keynote speaker. We're partnering with New Mexico Highlands University, Santa Fe Community College, University of New Mexico, Hispanic Roundtable of New Mexico, McCurdy Charter School and Española Valley High School on this endeavor to create and support a seamless educational system that is more responsive, accountable, accessible, and supportive of underrepresented students' educational success.

We want to congratulate Steve Cox, the Northern Stewards and their collaborator, Simtable. The Computational Social Science Society of the Americas awarded their conference paper the 2023 Computational Social Science Impact Award. You can read the paper on the Northern Steward home page, <https://sites.google.com/nnmc.edu/northern-stewards/home>.

We once again surpassed our \$60,000 goal for our 2023 Northern Scholarship Fund campaign by \$5,925. This will provide \$1,000 scholarships to 115 eligible students. I want to thank Judith Pepper for her hard work in making this a successful campaign and our community partners for their generosity in support of our students.

President Balderas stated once again we begin to blaze trails; he believes in our capital infrastructure. When we continue to do our day jobs, we continue to pursue capital infrastructure as a social justice commitment to our students. He is pleased to report that we are conducting a facilities assessment for housing units including dormitories on the El Rito Campus. This is extremely preliminary but President Balderas stated he celebrate and announce it as a celebration because these facilities are very old. Many individuals have their opinions about E Rito but we are conducting a very technical assessment to finally get to the answer of what is truly salvageable, what is the path forward in terms of costs and would truly contribute to the overall mission of Northern New Mexico College. President Balderas is hoping to have those assessments on some of these historical buildings by the end of January. Also, HED recently approved \$322,00 to begin work on paving and stripping. President Balderas stated he gets excited about capital infrastructure because to him it is a civil rights issue. We are trying to become ADA compliant for all our students on this campus. Even little things like making sure we have ADA parking, ADA signage and more

importantly ADA sidewalks is a huge priority for President Balderas and so to get \$322,000 deployed for this campus, the Board of Regents and faculty and all of us should take pride that we are trying to fight hard that you deserve the best facilities possible. That is a big development. We are hoping to draw down \$2.2M of infrastructure and that is worth celebrating in terms of the update.

Northern New Mexico College Upward Bound Director Tobe Bott-Lyons and his fellow contributor, Hanna Negishi Levin (Davis NM Scholarship), were in conversation with Deputy Secretary of Higher Education Patricia Trujillo at Collected Works Bookstore Monday to discuss the role of education in bridging the rural/urban opportunity gap. Their chapter “Urbanormativity, College Access, and Rural First-Generation Students of Color in Northern New Mexico: A Case Study” appears in “Race and Rurality: Considerations for Advancing Higher Education Equity.”

Dr. Rhiannon West took her third research trip to The Bahamas in December 2023. Her research assistant this time was dual-credit student Anelia Holterman. Anelia graduates with her high-school diploma and her AS in Biology this spring. They spent 17 days in the field at research sites in the interior lakes of San Salvador Island, recording behavioral data to determine what behaviors are important in species diversity in groups of closely related species of fish.

Regent Swentzell asked regarding the assessment of El Rito is that internal or external. Who is doing the assessment. President Balderas stated as the Board of Regents recall there was an article written last year about the \$700,000 grant to combat student homelessness. President Balderas did not feel comfortable just deploying \$700,000 because El Rito has so many needs and it has been such a sensitive topic. We thought it was better to hire a technical expert that could go in and objectively look at all the issues. This is the gentleman who does project management on the entire State of New Mexico on public projects. He has been involved in projects at UNM and NMHU so we hired him on a limited basis with a reduced fee. President Balderas has him assessing seven buildings in El Rito to see which ones are the best to invest in and which ones are closest for student benefit and we should have the report. He is expecting to have a report we could all review.

## B. CUP/NMICC Report

President Balderas stated as the Board of Regents knows we are knee deep in the legislative session. The legislative session is a 30-day budget session. Currently we are monitoring lobbying and advocating for increased funding for the college. Right now, the Governor is recommending a 3% increase to our college. The LFC is recommending 4% and there is about \$5M-\$8M capital infusion pending. All of that is speculative and it is like trying to predict the weather 10, 20 or 30 days out. He doesn't put any weight in those projects. President Balderas stated we had a phenomenal discussion this week where Representative Joe Sanchez advocated in the House Appropriations Committee to put additional funding over and above the 3% to 4%. We don't know if that will survive or if that will succeed. President Balderas will be attending a legislative senate finance visit this afternoon. The budget will be going over to the Senate in a day or so. President Balderas will be able update this body in the next couple of days of what the final numbers are in the House of Representative and then we will go in defensive and try to reflect the budget in the Senate very soon.

## C. NNMC Foundation

President Balderas stated he would like to skip this report at this point because there is not enough to report out.

#### D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following staff and faculty:

**Samantha Barela**  
**Instructor, Allied Health**

Samantha Barela is a new Allied Health faculty member who will primarily teach courses for our Healthcare Career Pathways Project with Española Valley High School. Her last position was as Lead Faculty for the EMSI Paramedic Program at Santa Fe Community College. Samantha has been a New Mexico licensed paramedic and a nationally certified paramedic since 2011. In 2007, she started her career with Santa Fe County Fire Department as a firefighter/EMT and began teaching EMT courses in 2010. She has taught for Special Forces of the Air Force, the AFR/UNM EMSA paramedic program and many volunteer fire departments. She has earned several EMS education instructor credentials and a Bachelors of Applied Science with a focus in EMS Management from Eastern New Mexico University in 2014.

**DezBaa'**  
**Director of Tribal Relations**

DezBaa' has stepped into the role of Director of Tribal Relations at Northern New Mexico. She has a unique perspective of Northern's growth from its days as a community college to what it is today. She is an alumna; she holds a massage therapy certificate and currently teaches classes in the Film and Digital Media Arts Department. She is a citizen of the Diné Nation, born in and is based out of Santa Fe, and was raised in Española. DezBaa' is born for the Nooda'í Dine'e (Ute clan) and is of Basque, Spanish, and Mexican descent.

DezBaa' is SAG actor, television writer, and an indie film producer. Most recently she secured a recurring guest star role for two seasons on AMC's "Dark Winds." She was hired on as a Staff Writer for Season 2 where she was promoted to Story Editor at the end of the season. In addition, she has had supporting roles working opposite Julianne Moore, Michael Shannon, Christian Bale, Zahn McClarnon and Ciarnán Hinds. DezBaa' holds a Bachelor's degree in geology from Amherst College and two MFAs from the Institute of American Indian Arts, one for Screenwriting and the other for Creative Nonfiction.

**Tara Downing**  
**STEM Holistic Advisor**

Tara Downing is the new Holistic Advisor for the Engineering Technology Department. Her last position was Program Manager for a Residential Adolescent Treatment Center and before that she worked as a therapist supporting adults in their substance use recovery. She completed training at the University of Utah in Feminist Multi-Cultural Counseling at the Women's Resource Center while completing her Master's Degree from Westminster College. She has a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and IDP: Community Service in Geographical Context.



**Ashley Duemmler**  
**STEM Career, Transfer, and Internships Coordinator**

Ashley Duemmler joins NNMC under Title III as a STEM Career, Transfer, and Internship Coordinator. She came from Raleigh, NC, and has previous experience working with computer science graduate students at North Carolina State University as a Career Services Graduate Intern. She graduated from North Carolina State University with an M.Ed. in College Counseling and Student Development and received a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from University of North Carolina Charlotte. During her master's experience, she held countless workshops, including job and internship search groups. She also created groups for students that focused on wellness.

**Mary Ann Gilbreth, Ed.D.**  
**Adjunct Faculty, Department of Teacher Education**

Mary Ann Gilbreth joins us as adjunct faculty in the Department of Teacher Education. Her career spans 50 years in education, with 23 years teaching K – 8 +. She is a Reading Specialist, served seven years as Administration Principal and Assistant Principal in California and taught 20 years at the university level in Illinois and New Mexico. She holds certification in Illinois, California and New Mexico in Early Childhood, Elementary and Administration with TESOL Endorsement.

**TJ Hilton**  
**Coordinator for the Center of Fine Arts & Events**

TJ Hilton joins Northern as the Center for the Arts and Events Coordinator. He moved here from Austin, TX where he oversaw the operations and programming of multiple galleries on the campuses of Austin Community College. He looks forward to developing quality programming at the CFA and campus-wide and supporting initiatives which will enrich us all.

**Valentina Livingston**  
**Native American Center Holistic Advisor/Veteran Resource Center Coordinator**

Our new Native American Center Holistic Advisor and Veteran Resource Center Coordinator Valentina Livingston is a Diné woman, born and raised in New Mexico. She's an Army Veteran and continues her service as a part-time Staff Sergeant in the Army National Guard. She is a strategic communications professional with over 6 years of experience specializing in public health amongst the military connected community. While working with the Defense Health Agency, she's partnered with stakeholders and non-profits to secure \$300,000 of funding to address Veteran suicide in rural communities. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication and went on to earn a Master in Marketing from Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

**India MacWeeney**  
**Adjunct Faculty, Department of Arts & Human Sciences**

India MacWeeney joins the Department of Arts & Human Sciences as adjunct faculty. She brings a diverse background in the arts, psychology and the social sciences. As an undergraduate she studied film and cultural studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and went on to do graduate work in sociology, psychology, and social work at Goldsmiths College – University of

London, The New School for Social Research and Florida State University. India began making personal documentary films in her 20s but for the last fifteen years has been focusing on creative nonfiction writing. She has worked as an educator in New Mexico in both the arts and in psychology and as a therapist. She is currently in the dissertation phase of her PhD in psychology at the University of West Georgia.

**Jeanette Martinez**  
**Director of Financial Aid**

Jeannette Martinez is our new Director of Financial Aid. She recently retired from the State of New Mexico Department of Health after 25 years of service. She worked as a Finance/Budget Director for the Division of Health Improvement and as a Grants Management Bureau Chief with Administrative Services, where they oversaw all the federal grants within the Department of Health.

**Reynold Silber**  
**Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Sciences**

Dr. Reynold is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Sciences. He holds master's degrees in Theoretical Physics and Geophysics and Planetary Science and a Ph.D. in Geophysics from Western University, Canada. He also holds an Honors BSc degree in Geology from Western University. Throughout his graduate studies, Dr. Silber taught courses, led labs and conducted tutorials, which earned him a prestigious teaching award. Dr. Silber held a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow position at Yale University, during which he was involved with research and mentoring students and postdoctoral researchers. During 2023, he was a Research Engineer and an acting Lab Manager at Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center (CEMRC), operated by NMSU.

*We'd also like to welcome Nichole Armijo as Instructor in our ADN Program, Chris Augster as Adjunct Faculty and STEM Holistic Advisor Jonathan Valdez.*

E. College Updates

President Balderas stated he merged the updates with Celebrate Northern so he will pass on this item.

**VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Scott Braley has nothing to report. They had a faculty association meeting but it was just a meeting. The first meeting will be the first week of February. Board President Martin thanked Mr. Braley.

**VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

**None.**

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Vice President for Finance & Administration

#### 1. Flexible Work Policy

This item has been tabled.

#### 2. Fiscal Watch Reports

Ms. Storey presented the fiscal watch reports to the Board of Regents. The Fiscal Watch Report includes an extra page which includes the Branch.

Board President Martin asked where the \$700,000 from the Governor would be in the Budget. Ms. Storey stated we have not received the final executed agreement. It will likely be seen in the BARs and it will be on the branch side of things.

Board President asked about Ms. Trujillo's payments to the college. Board President Martin asked if she pays corrections and they send us the check. Ms. Storey stated this is correct. Board President Martin also asked if she doesn't pay it, they deal with it. Ms. Storey stated this is correct and so far, this fiscal year we have received \$600.00. Board President Martin asked if it is a total of \$1,200 has been received. Ms. Storey stated that is correct. Mr. Baca stated this is part of her plea and disposition and was negotiated by the District Attorney as part of the prosecution. This is a condition of the outcome of her case. That is why it is managed by Department of Corrections on the criminal side of things.

Board President Martin asked what happens if the person passes away and they owe a substantial amount of money. Mr. Baca stated in a civil judgment you could levy judgements against their estate. He will find out additional information. This was part of her punishment for the plea she accepted. Board President Martin stated we were not involved in this. Mr. Baca stated no, the District Attorney kept authority over this. At times they will take a victim impact statement but that is not exclusive. It would be the District Attorney.

Regent Swentzell asked if the decrease in cash equivalents. President Balderas just went through a lot of new employees and asked if they were filling positions.

Ms. Storey stated that is a low number to her. We are spending what we are bringing in are they new hires or vacant positions. A lot of the roofing projects that we activated; we are trying to draw down funds as fast as quickly as we expend them. Regent Swentzell stated he also saw with El Rito the same thing. years. President Balderas stated we are being very prudent as a practice. At some point, President Balderas would like after the strategic plan, with our Provost, Faculty and Staff to be able to weigh in a little bit on where are the areas of educational growth that are opportunities for growth for students and where are some departments that are understaffed or under budget. He has not engaged in that yet. We have been plugging holes and vacancy savings.

Regent Swentzell asked regarding turnover, things are settling down a little bit here, he would like something for the next meeting to look at what it looks like now that we are a few years out and the dust is settling. What is the vacancy rate here. Some areas we are having perennial difficulty in filling positions. How far away is Northern from being fully staffed.

President Balderas stated three areas he foresees opportunity of adjustment. Ultimately, as he was tracking enrollment in the last 15 years. Northern needs to be about a 1,500-student population to pay its bills. The good news is we got a shout out from the Secretary for Higher Education literally yesterday as number one per capita in enrollment growth in the State of New Mexico. We are outperforming UNM, NMSU. We are punching above our weight. We have to in about a year to figure out where we are efficient. We are struggling in some operational positions. Like accountants, competing with LANL. We need to look at technical support. This college needs more technical professionals and the only way to get more investment to compete with the labs and Santa Fe is to restructure how we compete with those positions. At some points how do we want to compete in the educational services, what degrees and are we truly meeting. We had a great conversation yesterday where the marketplace is coming to us for specific degrees. President Balderas is not sure how long that has been that the College has looked at its programs. We want to make sure students and faculty drive that conversation. If we can get students to 1,500 it would be amazing. The third area is just financials, he wants to invest in student growth and student recruitment. If we can get to 1,500 to 2,000 students this College can compete. His first year he was observing, the second year we are gathering the data and the solutions and improving and he would like to identify those areas.

Dr. Guerrero has noted if you look at our dashboard as a college, without adjustments, just plugging holes, our financials and our recruitment and the fact that like WNMU, we are out retaining our students even at WNMU is something to be proud of and is something to be proud of. President Balderas wants to honor all the work of all the faculty, staff and Regents for all the years. That is a great question and hopefully by the summer have a lot of information for the Board to weigh in on the direction you want us to go. Board President Martin asked what our enrollment is right now. Dr. Guerrero stated our enrollment as of today is 1,223 students which is 6 students shy of the fall semester. This fall we had 1,228 students and we are at 1,223 so that is an unusual turn of events that most institutions because spring enrollment is typically a lot lower. We are in line to tie it and our credit hour production; we are 616 shy this fall. Our numbers are (inaudible). Board President Martin asked about retention. Dr. Guerrero stated our retention is right at 55%, which is outstanding. He is never happy with retention or graduation rates; they could always be higher but with 55% that is wonderful and our graduation rate as of today is 40%. Most schools are between 16% and 32% so we are well above. President Balderas stated this is amazing. President Balderas stated he was in the back of the House Finance Committee. There was a bunch of Presidents and Lobbyists and he knows we are a scrappy little school and they were testifying in the House Committee yesterday and they said the number one enrollment rates are with NNMC. That is the hard work and that is without any adjustments and without any strategic. President Balderas thinks we can go out and recruit more Native American tribal students, more trade students, more business students, our teacher program and nursing. We are bringing people in but we think there are some adjustments like any that will help with enrollment growth. Just the work of faculty, staff and employees and this Board, we are per capita the number one trending college in the State of New Mexico without any additional help from the legislature.

Board President Martin asked if there were questions from the Board. No questions from the Board of Regents.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Fiscal Watch Reports.

**Regent Batista Dauz moved to approve the Fiscal Watch Reports. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – not present. Regent Batista Dauz. Motion passed unanimously.**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XII. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

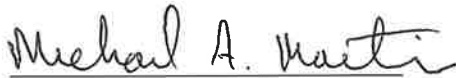
**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Regent Batista Dauz moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – not present. Regent Batista Dauz. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board of Regents adjourned at 10:04AM

Approved:



Michael A. Martin  
Board President



Erica Rita Velarde (Mar 28, 2024 19:41 EDT)

Erica Velarde  
Vice President







# 0240\_001

Final Audit Report

2024-03-28

Created:	2024-03-27
By:	Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)
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-  Document created by Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)  
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