

NORTHERN New Mexico College



NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES AUGUST 28, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, August 28, 2026, Via Zoom in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Española. Campus. Regents Present in person and Viz Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Ruben Archuleta, Ron Lovato, and Dolores Gurule. Regent Velarde was not in attendance.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Juan Gallegos, Windows System/Information Security Administrator, Lori Baca, PhD, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ellen Trabka, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Vince Lithgow, Accountant III, Sara McCormick, Career Services, Arin McKenna, Staff Writer, Reporter, Communications & Marketing, Janice Baca, Registrar, Maria Cedillo, Senior Project Manager/Data Base Administrator, IT, Anjel Romero, Library Access Services and Library Manager, Marcel Povijua, Payroll Officer, Human Resources, Chris Trujillo, Lead IT Specialist, Carmella Sanchez, Director of Institutional Research, Stephanie Sandoval, Interim Human Resources Director, Geno Trujillo, Director of Safety & Security, Cindy Martinez, Human Resources Admin/Tech,

Faculty Present: Scott Braley, Sushmita Nandy, Joseph Padilla, Rhiannon West

Others Present: Eileen Gallegos Trujillo, Leo Valdez, Cecilia Tucker, Brandee DeAguiro, Student Senate President, Tim Crone

FINAL AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:08AM.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Martin stated he would like to move up to the Disposition of the Alumni Archive for preservation under the staff reports to right after the approval of the agenda and the rest of the agenda will remain as it is.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Regent Lovato moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second – Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

1. Housing Committee

Regent Archuleta state there is no update.

2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

Regent Archuleta stated there was a quick meeting and nothing really major.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

No update.

4. Governance Committee

a. National Call to Action

Chairman Martin stated all the Regents received a letter from the National Secure Education about a call to action. Chairman Martin asked President Balderas to fill the Board in a little bit on this and asked for his thoughts where we're going from what the request was. President Balderas stated yah, this is not the first time we've received federal inquiries, he would call it, at this point. Legal counsel is monitoring both the litigation because there is unrelated litigation to the posture with the federal administration from Harvard is litigating. HACU is litigating some of the racial designations, and so it's an extremely volatile, posture that higher education and the

current administration are undergoing. President Balderas asked Matt Baca if he would like to add anything. Mr. Baca stated he thinks President Balderas covered everything.

5. HERC Committee

Chairman Martin stated there will be a HERC meeting on September 15th and they have invited the governor candidates, Ms. Haaland and Mr. Hull to join them and they have also asked Mr. Saavedra to join them to give them his take...the CUPS take on this national call to action and also President Balderas brought up last week at our audit entrance meeting about the potential change in audits for...in the State of New Mexico, and we're going to look into that, too, sir. President Balderas stated there was a bill last year that would change the way higher education institutions are audits and they're...he thinks the bill died. President Balderas asked Matt Baca, General Counsel if that is correct. Mr. Baca stated yes. President Balderas stated we're anticipating it coming back but he believes at some point. The legislative leaders will be asking us whether we would prefer a single audit, or a statewide audit, and they would structurally change the statute. But, at this point, we'll have to monitor, but yes, that did come up in our own audit, because we've gone from a very...where audits in the past have disclosed findings, it was a positive thing, because you tend to find out where there are mistakes or areas that you need to fix up in your institution. We use it as a management tool, so we've gone from having issues causing questionable audits, so now we have 3... had 3 clean audits in a row, and so we use these findings to really improve our management and our operations, so we did bring it to the attention of our chairman and the audit committee. It's something that I would say faculty and staff's perspective is we use the audit as a way to improve our operations and our system, so we sometimes like to find issues that we like to fix. Before they become a bigger problem. So, but at this point, it's just something we should keep an eye on.

Chairman Martin thanked President Balderas and stated they would go on to approval of the minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2026.

Regent Gurule moved to approve the minutes of July 31 2026. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas reported the following:

The most exciting celebration in the last two months was our groundbreaking ceremony for Cameron's Place. We are so honored to be dedicating this wonderful new space to the memory of Cameron "Space Jam Cam" Nolan Martinez who lost his life to gun violence. It was a very moving ceremony, with tributes from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham with an executive document for Cameron and Cameron's mother, Valerie Martinez.

Our two Bachelor's programs in the Engineering & Technology Department (Electromechanical Engineering Technology and Information Engineering Technology) are now officially re-accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. We are accredited for the next six years, with no interim report requirements. There are no findings in either of our final program accreditation statements. ABET is the apex accreditation agency for Engineering/Engineering Technology programs, and the recognition by ABET is a testament to the global quality standard of our programs.

We welcomed 133+ new students to campus for New Student Orientation. The students received a great introduction to the campus, our departments and the support services available to them thanks to the hard work of our staff and faculty. We want to thank the IT department, the Communications & Marketing Team, Security, Facilities and all the Tour leaders and Tour guides. Special thanks to the Fall 2026 NSO Committee: Ambrosia Tuero, Sondra Adams, Christian Gomez, BranDee DeAgüero, Analise Lopez-Bustos, Ocelot Lopez, Marcel Povijua, and Martin Shupla.

A new group of students moved into the El Rito dorms two weeks ago. It's still a great feeling to have these dorms re-opened. A special thanks to our facilities team who helped make the dormitory ready to receive them and to everyone who helped with them move in.

It was a pleasure to welcome back our faculty and staff during Convocation. We presented service awards to 20 employees, including a 30-year award to Cecelia Romero. Sneha Chakradhar was awarded Full-Time Faculty of the Year; Mary Ann Gilbreth was named Part-Time Faculty of the Year and Edwina Romero was named Staff of the Year. I awarded the President's Eagle Award to Northern's Accreditation Team for their outstanding work in guiding the College through a successful accreditation process.

It was great to see a revival of the Northern New Mexico Garlic Festival and Farm Truck and Tractor Show at ¡Sostenga! Farm. This was one of ¡Sostenga!'s most beloved events

from 2008 through 2018. This year included lunch by Chef Ray Naranjo, live music by Vicente Griego Y Revozo and cultural sharing. Our thanks to Joseluis Ortiz y Muniz for planning this event and to Greenroots Institute and all our other sponsors.

On July 22, we hosted educators and workforce leaders from across the region to establish priorities for an Alliance for Rural Career Technical Education. The convening was organized by New Mexico Cooperative Educational Services, with participation from the State Workforce Development Board, Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board, Department of Workforce Solutions, and the Public Education Department's College and Career Readiness Bureau. The focus was on strengthening the trades pipeline through stronger industry partnerships, expanded credentialing pathways and earlier exposure to CTE in K–12 education. Our own Joe Padilla was a great addition to the panel, making some of the strongest arguments for how important this is and the best ways to strengthen these critical programs and relationships.

Northern Women's Basketball wrapped up a successful 3-day Youth Skills Camp in July, welcoming more than 75 boys and girls ages 5–17. With two age-based sessions, campers developed their basketball fundamentals, competed in fun drills and games and built confidence both on and off the court.

Thanks to the dedication of Lina Alegre and a team of passionate volunteers, underutilized space on the El Rito Campus has been transformed into a vibrant rain garden and pollinator habitat, which is now in full bloom and welcoming the community to come visit. This living ecosystem supports native pollinators, captures rainwater and serves as a hands-on learning space for the community. Special thanks to River Source interns, Ghost Ranch volunteers, and support from the Carroll Petrie Foundation. Lina also got the El Rito campus designated a Bee Campus USA.

We're Northern Proud of Dawniel Hayward who won 2nd place at the Screenwriters Conference 2026 Pitch Competition. She caught the attention of a major Hollywood producer connected to the Pirates of the Caribbean and Avatar franchises, who is helping her develop her TV series and mentoring her in story building.

We want to congratulate Cipriano Marquez on his work with the Española Farmers Market team. Cipriano started as a work study student with the market, which extended into spearheading business sponsorship outreach during their Fall 2025 Membership Drive to ultimately joining their Board of Directors. It's inspiring to see our students supporting local agriculture, connecting with community members and strengthening the relationships that make Northern New Mexico so special.

Our Staff Writer/Reporter Arin McKenna has won a third-place award in the National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest for her web copy for the ¡Sostenga! Farm page on our website.

Filmmaker Makaio Frazier brought his award-winning film “The Way We Carry Water” back to Northern for a special screening last month, closing out its festival run right where his story began. The film has earned Audience Choice Award and Best Local Short honors at the Las Cruces International Film Festival. Proceeds from the event supported the New Mexico Acequia Association.

B. CUP/NMICC Report

President Balderas stated next week, we will be gathering all the university presidents. We'll be gathering for, to finalize a shared strategy for the New Mexico legislature. We are going to be inviting our two new amazing interim provosts, and so I look forward to engaging all the institutions of higher learning, with our provost leadership, and also the executive team, sir. And, we'll keep the Regents posted of any developments from those discussions next Tuesday and Wednesday in Santa Fe. Finally, projection, the LFC is projecting more new money, they're projecting nearly, well, the consensus revenue supports about \$925 million in new recurring revenues. However, the legislature does anticipate they will need to cover new costs in about \$200 million of executive orders that the governor has pushed forth. Resulting only in about \$700 million in new recurring revenue. Ultimately, their message to us is to keep expectations realistic and modest, but we will once again have to be creative in how we lobby and advocate, for Northern. President Balderas stated that concludes his CUP report. We look forward to seeing you all at the HERC meeting. I believe that's in... is it Portales or Clovis? Chairman Martin stated in Portales, November 2nd, 3rd. President Balderas stated okay, so we'll... our... some of our exec team will be traveling as well to...to assist you on that role as well. If I may move to the philanthropy report, sir, please do, sir.

C. NNMCF Foundation

President Balderas presented the following:

FY27 Donations

July 1, 2026 to August 21, 2026 - \$47,525 in donations.

Assisting Career Services with grant applications and donor requests for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2026.

Committed Donors:

RDC - \$500

Ben Trujillo State Farm Insurance - \$500

Las Cruces, NM

Don Chavez - \$1000.00

Joanna Frye - \$500

Finalizing Scholarship Awards managed by Northern New Mexico College Foundation:

1. Maley Nursing Scholarships
10, \$5000.00 (\$50,000) awards for 10 Associate Nursing students
2. Del Norte Credit Union Trades Scholarships
1, \$2000 award; 5, \$1000 awards (\$7,000)
3. Northern Scholarship Awards
100, \$1000 awards, \$100,000)
4. Endowed Scholarship Awards
60 awards, \$1000 up to \$2500, (\$75,000)
5. Longenecker & Associates
2, \$5000 awards, (\$10,000)
6. Del Norte Credit Union Vanessa Valerio Nursing Scholarship
1, \$1000 award

FY27 Awards = 179 awards totaling, \$243,000

D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following new staff and faculty:

Jacquelyn Carver

Assistant Professor, Nursing & Health Sciences

Jacquelyn Carver joins us as Assistant Professor for Nursing & Health Sciences. She relocated here from Florida. Jacquelyn comes to Northern with a wide breadth of knowledge of the nursing profession. Having spent many years caring for others, she has taken the knowledge, experience, and skills obtained and turned them into teaching opportunities for the newest generation of nursing students. She recently earned her Master of Science in Nursing Education from Western Governors University. She believes that keeping up with technology and the latest learning techniques will greatly benefit student learning, so she also earned the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator certification to hopefully bring more interactive learning and foster critical thinking skills for NNMCC's diverse student population.

Melissa Herrera

Program Coordinator

Melissa Herrera, a native of Española, is honored to step into the role of Substance Abuse Counselor Program Coordinator. She also teaches psychology and substance abuse courses. Melissa has been an adjunct instructor at NNMCC since 2020. She is inspired by the college's return of the substance abuse counselor degree program. She views her work not just as a profession, but as a true calling to help heal and uplift a community deeply impacted by addiction. Melissa holds a master's degree in Addiction Counseling and brings vital field experience from her work with Adult Protective Services,

Department of Health and as a local therapist. She is also a proud published author of two children's books.

Lisa Langston

Assistant Professor

Lisa Langston also joins Northern as an Assistant Professor for the Nursing & Health Sciences Department. She brings 12 years of nursing experience across many healthcare settings. During her time as a nurse, she obtained several certifications and served as leader and preceptor for new nurses. She previously taught nursing students and looks forward to turning her passion for education into a full-time career. Lisa originally graduated with her associate degree in nursing, continued to obtain her bachelor's degree in nursing from Southern New Hampshire University, and is currently finishing her Master's in Nursing Education.

Amanda Trujillo

Admissions Specialist II

Amanda M. Trujillo is currently working in the Admissions office as an Admissions Specialist II. Amanda is a data entry specialist with more than 9 years of experience entering data. She is looking forward to working with the community and NNMC staff, learning and growing every day.

Sam Valdez

Facilities Tech

Sam Valdez is a new Facilities Tech. His background includes 26 years as a painter, with the last 15 of those as a painting contractor. Prior to his painting profession, he worked in maintenance and as a fitness director and membership salesperson at Club International for five years. He looks forward to working with the Facilities Department and contributing his skill sets for NNMC.

Mr. Baca asked President Balderas if he would like to, they don't require an introduction. President Balderas stated he might actually recall on them, Mr. Chairman, a member of the audience, we are really defined by our academics and our academic leadership. We recently, had a vacancy at Provost. We are beginning a national search for a provost. But we have some amazing talent within our institution, and I asked two amazing leaders to step up and serve in an interim provost role, the only condition they had is that they asked me that they would do no public speaking. I said, I'm about to violate that rule and ask, that maybe they say a few words. They really have not only been the backbone of Northern for many decades, they bring a lot of experience, they're all very respected. Very strong, very confident and competent leaders, and they are serving as our interim provost. Ellen Trabka and Lori Baca, you have the floor, and now you have to give a speech. But we would love to recognize you. Maybe you could share a few words of your vision with our great Board of Regents.

Ellen Trabka thanked President Balderas and the Board of Regents and stated you know, I'm honored to serve in this role and to support the mission of the college. It was interesting to listen to the archive stuff, because I started this back in 2002, and I lived up in El Rito when the trades were there with my partner Gil Sena, who's also has roots in El Rito, so I had no idea what I was doing back then. I was a nurse, you know, with clinical skills, but I really didn't know anything about education, so it's been a really...well, almost 25-year journey, and it's been, you know, very eventful, and it's just an honor to serve the community as the chair of nursing and Health Sciences. It's been great to educate the next generation of nurses, and then to step into this new role. We just...you know, Dr. Baca and Ms. Trabka are, you know, committed to supporting the mission of the college and to support our academic departments and associated, you know, student service departments as well, so thank you. Thank you for the... for this honor.

Lori Baca stated Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Board of Regents. She would to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity. I'm honored to serve in this position, along with Ellen and, I look, she will do her best to move this institution forward. Like Ellen, it's, it's almost 25 years that she started here. She started... her first class was in El Rito and a lot of things have changed throughout the years, and I'm looking forward to helping this institution move into the future.

Chairman Martin welcome Ms. Trabka and Dr. Baca and stated he is glad they are here with them and asked President Balderas what is his time frame and how long they will serve. President Balderas stated the other amazing, character of leadership that they have is that not only did they step in and they bring stability, Mr. Chairman, they're going to be continuing to lead the nursing department and business school, and they, have agreed to take on this provost leadership role as well, but that really just is a reflection of the kind of individuals they are. They're connected to everyone here, they care, but I also think they're understating how talented, and I think they've seen every challenge at Northern, and so I think the executive team has been strengthened by their leadership. I would say that a national search takes about a year. I think we're all projecting about a year's stability and preparing, and they're going to be very helpful and valuable in us, determining, the future of that provost position, but about a year, sir, that will be, he thinks, with their leadership.

Chairman Martin asked if there were any comments from the Board. No comments from the Board.

VI. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Dr. Nandy stated there is nothing to report at this time for the Faculty Senate.

VII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Ms. DeAguero stated student senate volunteered for new student orientation and prepared goodie bags for incoming students. They also welcomed James Gallegos as the new student senate reporter. Student Senate is also planning a bake sale fundraiser for the incoming semester. They will also attend the September 25th event in El Rito and are looking forward to that event.

Chairman Martin thanked Ms. DeAguero for her report.

VIII. STAFF SENATE REPORT

Anjel Romero stated there is not much to report. They nominated and elected four new senators to serve new terms. They also elected a new staff senate executive team. We also, received updates from our committees, and we are working to move projects forward to continue improving communications across all departments.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board. No questions from the Board.

President Balderas stated they've been great. We've been chatting about, they're taking interest, campus beautification, they're very intrigued by the future planning of this institution, so it does take... he wants to commend them, our Student Senate, and our Faculty Senate. There seems to be a lot of, at least input, and they want to really be involved in really strengthening the shared, so he wants to give them a lot of credit on that. He is pushing for some of that improvement. Chairman Martin asked if we are going to... we are going to have them join us with the national call to action that the Secretary get their input from... from those three constituents too, right, sir? President Balderas stated that's... that's correct. We... we've talked about them being a little bit more, involved in our strategic planning and many of these important kinds of national issues. We'll bring that dialogue to them, as we get to, we go... we're always invited to go present to their meetings, so we appreciate the open door. Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Romero

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. Certification of Capital Asset Inventory

Theresa Storey, CFO stated this is an annual certification. We are required annually to physically inventory all of our capital assets. There was being any items that, we

purchased that exceeded the threshold of \$5,000. That is, irrespective of source of funding, so whether those were purchased with state, federal, or other dollars, we are required to go out and physically inventory those. So, the business office does begin that process in June. They begin with rolling forward all of our existing known assets, and then we query the accounting system to see what new assets were purchased within the year. It's about a two-month process. It's led by the business office, but does incorporate facilities, IT, and academic program staff and so we have done that this year, and we are just seeking approval to certify those through that inventory.

Chairman Martin stated if there are no questions, he will entertain a motion to approve.

Regent Archuleta moved to approve the Certification of Capital Asset Inventory. Second - Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Disposition of Property

Theresa Storey, CFO stated this seems to be a standing item. She gets really excited just because it represents, sort of, us moving, changing, renovating, the items on this list are all from the nursing department, and represent kind of the crossover of classroom renovation, in that apartment and with that, Ms. Storey asked for approval to dispose of these items.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the disposition of property.

Regent Gurule moved to approve the disposition of property. Second – Regent Archuleta. Regent Archuleta moved to approve the Certification of Capital Asset Inventory. Second - Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Donation of Alumni Archive for Preservation

Chairman Martin asked Ms. Trujillo and Ms. Tucker to join the Board of Regents for the presentation.

Ms. Trujillo thanked the Board of Regents for the invitation and stated she will be sharing an update on the Archival project that they have going on for three years now. Ms. Trujillo stated she is Eileen Gallegos Trujillo, alumnus of 1967 from the El Rito Normal School. Ms. Trujillo stated a federally funded grant was awarded to Northern New Mexico College and the Northern New Mexico Normal School Alumni Association. 3 years ago, and she can say we could not have done this project, because they are near the end, without Northern's support. Absolutely not. President Balderas gave us an office next door that

they are sharing with Sara at the Career Center and that has been most helpful. Everyone on board, Sandy Krolick has been my right arm. Amy is my go-to person. Everybody at Northern is friendly. Ms. Trujillo stated she wanted to thank Theresa Storey and Nick Eckert. They are the grant managers and they have guided us for 3 years through this project. This project ends September 30th, 2026. Ms. Trujillo stated she hope everyone will be present at the El Rito event on September 25th. That will be their grand opening. The purpose for the, grant was to archive and preserve the historical photos, historical documents and the artifacts related to the Spanish-American Normal School that was established in 1909 through 1969. The last time Ms. Trujillo addressed the board about our project was in El Rito and she thinks Regents Martin can repeat my presentation from them, because she continually repeated that we needed an environment that was temperature, humidity, dust, smoke, flood deterrence, controlled environments. So, do we buy a vault, Cecilia suggested? No, we did not buy a vault, but pretty close. Didn't work. Since none of the campus sites are truly archival ready and as far as storage, they're not also ready. The committee continually met with professional archivists. We went to UNM. We, she thinks President Balderas set us up with the Hispanic Cultural Center, professionals. We went to the State Records Center and Archives and to the New Mexico History Museum. All those professionals helped guide us to the conclusion. At the end of this year, she means, at the end of May they were scheduled to do a presentation at the New Mexico History Museum and this was with the new director, Maria Sanchez Tucker, no relation with Cecilia. Ms. Trujillo would like to think that not only were the artifacts impressive, I have just two samplings back here of athletic uniforms and their biggest prize possession was that, 1930s tapestry. There is a real history to how we found that. Amazing. But what's even more amazing is the history of how the normal school began. So, Ms. Trujillo is hoping that the director of the New Mexico History Museum was also intrigued with that history.

Ms. Cecilia Gonzales Tucker, Class of 62 introduced herself and thanked the Board for inviting them to share the project with them and the collection, project that they have been working on for, it seems like, longer than 4 years, like 12. The idea started about programs, but this archival collection holds important historical, cultural, and educational value. In this collection, we have documented a vital part of the Territorial New Mexico's educational history. Its legacy deserves to be preserved, documented, and shared. The project involves several years of research and compilation of materials and documents. They believed in this project because of its historical significance, that it contributed to Northern New Mexico and to the state. They find that at this... at the end of this...journey, or this experience. They are really grateful to all who have helped us. It's been a long journey, and we're at the end of it, and that's why we're here, to talk to you about the ending of the project. First, they'd like to answer a few questions that have been presented, okay? It is... it says, it is not clear in our packet that the items would be stored or on display. Your question again is, will the items be stored or displayed? Not clear which ones will be stored and displayed. The archival artifacts will be stored and periodically displayed at the New Mexico History Museum. Museums only display

collections periodically. The collections for themed displays are chosen by the museum staff exhibit staff. However, the collection is completely digitized and will be accessible anytime on the Museum or Northern's website. This includes photos of the artifacts we have, which are about 58. Yeah, and they're being displayed up there and they're being displayed up there. So, these will be available to you anytime, anywhere, anyplace 24 hours a day, you can watch it at midnight. I don't... The next question is, are there plans to install the proper storage equipment in the future at our display? The items available to be displayed at Areito include a substantial yearbook and trophy collection. Most museums are no longer storing large artifacts. Storage cabinets are available at El Rito, a triptych mural located in the backstage, a wall in Cutting Hall will also remain on the El Rito campus. We have... it is attached to a wall, and it takes some kind... some work to remove it. That's why it's...we haven't removed it as a... as a plan that was in our plan, because we thought, no, better leave it there, because we don't know what's involved in destroying it. Ms. Trujillo asked if she can I see a show of hands if you've seen the triptych mural in Cutting Hall? Ms. Tucker stated It is amazing. It is a... and it was done in the 1940s, right? Ms. Trujillo stated she is not sure of the date, but yes. Ms. Tucker stated yeah, and they had an art for, it was during the WPA era. WPA art group. They did it back then. The Spanish colonial furniture, because of its size, will also remain on campus, and it's available to be displayed. Some of those things are, if you walk into the main building, there's benches, handmade benches, handmade... crafted, shelves, etc., desks and we have been... Talking to alumni that have furniture that was actually made there in the 1940s and, hopefully they would give it to us while we're... we're still talking to them. The archival collection has been completely digitized and be accepted Henry Hodge on our website. Okay, the next question is, have the alumni who donated the items been advised about this? Yes, the alumni donors and descendants were provided with deed of gift documents. The document gives all item possession rights to the Archival collection. So that has been... that... we didn't bring a copy of the... I had one. Ms. Trujillo stated we did our presentation at the New Mexico History Museum, I brought along this binder box and it gave the impression to the director that this collection was huge, until they came in person to view the collection and saw how compact it was. But each of the items that you're viewing on the screen...each have a deed of gift. That donor filled out. Ms. Tucker asked if there were questions of the Board.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board.

Regent Lovato stated he had not heard about this and asked why the word normal. He was wondering.

Ms. Trujillo stated that is a good question, we get that a lot. Yes, imagine in 1909 it was named the Spanish American Normal School. Normal is just another word for standard, the standard basic education. The Spanish American Normal School began as a training for teachers. In 1909, history says, you can see it there. Oh, history says, The Spanish language was one of the obstacles for New Mexico becoming a state. There was this

gentleman in El Rito named Venseslao Jaramillo a successful merchant and sheepherder. His parents sent him to school at Notre Dame. He was exposed to normal schools back east and when the issue of language became a big issue in becoming a state, he donated...person, personal parcels of property to build the school. The territorial New Mexico legislature was not receptive...as receptive but during that period, pre-statehood, the school was built. Four-story iconic school which still stands today with a little bit of history there. So, the normal school was basically a teacher training school, and that's what normal schools were known for.

Regent Lovato thanked Ms. Trujillo.

Ms. Tucker asked how many photos of the classes are located in Alumni Hall. Ms. Trujillo stated 1941-1969 plus 1932. Ms. Trujillo asked if she can continue. Chairman Martin stated please. Ms. Trujillo stated so, at, in speaking with the New Mexico History Museum Director, Maria Sanchez Tucker. She and her staff came to actually view our office, where we hold all these boxed, labeled, and shelved artifacts and she said, this is more doable and next thing you know, we have an acquisition form on the email and so... It's not final, because They need to present this archival project to their board the first week of September. And that's why we need your permission and your signature to preserve and keep safe. These artifacts, for the mere reason that both campus sites do not have the ability to do so and they will also be writing up an MOU and in that MOU, they can specify things like, can they pull things out for special events, like our September 25th, for display, and then return them? What they do know, she doesn't know about that, what they do know, though, is, is that, if you... if you are a donor, you can ask permission to see whatever you want to go to the museum and see whatever you donate. When you want, they'll fix it. They'll... you make an appointment, and they pull the materials out. So, visualized that maybe they have a reunion, and our first meeting is at the museum, and we set up with them. An actual presentation of the school and the, relics. At that time and that way, they can see... they can see them and be involved, and... and make it a group thing, and... and still be able, have availability to the original collection. At the present time, the New Mexico History Museum has a display called Route 66. Everybody is doing a display on Route 66 for their 100th anniversary. Earlier, they had a display on statehood at last and she shared with them that this project would have fit right into that, display. Statehood at last, because we were established in 1909 and statehood happened shortly after and they were putting on a lot of teachers that were going to all the little villages to teach English to the children, a lot of them, and that's how the whole English movement began, through El Rito. And I last had one, too. Yes. Cecilia and Ms. Trujillo are currently working with a videographer in Santa Fe to create a documentary and that will be displayed, in Cutting Hall on the 25th, I hope.

Chairman Martin asked if there was anything else.

President Balderas asked Chairman Martin if before taking action on this, because it's an official item on the agenda, right? If he could just a few remarks? Because, Regent Lovato, he thought asked an important question in terms of kind of how this came, but he just wants to offer up a few other points for the Board of Regents, and thanked the Regents for, always supporting this archival project. Number one, this was...an appropriation that was here before he got here, and it was kind of...it had arrived, and Chairman Martin had questions about it, and because it involved the El Rito Campus, and there's a couple other three movement areas that he wanted to draw attention to the audience. First is, he would encourage Ms. Tucker and Ms. Trujillo to also present at our Staff Senate and Faculty Senate, because there are...big positives that came out of this project. Number one, he wants to also commend them all. We are also pushing shared governance and shared responsibility, and they all put a lot of volunteer time coming here communicating, asking about a budget. Some of you were really obvious about, hey, we don't do this every day. So, we put a collective team together, and they did acknowledge Theresa, Nick, and some other staff, so he wants to... and it wasn't perfect. Sometimes we lost some of your boxes, facilities was involved, and we had everybody trying to come together, so he wants to commend their contribution to, helping retell some history that he thinks is going to lead to some potential more academic opportunities, and you've also been part of the, Chairman Martin and the Regents commitment to re... rehabilitating the campus of El Rito, and what you left out is you also helped spurn some of the remodeling, and a lot of your artifacts and photos that you have are going to be displayed in a gallery, which we'll be doing groundbreaking at the end of September. So, he just wants to acknowledge their community investment. You guys communicated with us, you were always engaged and, and you drove many, many miles. President Balderas thinks Leo's the only one with the Corvette and the fancy car. But, so, it took a sacrifice on your behalf, and he wants to recognize that, and I also want to thank you for, I think, the academic conversations. The library is interested in sharing that gallery room up there, their academic program. So, he wants to invite them, maybe, to come present at the Faculty Senate, because he does think they are also going to spawn other ideas. And then he just also wants to thank you for your technical contribution to our mission. The accreditation standard that we live by is that we have to show strategic partnerships, and we have to show that we are truly embracing the community that we live in. So, to have alumni come from all over the country and get emails. They are also creating a movement, and he is very proud to invite some of your alumni to our basketball game. Had never been in the gym, and our gym was made certain, what, 1989? And they were commenting, so he thinks there's going to be a positive benefit for future students, and you're helping reframe the history and all the generations that came before them, because a lot of times they... students get here and they just see what they see in front of them, and you're going to be part of, he thinks, us telling our history and reconnecting with our community. So, he wants to acknowledge all the hours that you volunteered and put in.

President Balderas asked Mr. Leo Valdez if he wanted to say something. Mr. Valdez, President of the Alumni Association stated he wanted to thank you for all the effort and he obviously has to thank these ladies for all the work they've done, and a lot of people, a lot of our alumni, you know, there's been real bumps in the road, in the last few years, and not...because it's always a trial and error, and we're trying to figure things out, but the things we see at the El Rito campus now, the things we're doing. We have our own little projects, and, you know, he really wants to thank you every time he calls, you know, he asked, Leroy, their treasurer, and he said, how much do we have? We have this project. We don't have enough, he will call you folks and say, you know, we have this project in the hub. Let's split it, you know, let's split the cost and...that's a working relationship and an effort on everybody's part, and we will continue to support as we're getting your support, and it's very important to us, and as the years go by, there's less and less of us staying around, but he wants to see this to continue. He thinks there's a lot of opportunity in El Rito, together with a focus not just in El Rito, but how we collaborate with the campus here in Espanola.

President Balderas stated that he does want to say that you're also our partnership. He thinks you're... he just wants to give context to what the board's about to vote on. He also wants to thank you as volunteers, and our partnership with working with some of our people who choose to work here. the State is actually... he thinks initially they thought, oh, what are those crazies going to do up in Espanola and El Rito? And the agencies that are taking note, and actually taking hold of these records and archives also is a testament that they're taking Northern more seriously, they're taking the alumni more seriously, they took the archive project. You earned their respect, and he... he doesn't... he comes from Santa Fe, so he wants to make sure that you guys get the credit. It's not them doing us a favor. he thinks all that work that they did, and aligning it with our mission. He thinks the State of New Mexico, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, the Hispanic Cultural Center is starting to take note to some of the rural history, rural language, language preservation, but he wants to commend them, because I think they're... they're taking Northern very seriously, and we want to thank you for that.

Ms. Tucker stated yeah, one of the reasons that we... we were really happy that New Mexico History Museum or will accept it, or maybe, hopefully, will accept it, is because she thinks that we deserve to be acknowledged for the historical significance that we've had in not only the state, but in education, and for northern New Mexico, because, you know, we never get, really, what we deserve and... and the normal had a big, big influence on all... on a... she means, three generations, 4 generations of people that were educated there, and went on and became...you know, at that point, the original ones were Americans only through... only through territorial legality, not through... they weren't citizens. So, that's... she thinks it's important, it has to be acknowledged, and that historical, that historical museum is, she thinks, the major one. They were also concerned about the... where... the... the placement of it. We needed it close to a center. So, when we have people's...my great-grandfather went to school there, what can you tell me

about that? So, what she really hopes... they are hoping that comes from this is that Northern, the students at Northern, will, from this, if it's given to them, will have a pride in the history of their college. Even though it wasn't El Rito, it's in Espanola, it's still the same thing. It's the same. And we hope that that catches on, because she thinks all college students need to say, okay, this is... God, I'm going to this institution that was, look, 1909, and that should be a way of being proud of them.

Ms. Trujillo stated another part of this, project is to, have, a link on Northern's website with Sandy's help and, the Northern and New Mexico History Museum will have a website link to this project. So, it'll be helpful for research purposes. Ms. Tucker stated and for education, like, maybe freshman orientation.

Chairman Martin stated well, I want to thank you all so much for all your efforts. Thank you. He met with Cecilia and Elaine at the Delgado Hall. They took me down to the basement. The entire basement is full of boxes and it's, it's huge, and it is records from Northern and you guys had to fight dust and mold and... and vermin, all kinds of stuff. Ms. Tucker thanked Chairman for going with us, you were brave! Chairman Martin stated, yes, ma'am, I was and had he known what I was getting into, I don't know if I would have gone. Chairman Martin stated he wanted I to thank Mr. Valdez, the portal... they installed a roof on it, since we've had our...get together last September. It's just really...a real treasure for us there in El Rito. Thank you for the little wall with all the graduates' names on it, and so many times I drive by the campus, and there's people parked there looking up names, and it's, I can't thank you enough, sir. Mr. Valdez stated he would like to thank Chairman Martin for his support, it wouldn't have happened without you know, both of us coming to the table and he also want to thank the college board. You know, we worked on this initiative with the, election for the, you know students bringing back the trades to the community, and he sees that's more going on in our community, and a lot of people, you know, come up and tell him, and are really thanking us for bringing the trades back, and I think it's so important to this area.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the donation of Alumni Archive for Preservation.

Regent Gurule the donation of the Alumni Archive for Preservation – moved. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Valdez invited everyone to the Alumni Event in El Rito on September 25, 2026 and reviewed the agenda for the day.

Regent Archuleta stated he would like to make a comment on the project, with the El Rito Campus is very dear to him. He was helping his dad clean out his closet, his mom and dad

were cleaning out, and came across a few letterman sweaters and letters and year books, which was pretty interesting, so he wants to thank the committee for all that effort.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XI. VOTE TO REOPEN MEETING - Certification that only those matters described in the Executive Session Agenda were discussed in the closed session; if necessary, final action with regard to certain matters will be taken in Open Session

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

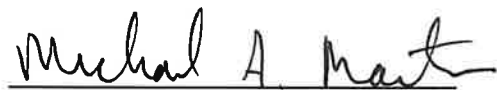
Chairman Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

President Balderas stated before you vote on the motion, next month the Board of Regents meeting will be in El Rito. We understand it is a sacrifice for driving and he knows one of our Regents works in Santa Fe during the week but if there's anything we can do to facilitate your consideration of planning and making that drive out there, we're going to be coordinating transportation because we want students, staff and faculty to be present. But also, President Balderas just wants to acknowledge and thank the regent's governing leadership that we will be conducting our meeting in El Rito but we will also make accommodations so that you can be present on Zoom if you can't make the drive up on that next Friday.

Regent Gurule moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Lovato – yes. Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 10:10AM.

Approved:



Michael A. Martin
Chairman


Erica Rita Velarde (Oct 1, 2026 16:08:15 MDT)

Erica Rita Velarde
Vice Chair

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Final Audit Report

2026-10-01

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