NOTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLGE
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, September 25, 2026, In Person and 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 Erica Velarde.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Juan Gallegos, Windows System/Information Security Administrator, Judith Pepper, Major Gifts Officer, Evette Abeyta, Budget Director, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Arin McKenna, Staff Writer, Reporter, Communications & Marketing, Chris Trujillo, Lead IT Specialist, Cecilia Romero, Director, Continuing Adult Education, Shawn Madrid, Capital Projects Coordinator, Lori Baca, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ellen Trabka, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Milam Shaw, Communications Coordinator, Anjel Romero, Library Operations Manager, Henry Ocaña, Facilities, and Stephanie Sandoval, Interim Human Resources Director.

Faculty Present: Sushmita Nandy, Rhiannon West,

Others Present: Brandee DeAguero, Student Senate President, Monica Anna, Zawadskawan

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:06AM. He stated he does have some changes to the agenda under Comments from the Board. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Governance Committee did not meet this month, so we will strike them from the agenda. Chairman Martin stated he would also like to switch items 2 and 3 under Staff Reports and move public safety update above the RPSP request.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

III. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

1. Housing Committee

None.

2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

Regent Velarde stated they had a quick meeting, got to talk about a lot of the work that Evette and Teresa are doing. They're doing an amazing job and they'll present later on.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

None.

4. Governance Committee

None.

5. HERC Committee

HERC had a meeting last week. They discussed the constitutional amendment number 3, which will be on the ballot in November which is going to establish committees for each of the institutions that have regents which is Northern, Highlands, the Military Institute, Eastern, Western, NM Tech, New Mexico State, and UNM. They're going to change the process to select regents, they're going to appoint a committee and the committee will forward a name to the governor who will then appoint them, then they'll be confirmed by the Senate. This still applies that there can only be three regents from one political party. HERC is going to be coming up with a little brochure that they are going to circulate to the institutions to let people know about the constitutional amendment so they can make up their mind about how they would like to have regents selected.

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IV. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Martin called Ms. Monica for public input.

Ms. Zawadskawan stated good morning, my name is Monica Anna, Zawadskawan, everybody calls me Mana. I'm originally from Poland, and today I live in Chama, where I'm a small business owner and the founder of True Mana a holistic wellness company, and one of our brands is Manana Valley Holistic Farm, where we grow, make natural products, and coach and host people who come to rest and restore. Before dedicating myself to wellness, I spent 19 years in strategic communications and business development in Europe, Canada, and Mexico, where I directed marketing for Forbes. I left that world because I saw in myself and in people around me what burnout does to a body and a life. That experience, along with my training in naturopathy and other holistic practices, is what brought me to the preventive wellness. Today, I also serve as a board advisor to Vitala. That's another health startup. I'm here today because of President Balderas, and I'm truly grateful. We've been talking about how Northern New Mexico College can grow its continuing education offering, and I'm honored to be partnering with him to pilot the first wellness class and like it was mentioned, you already did a seminar, of the Lungs and Sorrow. Participation was 6 people and… that's just a start, I feel. The idea is simple, practical, accessible classes for adults in our communities on caring for our bodies, working with the land and plants around us and preventing illness before it starts. Northern New Mexico has deep transitions of healing and land-based knowledge. I see these classes as a way to honor that and make it available to more people. I also want to say something about El Rito. It's a special place, and I believe it can become a destination for this kind of learning for people here in the North, and for people who, who came from further with I would like, I would love to help bring more life and more visitor… visitors to the campus. I also speak Spanish, Polish, of course, and German, and I want these classes to feel welcoming to our Spanish-speaking families. Wellness shouldn't depend on which language you speak, or how far you live from the city. Thank you for your time. I'm here to listen, to learn from this community, and build something useful together.

Chairman Martin asked President Balderas if he had a comment. President Balderas stated he wanted her to meet all our great team members. There's, when he was retained for…to serve in this community by the Chairman one of his priorities was to bring back vibrance in El Rito and he saw what she was doing in Chama and part of our role is to bring strategic partners and other leaders from the surrounding community, and she fell in love, so thank you for working with all our teammates, and he is looking forward to more courses and building some of our offerings that we already have, but he is excited and thank Monica, and invited her to join them later this evening, or this afternoon, for the unveiling.

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She thanked President Balderas and she is excited because this is a beautiful place to show the world.

Regent Velarde stated she had no questions but she is excited to see this. This is amazing. She might register for a class. This is right up her alley, she loves it.

Regent Lovato – no questions.

Matt Baca stated Regent Archuleta has joined the meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of August 28, 2026.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2026 meeting. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Lovato – did not vote. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas presented the following:

Leaders of LANL's Plutonium Workforce Development Initiative (PWDI) program met with Northern's project leads and representatives from the New Mexico Consortium to discuss PWDI investments in our programs and future directions for the program. This has been one of Northern's vital partnerships. Huge kudos to the Northern team representing our good work: Frank Loera, Lori Baca, Scott Braley, Joe Padilla, Ashis Nandy and Ana Vasilic for driving the work of this vital partnership that gives students incredible opportunities.

We are excited to announce that The Lazy Buffalo will be at Northern's El Rito Campus every Friday.

We welcomed the El Rito Arts Festival & Studio Tour to our El Rito Campus again this year. El Mercado was in Alumni Hall and our Continuing Education studios at El Pueblito opened their doors for visitors to explore ceramics and printmaking, meet instructors and see the pottery and letterpress studios in action. Chef Ray Naranjo of Manko and The Lazy Buffalo Trading Company LLC were among the food vendors serving food that day.

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Our Counseling and Student Support Center partnered with The Mountain Center to bring free QPR Suicide Prevention Training to campus. Participants learned the three steps to help prevent suicide: Question, Persuade, Refer, and became certified QPR Gatekeepers at the end of the session.

We celebrated Constitution Day with a Constitution trivia challenge. If participants answered three questions right, they got a free slice of pizza. It was great to see about 60 people participate in the challenge.

Last month we brought news that Dawniel Hayward won 2nd place at the Screenwriters Conference 2026 Pitch Competition and caught the attention of a major Hollywood producer. Now we've learned that Dawniel's screenplay, "Bent Rails," is a Quarterfinalist in the Hour-Long TV Pilot category of the Final Draft Big Break Screenwriting Competition. She had to compete with approximately 16,000 entries to make it to this round. Semifinalists are supposed to be announced today.

Our third National Student Exchange (NSE) student has arrived at their host campus. Satchel "Acer" Smith is at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

We welcomed a couple of outside events to campus.

The Regional Development Corporation, in partnership with LANL, hosted the Regional Business Opportunities Summit here September 15. The summit featured Keynote Speaker Mark C. Perna and included opportunities for business, for engaging youth and for job seekers.

The New Mexico Legislature Land Grant Committee met here August 25. Vice Chair Linda Serrato commended us for the role we continue to play in serving our region. She recognized Northern as an example of what it means to be deeply connected to the community, responding to local needs, creating opportunities for students, and helping strengthen Northern New Mexico through education and service.

There are some upcoming events to keep an eye on.

Our Interim AVP Sondra Adams in collaboration with the NNMC Student Senate will host a Midterm BBQ, from 12–2 PM Tuesday, September 29 on the NNMC Rooftop. Regent Velarde was happy to see we are creating more outdoor student spaces. Another event which is turning into a signature event is Hispanic Heritage Week event which includes a salsa making contest on Thursday, October 1, and our Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Friday, October 2.

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There is two other events October 2: Northern's annual Fall Career & Grad Fair and “Why Democracy Matters” with political scientist Jane Anna Gordon and philosopher Lewis Gordon in conversation with Northern’s Maria Constanza Garrido Sierralta.

And finally, Robert Beshara will launch his new book, “Writings for a Liberation Psychoanalysis” from 10 AM – 12:30 PM Saturday, October 3rd in the lobby of El Rey Court. Northern is sponsoring his book launch.

President Balderas stated finally, we hope we not… we don't want to embarrass them, but we want to give them a lot of kudos and attention. Communications is expanding their bandwidth. We have a youth internship program and he’s like Marissa Padilla and Paulina Lopez Cervantes to stand up. They are our new social media gurus, if we can give them a round of applause. Paulina's one of our residents here in El Rito in the newly remodeled room. President Balderas asked Paulina and Marissa if they want to say a few words to the Board of Regents? They're not scary people, they're…Marissa stated we’re just very excited for the new opportunity, to expand and have student voices heard on our social pages, and just to put out a different perspective to not just our student life, but faculty as well, and have everyone included in one thing. Paulina stated we’re very thankful about, having this opportunity. We are going to take advantage of it. She is pretty sure they will. She is very excited. It’s amazing.

President Balderas stated he knows Regent Velarde is a lot of a social media junkie, he thinks she will.

Paulina stated by the way, that’s what we do. Our Instagram user name is NNMC student media team. It’s a long name, but you’ll find all our content there.

President Balderas stated great and maybe they can help the President and the Regents. Chairman Martin stated he was going to commend them. He saw their reel about El Rito and this celebration today and he was very impressed. So, thank you so much.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board.

Regent Velarde stated she doesn’t know about being a junkie, she doesn’t even go on TikTok, so, I…well, she is not quite there, but she does love to follow our page, like, on Facebook and LinkedIn, so she loves that, that, you know, all of this is going to be available, and that we’re going to have more student voices, so thank you, you know, President Balderas for the support of our students, and thank you for our student leaders.

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B. CUP/NMICC Report

President Balderas stated he recently attended the CUP inaugural retreat. It is where we all get together and…negotiate a unified strategy. That was in Santa Fe, New Mexico. All the new presidents attended, University of New Mexico, Western New Mexico, New Mexico State. Eastern New Mexico, Western New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, and Northern New Mexico College. We spoke a lot about the upcoming 2026 G.O. Bond campaign. You shouldn't have to be an expert to know that this is an important initiative. You shouldn't have to be an expert in finance. It's just a fancy way to say that we are going to the ballot and asking New Mexico taxpayers to continue investing in higher education so we can continue to build infrastructure. We feel good about the potential campaign, and we think that we're going to secure approval in November, but we want everyone to get the word out. If you do see it on your ballot, talk to your grandparents, your parents and your neighbors, Northern New Mexico College survives on some of that G.O. Bond funding. We use it to invest in classrooms and improving our campus, so we'll keep the board apprised of the bond campaign as well. In addition, we were, briefed by the Department of Finance and the Legislative Finance Council. They continue to be…concern about future revenue, although he would argue and we push back that it seems that they have at least a decent amount of investment to reinvest in the State of New Mexico, so we will keep you posted on how that issue emerges in the upcoming legislative session. We also talked about exciting opportunities for statewide collaboration in research, intellectual property, and economic development. President Balderas stated that even though Northern's considered a non-research institution, some of our departments here are really doing a great job not waiting for a research designation. We have recently remodeled a laboratory on the Espanola campus. We continue to partner with New Mexico State on certain research grants, and considering our proximity to LANL, he doesn't think we should wait for anyone, and we should continue to partner and assert ourselves in opportunities. President Balderas stated a conversation in our communities, we should know the answer to what type of research is relevant to Northern New Mexico. It could be water, could be cancer, it could be a whole host of issues, but he is very proud of our departments because they're…really showing strong leadership, and he will continue to fight for increased collaborative opportunities with our research institutions. Yeah, in the state of New Mexico. We also heard from legislative leaders who expressed support for the work that we are making. We are showing progress in improved retention and graduation rates and, they continued to encourage us and said that they would continue to invest in our institution as long as our numbers are trending in the right direction. And so, we continue to all work together on making sure those numbers look good. Also, they did stress some frustration that higher education needs to continue to partner with industry and economic development initiatives that allow students more work-ready opportunities, and we all agree with that. Our education has to be relevant to being able to make a living and survive and pursue your dreams. So, we…talked a little bit about new areas that are emerging, such as quantum computing, so he is meeting with our own faculty to see if

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we can at least introduce some of our dual credit students and our undergraduate students to even quantum theory, and we shouldn't wait for you to have to be transferred to a quantum school or an engineering school that specializes in quantum. So, a lot of these theories we should… we're confident we can expose in our multidisciplinary coursework that we continue to build with our faculty.

President Balderas stated upcoming legislative priorities, we will be asking as presidents that are unified to increase the I&G fund. This is where we pay our bills to our faculty and our staff. Even though we're securing record capital infrastructure funding to build, build out some of these facilities and modernize them. I&G is the funding formula that allows us on our operating budget to pay increased salaries, and that is where Northern is always a structural disadvantage, because we don't have the 30,000 students that CNM does, or UNM, and so they… I&G is…generally, allocated to a funding formula. This is where all the work that you do in the community, if we can get one student registered here, and believing in the work that we do here, it allows potential future investment into our staff and into our faculty. Students need good faculty living here and teaching here, but we also need the students that it makes sense for them to stay here to receive an exceptional education. So, this is where recruiting, retention and the strategy, working with faculty, building the institution that best matches this community will allow us to grow, and grow this I&G budget that has been a pain in my butt for many years in terms of looking at how unfair it is. There are some conversations to change the I&G formula to benefit smaller institutions. We're making the argument that these institutions, if they go away, will kill regional New Mexico. Where do they think Rio Rancho and Albuquerque and Los Lunas are getting their population? They're getting population from Espanola, Socorro, Las Vegas and so that disconnect drives me nuts. But these are the things that we get to talk about at the CUP. We are going to continue to fight for campus safety investments. Further workforce funding, increased health benefits. A lot of our Northern staff foot the bill with Northern, and the state of New Mexico does not pay enough for our health benefits. We're going to continue to try to increase those. Also, there's a lot of discussion about an increased investment in behavioral health, dual credit, and additional scholarship funding. LFC continues to…try to convince us that, not to come with increased requests, that their projections for recurring spending is going to be shrinking, over the next years and he knows that, just recently, we were able… they only afforded us a 1% increase from the New Mexico Legislature and with the leadership of the Board of Regents and the Executive Team, and with many thought leaders on campus, including staff and academics, we were able to match that 1%. So even 1% coming out of our own coffers is historic, and I want to send kudos to the Board of Regents. We are finally in a position that every now and then, if Northern needs to step up, or the state is not. We… matching that 1% was not symbolic, it was real money. It came from somewhere, but it's coming from all the hard work, of us working together and making sure that we're not spending like drunken sailors, but at the same time, for the rainy day, he thinks it was… it was a real honor to match the 1% in compensation for

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the faculty and staff, and he wants to thank the Regents for being strong leaders in advocating for that fiscal stewardship.

Chairman Martin stated they are meeting next Tuesday to approve CUP priorities and he did want to mention to the President that at the last HERC meeting he did have to correct Executive Director Saavedra. He mentioned that President Johnston was the most senior of all the presidents and President Balderas is the most senior of all the Presidents now. He beat him by two days and so please sir, don't let him get away with that.

President Balderas stated he and President Johnston are the most senior, four-year college present's right now but that should be a pride to Chairman Martin and the community.

Chairman Martin asked what the CUPs recommendation for salary increase. President Balderas stated increasing the funding, they didn't…they didn't commit to a percentage this early.

Chairman Martin asked when the LFC will come out with their budgets. President Balderas asked Matt Baca, General Counsel when. Mr. Baca stated the beginning of January. Chairman Martin stated then we will have some idea what they're recommending them. President Balderas stated exactly. He thinks they are playing chicken in terms of what they want to offer. Who wants to be the bad guy. Last year, they came out right away with the flat 1% and kind of stuck with it, and…dropped it to zero and they, yeah actually they dropped it to zero at 1%, and then it went to zero. Then everybody got mad and, but because there's going to be a new governor, he thinks they are…they are waiting to see what he or she may want to do, but we will know very quickly in general.

Chairman Martin thanked President Balderas and asked if there were questions from the Board.

Regent Velarde – no questions.

C. NNMC Foundation

President Balderas presented the following:

I. FY27 Donations

July 1, 2026 to September 21, 2026 - $62,180.00 in donations.

II. Ruth "Ruthie" Dunn Nursing Student Support Scholarship

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Ruth “Ruthie” Dunn, a local resident who devoted 30 years of service as a nurse at Española Presbyterian Hospital, left a lasting legacy of caring for others through a $14,000 bequest to Northern New Mexico College’s Nursing Department.

The Ruth “Ruthie” Dunn Nursing Student Support Scholarship was established to provide a one-time scholarship of up to $750 to assist a NNMC nursing student with unforeseen or necessary educational expenses that directly support the student’s retention and graduation from the Nursing Program.

Eligible expenses may include nursing scrubs and shoes, licensing fees, transportation costs, and other necessary educational expenses that could create an unexpected financial barrier for a nursing student.

Ms. Dunn understood the sacrifices made by nursing students as they work toward their degrees while balancing the demands of classes, homework, family responsibilities, employment and the everyday expenses of life. Her generosity recognizes that sometimes a relatively small, unexpected expense can become a significant obstacle to a student's ability to remain in school and complete a nursing education.

Through this fund, Ruthie Dunn's compassion for nursing students will continue to provide practical assistance when it is needed most—helping students stay on track toward graduation and their careers in nursing.

The Ruth “Ruthie” Dunn Nursing Student Support Scholarship is a one-time fund. Once the $14,000 balance has been fully awarded and the fund reaches a zero balance, the scholarship will be closed.

President Balderas asked Interim Provost Trabka if she would like to say anything. Interim Provost Trabka stated she is really grateful for this donation. Ruth Dunn was a nurse at the Espanola Hospital, and some of our faculty worked with her when she was an active nurse and, you know, we’re just grateful for the funding, for the support of nursing education, because it can be very expensive and time consuming, so…we are going to use it for emergency funds, so it’s not part of, like, the regular scholarships that you apply to…apply for, but if there’s, like, an emergency need, like a one-time fund, that’s how it’s going to be utilized, so we’re really grateful. We connect with them and discuss how it’s going to be distributed, so…thank you, of course, thank you.

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III. Donor Appreciation Events

October 21 & December 8, 2026

Northern New Mexico College is planning two special donor appreciation events to recognize individuals and businesses whose sustained generosity has made a meaningful difference in the College and its students.

October 21, 2026 — Private Donors - This event will honor private citizens who have consistently contributed $5,000 or more annually during the past seven years.

December 8, 2026 — Regional Businesses & Corporations - This event will recognize regional businesses and corporations that have consistently contributed $5,000 or more annually during the past seven years.

A Celebration of Gratitude and Progress

President Hector Balderas and Foundation Board President Alfred Herrera will host each event, welcoming guests to campus for a special tour and luncheon.

Guests will have an opportunity to see firsthand the current major upgrades to facilities, landscaping and academic programs, while also learning about planned future improvements and the College's vision for continued growth.

Students and faculty will help showcase the impact of donor support through student success initiatives, brief personal comments and videos highlighting the experiences and opportunities made possible through the generosity of Northern New Mexico College's supporters.

These gatherings are intended to be more than a luncheon or campus tour. They are an opportunity for the College to express its sincere appreciation while giving longtime supporters a firsthand look at how their investment is helping shape the future of Northern New Mexico College and its students.

D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following:

Maria Constanza Garrido Sierralta
Assistant Professor of Integrated Studies
Maria Constanza Garrido Sierralta joins us as Assistant Professor of Integrated Studies. Maria specializes in phenomenology (classical and critical), Latina feminisms, care ethics, and disability studies. She is a published academic translator working primarily from

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French to English—notably co-translating Cornelius Castoriadis's *the Greek Imaginary*. Her scholarship also focuses on continental philosophy, postcolonial thought, and social praxis. At NNMC, she is dedicated to fostering critical inquiry, inclusive pedagogy, and student-centered engagement across the humanities. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of New Mexico.

Kathleen Tayler
Assistant Professor/Chair
Kathleen Tayler is our new Chair of Teacher Education. She is currently Distinguished Emeritus Associate Professor at Eastern New Mexico University, where she has previously served as Chair of Curriculum and Instruction, Graduate Coordinator, and Coordinator of Teacher Education. Throughout her career, she has worked in both public and private schools as a teacher, Title I Coordinator, Instructional Coach, Vice Principal, and Principal. She earned her PhD from Texas Tech University in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Language and Literacy.

President Balderas is very impressed and excited, with this new chair of education. He is looking forward to our… for our provost to embracing her and showing her around. He will say on a side anecdote, as he was talking to her. He was impressed that, her husband's a pastor who has been doing work in the Espanola Valley for several years, and so it's impressive when someone applies for an opportunity here who then tells him, well, I've already been working with some of your vulnerable populations and poor people in Espanola. I know the community. President Balderas found out that she was, renting an RV space in Pojoaque, at the busy RV place and invited her, to let her know that she can park her RV on the El Rito campus, so she's probably our 26th soon-to-be resident of this campus. We are in the works now of planning potentially modernizing that RV station. We offer water and electric, but we don't offer modern sewer yet, and so we are in discussion because, she's not the first faculty member. There's been a few faculty that have an RV and have expressed interest in staying out here for a little bit, and anyway, we can help them as well. So, welcome, Kathleen and Taylor as well. If we can give them a round of applause, or…where I can complete my report, too.

Chairman Martin stated he would to take a minute and thank President Balderas and everyone that hosted the firefighting crew for the fire here on the El Rito campus when they were here last month. Thank you, Mr. Baca who helped, draw out the contract with the Forest Service and the community really appreciates that, so thank you.

President Balderas stated Northern serves as a fire suppression, so the water tank that our facilities folks are stewards of. We don't always have the water to water our own grass and trees, but the primary use of that tank is if there was a fire here as well. So, yeah, we support our local firefighters.

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Chairman Martin thanked President Balderas and asked if there were any questions.

No questions from the Board.

VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Dr. Sushmita Nandy stated she had a very short report. The Faculty Senate met on September 4th and in addition to their regular committee business, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of the 2026 Higher Education General Obligation Bond 3. Dr. Nandy stated that is all she had from the Faculty Senate.

VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Student Senate President DeAguero stated Student Senate is creating an account to share behind the scenes moments and upcoming events so students can see, like, what we are doing for the first…for the whole semester. Also, students are, students that it…is partnering up with Sondra Adams to host a barbecue on September 3rd and from 12-2. Student Senate is also collaborating with Aaron for marketing with the GO Bond, so hopefully we will have that very soon. Also, Student Senate is hosting a bake sale at the El Rito Campus. If you want to come see them, they are located in the cafeteria room. Also, Student Senate is hosting a salsa contest on October 1st from 10AM to 1PM so come by. Student Senate is also hosting a bake sale at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration on October 2nd and last but not least, Student Senate is…if it is okay with all of you, she would like to welcome new members and old members to come say Hi to introduce you guys. Chairman Martin stated please do. The following student senators were present: James Gallegos, Reporter, Denise Martinez, Secretary. Ms. DeAguero stated they also have Cipriano Martinez, Sentinel and Eduardo Maez, Senator and Khiana Duran, Vice President.

President Balderas stated he would like to thank Ms. DeAguero for her service. We appreciate all that she does for the College. Chairman Martin thanked Student Senate.

IX. STAFF SENATE REPORT

Anjel Romero, Staff Senate President stated they met on the 22nd and they have nothing new to report. They elected a new grants senator, Ann Marie Draeger.

Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Romero.

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X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. Report of Actuals

Evette Abeyta, Budget Director presented the Report of Actuals to the Board (attached). Ms. Abeyta stated just for informational purposes, we have the FY2026 Report of Actuals, which, you will find in your board packet on page 23 and then, she wants to concentrate on the focal summary of Exhibit 1, and, basically, you know, as you know, we budget by function, and in accordance with the higher ed, guidance and the NACUBO guidelines and so, just a little bit of information. Again, the first set of columns is the original budget, that was approved. By the state higher ed department, so no changes in those columns. The second set of columns are the estimate of actuals for FY26 and basically, this is the level of budget authority that we allow ourselves, and which also, match the final, budget adjustments and then we have, of course, the FY26, report of actual amounts. And, just want to emphasize these are unaudited actuals, so, there may be some final adjustments that would be necessary. As you know, we are currently, in the process of working on our FY26 audit. So, you know, we start the report with the revenue that, was actually booked and you could see the levels of revenue here for both unrestricted and restricted. Compared to the estimate of actuals, we came in fairly close. At $27,670,959 million in the unrestricted, and then in the restricted, we were a little bit lower, but we were still close at $17,043,862.

Our capital outlay, you can see we… we, usually budget the full amounts, because we don't know how far we'll get along in the, capital outlay projects. But we've spent close to $7 million combined and restricted and restricted in the capital outlay, and as President Balderas mentioned, just the great strides we've made in those capital improvements and then we go, of course, part of the NACUBO guidelines is to budget our beginning, fund balances, the majority of those fund balances being in I&G at about $24.9 million. Okay, and then, of course, that gives us our available revenue, and then we jump into the expenses. In the expenditures…we, again, we, we did really good in our expenses. We stayed within budget. Two points of, of…that she will bring out or speak about a little bit are the, research and grants. We did exceed that a little bit, of course. We did initially budget the full amount; however, it was, it was, under I&G instead of in the research area. But, again, that was human error, and we will work to make those corrections. The other area that we sort of exceeded by function was the student financial aid. Many times, we don't know what level of aid we will, expense, and we try to come as close as possible. In our projections. However, she thinks going forward, we will be working more closely with the student financial aid director to kind of guide us in this, rather than working through our, our, prior year, report of actuals and budgeting based on that, projection. And, but overall, we stayed within budget in our expense budget. The bottom line is still within budget. Our capital alley, again, just… just the same amount, matching the revenue, same

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levels of expenditures there and then, of course, we've got our transfers in, though, and out the institution and then, of course, we just record our ending balances, and recording those unaudited actuals at $28.130.5 million in ending fund balances. And again, that is just for informational purposes.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board of Regents. No questions. Chairman Martin stated this is just informational.

2. Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) Request

Ms. Abeyta stated again, this one is an action item, and as you know, every September, we submit to the Higher Ed Department our research and public service project requests. On your lists there on page 144 of your packet, there are… we've listed 7, RPSPs, and of course, we start with the teacher pipeline. At $250,000, and we kept that flat. In the previous fiscal year, we did request an expansion to that, but, of course, that was not, granted to us, so we just submitted it at flat for current, actually for FY28. And then, in the… the second one is the athletics, and we did…and have continued to include that as an expansion. Again, we have not had any, results. In our favor with that expansion, but we do continue to request it because there is a need there. Of course, with the insurance benefits increasing, the cost of travel that is… has increased over the years and then just the reliance of us paying our current staff, coaching staff by stipends. We would actually like to be able to create positions to fill those spots. So that, we requested at $825.5 and then the Sostenga, demonstration farm, again, we requested that at $50,000, so it's also flat. Number 4 was the Arts and Cultural Engagement and Sustainable Agricultural. That's basically, a pass-through fund for us at $50,000, again, is also flat. Item 5 is the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Initiative. In previous years, this was essentially a pass-through fund for us. It contained language, that was specific to Cafe Scientific and that no longer exists, so we have still kept it in the requests. At the same level, and just requesting some flexibility for us to do some of that in-house and so we do have that on the list. We'll see where that goes. Not sure if they'll pay any attention to that, but hopefully, I think we could make some really good use of those funds and continue the projects in-house and then number 6 is, number 6 and 7 are new items that we added. Higher ed does allow us to request up to 2 or 3, additional projects and so, we requested the Center for Quantum and Tech Res…Workforce Advancement at $733,500 and then also new is the basically, the CAMP, and the backfill for those federal funds that we lost at $472.9. Below, you could see the different items that have rolled up into I&G are no longer part of, the RPSP request process, but we do list them on here, so as to not be forgotten, and that we, we're not sure what the cup will do, if… whether we'll continue to request RPSBs, or…If they will also roll additional items into I&G, if they have that functionality. With that, Ms. Abeyta stood for questions.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board.

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Regent Velarde stated no questions but she loves all the RPSP requests. Thank you. No other questions from the Board.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the RPSPs.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the RPSPs. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Safety Update

President Balderas stated there was a recent article about public safety reporting in higher education, and, we have been making a lot of progress, building out our public safety apparatus and, training, our personnel. So, he just wanted Matt Baca to kind of give a brief update as to what the requirements are of reporting, and that we are in compliance, but it was something that was written from the perspective that some higher education decisions were doing well, some were not and it's just federal reporting requirements. He will say that comparably, in terms of comparably, in terms of we monitor that very closely. Both Espanola and El Rito are relatively safe, and so we work hard to try to engage not only the community, but also creating a sense of safety among faculty, staff, and students. But I do want our Council to give a little bit more detail.

Matt Baca, General Counsel stated as was articulated under the Jean Cleary Act of federal legislation, we're required to maintain statistics about particular types of possible criminal actions that take place on our campus or off campus. Depending on, on the conduct and then we're required to log those, keep a log of them, and then be… make them available to the public. As was articulated in the media coverage, the…the log is required to be produced for anything that's within 60 days, if somebody asks for it. Unlike our IBRA statute, there's not an automatic, sort of, grace period that the federal sanction requires publication, unless…the request also asked for logs that are beyond 60 days old and up to 7 years old, in which case the federal statute gives you 2 extra dates to produce that information. The media story did go on to acknowledge that we provided ours within one business day, so we were in compliance with the reporting requirements. One thing that we will take away from the story, because as you noted, the sort of framing of it is there are higher ed institutions that publish that information on their website so that it's immediately accessible to the public. There's not necessarily a need to request it when you have that information easily attainable. Those are… it's not coincidental that most of those are very well-resourced institutions. As you noted from the story, the individual from UNM has a full-time job. Being a Clery coordinator, we would be blessed to have a full-time person, on our payroll sole focus was that, as you mentioned. Most northern staff wear many different hats, but we do, want to strive to… to… to…produce information to the public, and have a projection of our public safety stats, or crime logs that's easily accessible, so President Balderas has directed us to put together a working

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group to see what strides can we take to more proactively publish that information maybe make cater them to the group that is characterized as being that compliance, or, or proactive in publishing that information. So, we'll have an update, from President Balderas and eventually the board in the coming months, what we've… what strides we think we can make to take those steps.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board. No questions. Chairman Martin stated he read the article and UNM puts it on their website right away and of course, he is sure they have a lot more crime than we do. So, we have such a few numbers of incidents. Is…is it a…a big ask to try to post those on our website, or…educate him.

Mr. Baca stated he thinks there'll just, there'll be some functionality issues. We need to understand how our reporting software can plug into… so some of that is just figuring out the technical aspects of what it would take and you know, the safety and security department is doing a tremendous job for the amount of resource they have, so I think the other thing we'll want to examine is how can we support them in report taking and report writing, so that we make sure that not only is our information timely, but that we have the correct and, you know, most up-to-date information. Because some of that is, you know, you do want to have a senior-level review of the report taking to make sure that they are in agreement with the staff member's assessment. So, there'll be some process, examination and some technical examination. He thinks we can…

President Balderas stated yeah, and he would speak to… contextually, he thinksthe balance for us is, our, our head of security does…keep track of those stats, and reports those out, so we, we're, you know, we're big on… we're very proud of our compliance record, at Northern. Where we fall a little…where it impacts us is that, our facilities… he means, our security director has no admin, so it's a choice between him going and doing more administrative outreach you know, to put that out on the website or something like that. He literally is one of the first responders as well, so, it's kind of a balance, but yeah, we're working through that, sir, but… but, so yes, Gina's more than willing to… to try to learn how to, post those on the website, and… but it hadn't come up because he's usually one of the… like, right now, he's directing traffic. In Espanola, we're hosting 100 school teachers from Espanola High School and Junior High to train… Northern's training them to be better teachers. And then right above, we're hosting the Pension, Legislative Pension Committee. this well, so he told them to stay back at it, and direct traffic and Espanola as we're hosting anyone here today. So, he thinks we can probably, if we can get some optimization, we're doing a lot of technology improvement, and we can study to put that in. He thinks we can achieve that. Posting, but… he thinks that he is speaking more frankly than that is we just have to, because he has no administrative, staff or…he, has to partner with our IT department. We tend to have him as one of our first responders responding to calls. So that's kind of a give and take on that sort of…

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Chairman Martin stated yeah, the article did mention that somebody at, you know, has a pretty cushy job will just sit there and… lots of cushy jobs, yeah. They… so maybe when they can provide us with some extra funding to fund that position. Otherwise…we were complying with all the requirements that they had set up. President Balderas stated yes, sir, that's the disadvantage? Yes. Just like many of our coaches drive the buses that… then they coach as well, so…

Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Baca for explaining.

4. 2026 G.O. Bond Resolution

Matt Baca, General Counsel asked President Balderas if he would like to give opening remarks.

President Balderas stated all the presidents are working with partners to try to get the word out and just get everybody to vote positively in Northern part of the State. President Balderas asked Mr. Baca to give an update.

Mr. Baca stated you all have a memo in your packet with the attached resolution, which he thinks is a nice, succinct description of what the resolution will do for statewide investment, and then what it will do for Northern New Mexico College specifically. As you can see, if the bond passes, Northern will receive $5 million. The legislative appropriation language that underlies the bond, specifies that that would go to the Espanola campus, allowing us to continue to improve student spaces and really try to transform our environment to a student-centered and student-focused learning environment. So that'll be everything from classroom renovation to building refresh and all the type of stuff that will further the work that is already ongoing on that campus. The board will recall that two years ago, we asked the board to pass a similar resolution. The reason for this, and you heard from some of the other, the governing bodies at the college, is the colleges all have a coordinated marketing committee for the GO Bond, and one of the recommendations out of that committee, led by former Director David Abbey and former president of Eastern New Mexico College, whose name is escaping me, and I'm embarrassed to say, but yes, President Gamble, who's led that initiative forever. They recommend that we engage our boards, that we get the boards to make these expressions of support, to talk to members of their community about the importance of this bond to our college and so this is, we are before the board today to ask you to take that step again this year and pass the attached resolution in support of the GO Bond. Mr. Baca stated before he closes or stands for any questions, he also wants to give a huge kudos to Arin McKenna in the Marketing and Communications Department. She's effectively led the college's…the front line of the college's G.O. Bond marketing efforts for at least the last two cycles, if not beyond that. So, Arin deserves a whole lot of kudos for her efforts. She's really diligent about getting word out, and really is driving

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Northern's, marketing effort for this. So, with that, Chair Martin, Mr. Baca stood for questions.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board.

Regent Lovato asked given the change in campus life, he guesses, and the kind of move to virtual, do you guys, do all anticipate or see in the future that, you know, dollars into physical campus facilities may, he means, he guesses, he is just wondering if, given the…given the online courses and a lot of stuff being remote. Do you think, is that going to impact capital or physical improvements to campus eventually?

President Balderas stated that's a great question. He thinks we have focused heavily on campus revitalization. We don't have any plans for new buildings. The legislature has been very critical over the last decade, some of the larger institutions built these beautiful buildings in the South Valley and in Rio Rancho, and they're empty, they're brand-new facilities. Because of the movement of more online or workplace-based learning, we are very targeted more, restoring some of our older facilities and we've also been cognizant on… we're starting to study space utilization to keep a close eye on that. We are considered a hybrid campus regional Lovato, so we're… we're focused on increasing both in-person and online, and we were focusing on just capital infrastructure that is either improving certain older classrooms, modernization, or we're creating out more spaces for some of our students, but usually all of that is pretty closely tied to, like, a script space utilization. We're being very cognizant. But I guess I do anticipate more criticism, but probably for some of the larger institutions.

Regent Lovato thanked President Balderas. No additional questions from the Board.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the G.O. Bond Resolution.

Regent Lovato moved to approve the G.O. Bond Resolution. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Chair Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes. Regent Lovato – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XII. 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.

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XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Martin asked President Balderas if he'd like to address everyone prior to adjourning.

President Balderas stated he would like to thank all the faculty, staff, and students who were part of the planning committees. Today, we're going to be hosting a very special event, one that honors the past celebrates the future, under our campaign moniker of Northern Rising. There were a lot of individuals working with the Alumni Association. Today, we will be cutting a ribbon on a historic archive center. It's a beautiful gallery here at the recently remodeled dormitory. President Balderas invited everyone at 11 o'clock. There'll be a ribbon cutting. Eileen Trujillo, one of our alumni, will be presenting a short 8-minute video on some of the history of El Rico and he wants to, invite everyone to the unveiling of the Archive Center here. It used to be called the library. President Balderas stated he also to recognize Martine Shupla, our library…he wants to send kudos to him. He also partnered, he has some books here in the Archive Center, and we're looking forward to hosting some alumni here. Actually, come on in, we have these good-looking handsome… we, we have some alumni that traveled, many from out of state, and this is their alumni celebration, but we are going to be inviting community members today. Northern New Mexico College members from our college, will be coming up here and sharing a meal with some of our alumni here so we can share stories. Chairman Martin will be giving the convocation… the…invocation, not convocation, so thank you.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

The Board of Regents adjourned at 10:16AM.

Approved:

Michael A. Martin
Chairman

Erica Velarde (Nov 15, 2026 07:47:52 MST)

Erica Rita Velarde
Vice Chair

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9-25-26 Minutes

Final Audit Report 2026-11-15

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