

# NORTHERN New Mexico College



## **BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING** **MINUTES** **MARCH 26, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 Via Zoom. Regents Present Via Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Erica Velarde, Ruben Archuleta, Ron Lovato and Dolores Gurule.

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, Edwina Romero, Dual Credit Coordinator, Carmella Sanchez, Director, Institutional Research, Shawn Madrid, Capital Projects Coordinator, Geno Trujillo, Director of Security, Brenda Janot, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Martin Shupla, Director of Library, Arin McKenna, Staff Writer/Reporter, Sara McCormick, Career Services Specialist, Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant for the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Alejandra Jaramillo, Director HEP, Josef Weese, Distance Education Coordinator, Stephanie Sandoval, Interim Director, HR, Tobe Bott-Lyons, Upward Bound Director, Cindy Martinez, HR Admin/Tech, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications. & Marketing and Amy Peña, Executive Office Director/Board Secretary.

Faculty Present: Melanie Colgan, Scott Braley, Ellen Trabka, Rhiannon West, Brenda Linnell, Sushmita Nandy, Margaret Zak,

Others Present: Tim Crone

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 3:01PM

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Martin stated the first item on the agenda is approval of the agenda and he has an amendment to make. Chairman Martin stated Theresa. Storey, CFO informed in that Item 6B, Capital Outlay for Espanola and El Rito Campus, which deals with the fire systems at El Rito does not rise to the level where it needs board approval. Chairman Martin asked Ms. Storey if this is correct. Ms. Storey stated this is correct. Chairman Martin stated he will amend the agenda to reflect that.

Chairman entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta had not joined the meeting for this item. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2026.

**Regent Gurule moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2026. Second – Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta had not joined the meeting for this item. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

#### **A. AGB Annual Membership**

Chairman Martin stated the board needs to approve our annual membership to the Association of Governing Boards. It will be a total of \$4,430 for the year-long membership.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the AGB Annual Membership.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the AGB Annual Membership. Second – Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta had not joined the meeting for this item. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **V. PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

#### **A. Full Professor and Promotion with Tenure Recommendations - Action Required**

Chairman Martin stated he would turn it over to the provost for the full professor in Promotion with tenure recommendations.

Provost Vellanoweth thanked Chairman Martin and stated in line with NNMC policy the following nominations of Dr. Brenda Linnell for full professor, Margaret Zak and Melanie Colgan for Professor, excuse me, for promotion with tenure are presented for final approval by the Board of Regents. These three candidates' dossiers have been evaluated according to the NNMC general guidelines by the tenure-track faculty from the academic departments, the Tenure and Promotion Council, the President and Provost Vellanoweth. Provost Vellanoweth stated he would recognize not only has Brenda been recommended for promotion, but she will be the first Northern faculty member to hold the rank of full professor, which is exciting for Brenda, and a recognition of her professional achievement and contribution to the Northern community, but also represents an exciting time for the college and our growth as an academic institution. The board's support for a rank of full professorship represents a significant recognition of the importance of the faculty here, as well as sets the tone for the high quality of education that we provide to our students and so, for Dr. Vellanoweth as a Provost, he has been very excited, not only that we have the rank of full professor at Northern, but that we could recognize the very first one in Brenda. So, good for that. He loves it. Secondly, Margaret and Melanie's individual achievements and contributions to the Northern community are evident in their promotion to tenured faculty. Provost Vellanoweth stated he also wants to recognize the contributions to the nursing department which has seen tremendous growth in both enrollment and student success, and these promotions not only reflect the high quality of their programs, but will continue to strengthen the educational opportunities we provide to our students, and the critical contributions our graduates make as service providers in our community. So, the board has all received formal nominations in your packet. At this time, Dr. Vellanoweth stood to address any questions from the board.

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

Regent Velarde stated she had no questions, just congratulations and thank you so much for your loyalty and being part of our family.

Regent Lovato – no questions.

Regent Gurule congratulated and thanked Dr. Linnell.

Regent Archuleta – no questions.

Regent Archuleta joined at 3:07PM.

Chairman Martin stated he wanted to congratulate Dr. Linnell. It's quite an achievement we've been talking about, having full professor for quite some time now. He is glad we're finally getting to that point. Congratulations.

President Balderas stated the backbone of our institution, obviously, is our students and our staff, but none of it. Works without inspired faculty, and he just thinks we're not only luck to have these talented individuals, but all of the work that we work on toward our mission and vision and our strategic planning. The backdrop is having an inspired faculty, so congratulations and we stand in gratitude on behalf of the executive team.

Dr. Linnell thanked the board of Regents and of course, President Balderas and Provost Vellanoweth and the Council that reviewed her portfolio. She appreciates everyone and of course all the faculty that she has worked with having been her role models, even though that they are not full professors, they are always her role models to keep moving forward. Thank you so much.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the raise in rank for Dr. Brenda Linnell to a Full Professor

**Regent Gurule moved to approve Dr. Brenda Linnell for Full Professor. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta - yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions for the tenure.

Regent Velarde had no questions but congratulated the faculty members and thanked them.

Regent Archuleta did not have questions but congratulated the professors.

Regent Lovato – no questions.

Regent Gurule had no questions and congratulated the professors.

Chairman Martin stated he would like to extend his congratulations to both of our outstanding nursing professor.

President Balderas stated he thinks it's an amazing time for their leadership. He doesn't know that we've got the quite a final word on accreditation but they've been put through not only a competitive accreditation they have a facelift on the building and he wants to invite everyone to come visit their facility, as academic leaders, had always commented

that we need to try to do a better job in terms of where we teach our students and so the nursing department, he thinks, is on fire, so congratulations to them and we look forward to a favorable outcome soon from the accreditors.

Chairman Martin asked Ms. Zak if she had anything she would like to add.

Ms. Zak stated she would like to say thank you to her fellow professors and also the board and to the poor folks in her tenure council and her department who had to read hundreds of pages. But she is really grateful and a warm congratulations to both Melanie and Brenda who she gets to see about campus.

Chairman Martin asked Ms. Colgan if she had anything she would like to add.

Ms. Colgan thanked Chairman Martin and stated she would like to echo what Dr. Linnell and what Ms. Zak have said. Many thanks to the tenure committee, but especially her colleagues in the nursing department. This would not have been possible without the guidance of Ms. Trabka and the support of Margaret. We had many sessions, the two of us. Helping each other through the tenure process. Ms. Colgan stated she would also like to thank Dr. Sushmita Nandy. She was also very helpful in guiding them through the tenure process as well. It was a total team effort, so, many thanks to all of Northern.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve tenure for Margaret Zak and Melanie Colgan.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve tenure for Margaret Zak and Melanie Colgan. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta - yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Martin stated usually, at this point, we would present you with your pens, but since we're doing this by Zoom, we'd like to invite you back for the April meeting, where we'll actually get to see you in person. We look forward to seeing you then.

#### B. Academic Calendar

Provost Vellanoweth stated in alignment with NNMC policy approval of the academic calendar is a required action by the Board of Regents. The current academic calendar concludes with the summer of 2026. Proposed calendar for academic year Fall 2026-2027 has been reviewed and recommended by my office and members of Faculty Bargaining Unit. Provost Vellanoweth stated the board all received the proposed academic calendar in their packet and stood for any questions from the board.

Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions from the board. No questions from the board.

Chairman Martin entertained motion to approve the academic calendar.

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

## **VI. VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE**

### **A. Capital Outlay for Espanola Campus Security and Accessibility**

Ms. Storey deferred to President Balderas for some comments. President Balderas stated we have all been on a shared journey and he has nothing but gratitude for the total ride it has been with our faculty, staff and students. but it's not every day that you truly get to celebrate a project that really is about students, and 3 years ago meeting with the Student Senate, and one of the, besides the kitchen that they wanted open, student leaders all voiced a more welcoming campus, a campus that reflects not only their youthful opportunities, but really created a sense of belonging. President Balderas stated he is very excited to kind of put things in perspective for the staff and the faculty that today is about the students winning. We are about to potentially break ground on what's been a long, long three years of planning, securing funding. You know, it's said that almost three-quarters of students decide to go to an institution based on how that institution looks and feels in terms of the first impression and this project is more than just campus beautification. It's really about setting the right relationship that we want to have with our students. Do they deserve the very best, is the first question. Secondly, do they feel like they're in a place that they belong? And this project is named, after Cameron Martinez, a young man that was gunned down several years ago, bright, full of promise and, it was a mistaken identity in terms of violence and President Balderas has been working with his mother privately to figure out the kind of young man that he was and what he wanted and so he's part of the inspiration of this design that's going to be breaking ground, and President Balderas is going to stay on top of these guys. My hope, symbolically, is that the day after graduation, that would be May 17th or 18th. There will begin to go through a transformation of the front of Montoya. On behalf of Cameron Martinez, it will be an outdoor, gathering center, it will be a center of wellness and healing, and we're also going to be working with our Native American pueblos, so that it also represents some of the Tewa Heritage and respect that we have for those lands. That architect has been working on several designs, but we're not done seeking input, but this \$4 million will be a very important project that's going to be starting now in May and we'll redesign the front of Montoya, the outdoors. And, and I'll close with this, Mr.

Chairman. We've had many great Hispanic heritage events. On the hot pavement and asphalt and we do it well, that's Espanola, but the, this type of front spacing will allow us to have community events, in a much more beautiful setting, and not a little longer on the parking lot. So, for President Balderas, it's a very important approval that you have. It is, going from a phase where we fix emergencies and toilets and leaking roofs to really inspiring designs that are based on our culture, our community, and our students. And so, this is kind of the first project that doesn't involve an emergency, it involves everything that makes this region great and, President Balderas is excited to, to seek board approval so that we can get approval from the New Mexico Legislature for this very special design and it may involve retiring the sign that we have out in front, sir, but President Balderas is sure that the board will be supportive of that as well. So, with President Balderas deferred it back to Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Storey stated she would only add a couple more technical points. On the screen is the area of work, and so you will see, sort of, the entry point, one entry point on Paseo de Oñate and two entry points on Railroad which we will have monument signage and then primarily the area of work is exterior with the exception of remodeling of the Montoya entryway to enhance our security presence and so you will see that in this (attached). These funds are secured to bring the project through completion through GO bond, as well as the governor's capital appropriation. The cost to be specific of this project is \$4,281,332.34. We are working with LDG Architect who will also manage our construction contracts. We are seeking your approval to expend these funds. With your approval, we will take this to the Capital Outlay Committee and then to the State Board of Finance. So, the timing of the project, we're hopeful to break ground as soon as the semester ends, assuming all approvals are in place. Ms. Store stated with this, she will also acknowledge that we have Shawn Madrid on as well for any technical questions and Ms. Storey stood for questions.

Chairman Martin asked for questions from the Board.

Regent Velarde stated she apologized she was a little late to yesterday's meeting so she didn't get to ask this question. With the, it looks beautiful of what we've been able to see, but she is rue there is going to be some sort of like, trees and, you know, other things, are we thinking about xeriscaping? Are we doing like minimal water kind of ideas? Like xeriscaping, like she said or is that not, you know part of it. Ms. Storey stated we hope to bring the Board more of the planning document at the retreat but yes, there is, primarily xeriscaping contemplated in this design. Regent Velarde thanked Ms. Storey.

Regent Archuleta – no questions.

Regent Gurule stated this is very excited and had no questions.

Regent Lovato stated this is very exciting and he looks forward to seeing it.

**Regent Lovato moved to approve Capital Outlay for Espanola Campus Security and Accessibility. Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta - yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Capital Outlay for Espanola and El Rito Campus Safety Infrastructure

Ms. Storey stated this request is for \$1,336,235.50. The funds for this project to bring it to completion are through GO bonds as well. This ask is for replacement of the fire alarm system on the Espanola Campus. We currently have a dated Hochiki, or aging Hochiki system. It is proprietary, it is difficult to get service to that system in general. We have experienced multiple, false alarms and the fire company coming out for those false alarms. We did secure multiple quotes. We are going to go with APEC solutions, and again, that will impact all buildings on the Espanola Campus. We are excited for this request and it will be the first in a series of integrated security enhancements on the campus and we request approval to expend these funds. Ms. Storey stood for questions from the Board.

Chairman Martin asked if there were questions from the Board.

Regent Velarde – no questions.

Regent Archuleta – no questions.

Regent Lovato – no questions.

Regent Gurule – no questions.

Chairman Martin asked the cutoff for the board to be involved. Ms. Storey stated the threshold for the committee is \$300,000. We are completing the same replacement on the El Rito Campus which is under the threshold of meeting that. She believes the cost for that is about \$293,000 so it's just under the threshold of needing that approval. Chairman Martin thanked Ms. Storey and stated that will bring both campuses up to a good place. Ms. Storey stated it would. President Balderas stated yes, we have been getting in trouble with the fire marshals and so it will be nice to have this equipment.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the Capital Outlay for the Espanola Campus.

**Regent Gurule moved to approve the Capital Outlay for Espanola and El Rito Campus Safety Infrastructure. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta - yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

A. Capital Outlay for Espanola Campus HVAC

Ms. Storey stated this ask is for replacement of failing and inefficient HVAC systems in the SERPA building, the High-Tech Building and the Administration Building. With approval and completion of these replacements, the only lacking building to address will be the metal trades building. The funds secured for these replacements are through severance tax bonds. There are sufficient funds to bring these upgrades to replacement. There are some technical notes here with regard to specific systems. Again, Ms. Storey stated Sean Madrid is on the call if there are any questions with regard to those replacements, and with that, Mr. Chair, I'll ask for approval to expend \$881,681.54 for these replacements.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the Capital Outlay for the Espanola Campus HVAC.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the Capital Outlay for the Espanola Campus HVAC.

Regent Velarde – no questions.

Regent Archuleta – no questions.

Regent Lovato – no questions.

Regent Gurule – no questions.

**Regent Velarde moved to approval the Capital Outlay for Espanola Campus HVAC. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Regent Archuleta - yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

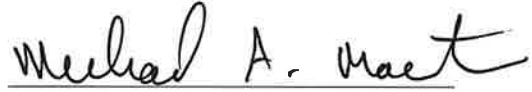
**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

**The Board of Regents adjourned at 3:27PM.**

Approved:



Michael A. Martin  
Chair



Erica Velarde (May 4, 2026 16:26:00 MDT)

Erica Rita Velarde  
Vice Chair







# 1896\_001 (1)

Final Audit Report

2026-05-04

Created:	2026-05-01
By:	Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAALEafayt_sOGa3nJzwoUJNZ6PoTyhhEA

## "1896\_001 (1)" History

-  Document created by Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)  
2026-05-01 - 4:25:26 PM GMT- IP address: 107.7.7.195
-  Document emailed to erica.velarde@nnmc.edu for signature  
2026-05-01 - 4:25:54 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by erica.velarde@nnmc.edu  
2026-05-01 - 4:26:01 PM GMT- IP address: 64.233.172.100
-  Signer erica.velarde@nnmc.edu entered name at signing as Erica Velarde  
2026-05-04 - 10:25:58 PM GMT- IP address: 146.75.165.7
-  Document e-signed by Erica Velarde (erica.velarde@nnmc.edu)  
Signature Date: 2026-05-04 - 10:26:00 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 146.75.165.7
-  Agreement completed.  
2026-05-04 - 10:26:00 PM GMT