

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
Eastern New Mexico University – Roswell
Special Virtual Meeting
January 29, 2025, 4:00 pm

MINUTES

Members Present:

Carleton “Cla” Avery, Rissie Daubert, Tamaliah
“Tammy” Lueras, Jamila Miller and Ginger Miller

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Todd DeKay, Frances Dubiel, Lucretia England, Ron Flury,
Stephen Grieco, James Johnston, Tony Major, Eric Mann,
Karen Massey, Annemarie Oldfield, Shawn Powell, and
Martha Staab

Routine Business:

- I. Call to Order President Avery called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
- II. Declare a Quorum President Avery declared a quorum.
- III. Finalize Agenda President Avery asked that the agenda be adjusted to include Presidential remarks to fall after approval of the minutes. He called for a motion to finalize the amended agenda. Vice President Lueras motioned to finalize the agenda as amended, which was seconded by Member Jamila Miller. The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Approve Minutes President Avery asked for a motion to approve the January 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Secretary Daubert made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice President Lueras, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

Presidential Remarks:

- I. ENMU-Roswell President Remarks
Dr. Shawn Powell, ENMU-Roswell President, reported the legislative session is underway and an ENMU day was held recently at the Capitol. The Chancellor will expound on the event. He led that effort and did a great job in Santa Fe with all three campuses represented there. Legislation is ongoing, and we are in contact with our legislators regarding specific actions, capital outlay, and ongoing projects. This is the second week of a sixty-day legislative session.

The White House pause on federal spending has had some back-and-forth directives for the past three days. On Monday of this week, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo directing a pause on federal spending to go into effect the next day. Shortly before the timeline for the pause to become effective, a Washington, DC district court judge issued an injunction. Therefore, a stay is in place with an upcoming hearing regarding the federal spending pause of federal funds. We have 71 full and part-time individuals on our campus who are involved with efforts listed in the areas to be paused: Adult Education, TRiO, Gear Up, Title III, and Title

V grants. We met with these faculty and staff members this afternoon to share available information about the current status of the grants. A memo came out today, January 29, stating OMB Memorandum M25-13, the one issued Monday that put a pause on federal funding, is rescinded. However, today's memo went on to say if there are questions about implementing the President's executive orders to contact your agency's general counsel. The meaning seems to be unclear, but the White House press secretary offered comments before noon today Mountain time announcing this is not a rescission of the federal funding freeze. It is simply a rescission of the OMB memo in an effort to end any confusion by the court's injunction. We will wait for additional guidance, which will hopefully be Monday, for clarity on the best way ahead with our federal grants and programs that receive those fundings.

Organizational changes in Academic Affairs are being considered. The three schools we have currently would be consolidated into two schools. Health Education and Technical Education would be merged into one school, while Arts and Sciences will remain as a stand-alone school. Rationale and further discussion will be presented at the next Board meeting. The consolidation relates to the number of faculty being supervised and programs among the Deans.

II. ENMU Chancellor Remarks

Dr. James Johnston, ENMU System Chancellor, shared he is encouraging continuation of work to the extent possible during the federal pause because we do not want to discontinue work and violate terms of these federal grants. He asked the campuses to determine the fiscal impact of the funding pause. For the short term, we would need to float dollar amounts until those funds are released. Longer term, consideration of what programs, if any, may need to be permanently reduced or removed. The situation has created much confusion. A number of students have called the Student Affairs offices concerned about financial aid, so staff are trying to reassure them, to the extent possible, that the Title IV piece was not affected. We are trying to balance that and mitigate any confusion.

Legislation on the state level included budget hearings and some of what was asked for by the System was not included in the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) recommendations. Dr. Johnston will have the opportunity to visit with the Governor on Tuesday of next week to discuss a way forward to put those items back into the budget.

Dr. Johnston expressed appreciation for all of the work being done, including ENMU Day at the Roundhouse. There were 24 tables manned by all three campuses with ENMU colors and banners. It was a great representation of the entire System, and we received numerous compliments about the professionalism of our students, our staff, and our alum.

Action Items:

I. Exploration of Mill Levy Increase

President Avery noted the Board had the opportunity during a workshop last month to discuss and investigate in depth some of the possibilities of a mill levy increase. He opened the floor for discussion of continued exploration of a mill levy increase.

Dr. Powell clarified this is a request for approval to explore a mill levy increase for the ENMU-Roswell campus; it would be an exploration only at this time, not a commitment to proceed with the mill levy. There are timelines with the County Clerk to be cognizant of, it is believed is August 26 is the deadline to notify the County Clerk in order to move forward placing the mill levy increase on the ballot for the November 2025 election. This timeline would allow the campus to move forward with a survey of Chaves County, which is the entire district, to determine likely support for the mill levy increase. It would also allow time for additional preparatory work.

Vice President Lueras inquired about receiving a copy of the presentation by Mr. Steve Lestarjette in terms of the timeline and actions to take. (Mr. Lestarjette consulted with the Community College Board during the November 2024 workshop. He has worked with community colleges to secure multiple successful ballot initiatives in the past). Dr. Powell will send the presentation to the Board. President Avery recalled, in addition

to the survey, one of the first steps would be to create an advisory committee to assist in determining whether or not to proceed with the request for the mill levy later in the year. Dr. Powell agreed initial stages would be an assessment of the community's input and organizing groups of individuals from the community to help represent and be champions of the campus to promote this effort. President Avery noted survey responses and committee input would help the Community College Board decide later in the year whether or not to proceed.

Member Jamila Miller asked about utilizing an agency or an individual, similar to Mr. Lestarjette, to help guide this preliminary process and what the estimated cost might be. Dr. Powell responded a consultant who performs these functions on a regular basis would be hired, and when we considered the possibility of a mill levy increase last year, Mr. Lestarjette's estimated cost for a year-long process was around \$100,000 for the comprehensive work. President Avery asked where the funds would come from in the budget. Dr. Powell indicated it would be paid from operational funds. Last year, \$2,800,000 in reserves was moved forward. Consequently, funds are available for this endeavor.

Vice President Lueras inquired if it would be possible to ask the ENMU-Roswell Foundation to contribute money toward this as it would be a one-time expense, not a recurring one. Dr. Powell answered it could a consideration. The possibility has not been discussed with Foundation yet. Upon approval from the Board to explore the potential mill levy increase, the request could be presented to the Foundation Board. President Avery stated he sits on Foundation Board as an ex officio member, and many of those members are potential people who might be approached to serve on the mill levy advisory committee. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to ask the Foundation for funds, as well as have some members serve as an advisory member.

President Avery entertained a motion to approve proceeding with the exploration of the mill levy increase.

Secretary Daubert made a motion to approve exploration of the mill levy increase, and Vice President Lueras seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

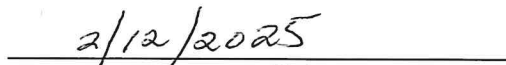
It was again clarified this is not a final decision whether or not to pursue the mill levy increase. At this time, it is simply the exploration to provide better information for making the final decision. President Avery added the final decision will involve advice from the advisory board as to the favorability of our community and county to move forward.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Minutes approved by Community College Board Secretary, Rissie Daubert.


Signature


Date