

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/17/22

Time: 6:00 pm

Session Location: SENMC RM 155

Board Members present: ☒ Chairman, Ned Elkins
☒ Member, Bill Murrill

Type of Meeting:

☐ Regular ☐ Work

☒ Special

☒ Secretary, Tiffany Frintz
☒ Member, Sarah Bowman

Board Members absent: ☒ Member, Mark Cage

1) **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Time: 6:00 pm

2) **Establish Quorum – Roll Call**

3) **Ned Elkins:** Read action item #4 from agenda – Board discussion of a formation of vocational trades building committee and possible selection of committee members – Discussion/Action Item

4) **Sarah Bowman:** In this process, reflect on the promise of shared governance and every voice in our community, staff, faculty, and students is heard. This is going to directly impact our community. It is prudent to form a guiding committee in order to make sure that everything has been considered, similar opinions from different sectors to ensure we cover every possible basis. Ensure shared governance and be fiscally responsible as a Board.

5) **Tiffany Frintz:** Agreed with Bowman's comments. Adding a recommendation that we reach out to our local shareholders and Artesia. Suggestion to obtain input from HF Sinclair, which is working on renewables and production. This could be incorporated into our energy college for the future. Elkins asked how Frintz would pursue this idea. Frintz stated that she has contacts and will speak with representatives about internships and where are they sending people, and ask if we can start a collaboration with these companies.

6) **Ned Elkins:** Supported the idea of broader than Carlsbad stating that both Artesia and Hobbs have a gas and oil training center that were paid for by gas and oil. Elkins asked Frintz if the focus was about renewables only or all inclusive.

7) **Tiffany Frintz:** Focus is on all energies. There are bills that support being more green and there are some huge write offs for this effort for companies such as Holly Frontier/HF Sinclair. Suggested making people from the surrounding area feel more welcome to be a part of this school of energy.

8) **Bill Murrill:** Supports both Bowman and Frintz.

9) **Ned Elkins:** Gas and Oil will be the most challenging and they are not tied to anyone in southeast NM. Stated that he believes that we would have the inclusivity from Gas and Oil. We are the only potash mining area and believe that we can explore renewables. Formation of the committee needs to be as broad and let's get started by being inclusive.

10) **John Heaton:** Agreed that we need to be as all-inclusive for energy production and the training that supports that. We should invite them to have input and there will be a lot of crossover between industries. Wholeheartedly agree that we have to get started and get a strawman that everyone can

begin to have input. We have very definitive input from WIPP on what their training needs are. There are a lot of general training needs that have been abandoned that need to be reincorporated. The mining industry may be similar to what the needs are for the WIPP since they are both mining. We will have to explore the needs for the gas and oil, and renewable industries. Recommended that we get a strawman started with the architect immediately and people can start adding to it.

- 11) **Norbert Rempe:** The NMJC specializes in wind and solar and has technical curricula that we may want to research. Disagreed with Heaton's comments on the mining industry and WIPP being similar. The WIPP is different from commercial mining. What may be good for WIPP, may be lethal for mining. At the last meeting, I was surprised that we did not learn how this decision came about. Rempe supported Murrill's statement about building such as place inside out and figure out what goes inside. Requested information on whether a feasibility study was completed or record of this information. For transparency purposes, this is why we are considering this building.
- 12) **John Heaton:** Added that the federal government is focused on a hydrogen project called the moon shot. There is a lot of activity and most of what we would consider in southeastern NM is the conversion of methane or the EOC that are omitted and cleaning it up and conversion to hydrogen/carbon dioxide. We use carbon dioxide in pressurized recovery of high volume in the gas and oil industry in a proposal that has already been made by local group and includes this concept. The carbon dioxide is not released into the atmosphere and it is sequestered in the rock; which is good approach from a practical point of view. Suggested that hydrogen production as one of the ideas for training.
- 13) **Ned Elkins:** Agreed with the suggestions. Will ask administration about the assessments that were done that started this building. Focus to include workforce development, ideas on renewables, hydrogen, and we need to find the contacts. There is interest in those industries to make this hugely important and successful. The U.S. DOE has approached SENMC and contact has been made with a school in Idaho. There is a huge need in this area at WIPP, in West Texas and the LES, the uranium enrichment facility-Ureco, and waste control specialists. A radiological control specialist has to pass a national test and there is no training available in this area. This is a very specialized training and there is a niche for this type of training. We need to incorporate those base trainings and skilled development that everyone is going to need. This is where we can unify gas and oil companies; which is one of the most competitive industries. We need to start with what they will agree on and we will grow into those niche proprietaries. Literally, none of us have all the answers, get the right people involved, and not one group. Asked the Board Members to form the committee, get some ideas, build from the inside out, artistic shell, functional footprint, an architect under contract, and bring them to the December meeting, and we can discuss whether we have an open or closed session. This committee must be inclusively involved. We need Board representation on this committee but we cannot have a forum. Administration is to be heavily involved in this committee and involve faculty and staff. The gas and oil industry is involved and the Permian Strategic Partnership (PSP) is extremely interested in being engaged. The U.S. DOE Grant Plant contract signed yesterday and extended to the 21st of December. We will need people who can complete this application and grant applications are competitive. Request for a motion, an action to work with this architect is the administration of the college and would like that to shift to this committee.
- 14) **Bill Murrill:** Agreed with Elkins, Heaton and Rempe. Basic skills are basic skills, a mechanic is a mechanic, an electrician is an electrician and have to have the basic skills; once this is started then you can go into your specialized training. Once you get a program started then people will tell you where we need to go. We need to get this committee started.
- 15) **Ned Elkins:** With inclusivity in mind, PSP meet regularly with school board and administration. It will be essential to have the public school involved, and that our early college and dual credit program are not competitive.
- 16) **Tiffany Frintz:** The high school has an academy model and agreed with Elkins on involving school

board and administration.

- 17) **Ned Elkins:** Request for a motion
- 18) **Tiffany Frintz:** Made a motion: Create a building committee for the vocational trades center and to be collaborative, so that the committee can communicate with the architect, administration and stakeholders.
- 19) **Sarah Bowman:** Seconded the motion
- 20) **John Heaton:** Recommended authorization to make changes to the architectural contract that is already in place such as the design completed by the end of December and these changes that you are anticipating you will need to change these phases and the due dates. You will need the authority to make these changes, and discussion with the architect to the contract about changes in their phase approach to complete the project.
- 21) **Ned Elkins:** This is implied in Frintz' motion and the architect will be attending the December meeting. Informed Dr. Nwanne that it is important that we have action capability at that time. Not just discussion but decision. Requested a copy of the contract and that all Board Members read the contract.
- 22) **General Counsel Lane Martin:** Recommended that there be specific discussions on the timelines set for changing and modifying contract. The Chair and President have authorization. Dr. Karla Volpi has a copy at the college and general counsel has a final copy without signatures.
- 23) **Ned Elkins:** Dr. Nwanne was asked about a copy of the signed contract who confirmed that an electronic version of the contract was available. Elkins directed the Board Members to read this building contract before meeting with the architect.
- 24) **Norbert Rempe:** Asked about a feasibility assessment and if it exists or was completed by NMSU, the committee members may need that information too.
- 25) **Dr. Andrew Nwanne:** Emphasised the challenges in the workforce area, facility did not provide enough space, industrial maintenance and programs need space and cannot expand, and emphasis on the vocational building is that we need space and other institutions have the space. A study was done with 9 Degrees.
- 26) **Norbert Rempe:** Commented on when the study was done and if it was two, five or 10 years ago.
- 27) **Ned Elkins:** We should look at this early documentation, and assessment, and reach out to industries.
- 28) **John Heaton:** There have been three conceptual designs other than this last one. Those designs have basically or basis what was considered what was needed and the feasibility and original design. These were presented to legislature when Dr. Nwanne attempted to obtain \$4M and these designs are available for people to look at. This project has grown much bigger than that initial concept. We need an example of the classes, space needed, times, and need lists from the industries. Basic skills have been totally abandoned by the college (NMSU). Specifics such as electricians, gas and oil, need to understand low voltage, normal and high voltage in their industries, specialties added on, automation in electrical components is a huge issue, details and descriptions and we have some and the basics to develop this strawman for the internal are on the training needed.
- 29) **Ned Elkins:** You are on step two. Step one is to focus on the community. Community needs to know why we are doing what we are doing and be a part of it. The Grant company does this and puts the scope of work into the applications. They will be involved with us as we form this committee. Suggest we develop a one pager, advertise it, and notify our community why we are doing this and what we are doing in addition to having the companies. A statement to the community from the committee as we get going.
- 30) **John Heaton:** Once the Board Members read the architectural contract they will understand it is a phased approach and how each phase is developed and how we get to design drawings.
- 31) **Ned Elkins:** Commitment from Al Davis at PSP and some want direct relationships, invite groups and need people and engage people and you have a right to say who is on this committee.
- 32) **Dr. Andrew Nwanne:** Ensure that Dr. Volpi is on this committee.

33) Ned Elkins: Confirmed that during the board meeting, Dr. Volpi will be on this committee. After 40 years advised that there is a critical mass for committees.

Date: Nov. 17, 2022 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** SEPMC Room 153

34) Adjournment - Ned Elkins: Meeting adjourned

Chairman adjourned at 6:50 pm

Approved

Tiffany Frintz, Secretary

Date