

DRAFT MINUTES
NMSU Pioneers Summer Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 10:00 a.m.,
TEAL Classroom/Hardman and Jacobs Undergraduate Learning Center

- I. Call to Order
President Debbie Widger called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. TEAL (Technology Enhanced Active Learning) Classroom Overview
Michelle Jackson demonstrated the technical facilities of the classroom including wall screens, table computers, connectivity to other devices, and instructor use. Various disciplines are taught in the room including math, theater, biology, and engineering.
- III. Review and approval of January 2016 Minutes (Debbie Widger)
Warren Noland moved to accept the minutes, and Conrad Keyes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- IV. Hugh M. Milton Biography (Martha Shipman Andrews)
Pioneer Board members were given signed copies of a book, Hugh M. Milton: A Life Beyond Duty. One of the authors, Martha Shipman Andrews, outlined the book describing the life of Milton, a previous NMSU president, stating that not enough people are aware of his great contributions.
- V. Treasurer's Report (Conrad Keyes, Jr.)
Conrad Keyes reported the balance in the NMSU Pioneers General Fund is \$5,749.92. There is \$2,942.25 in the scholarship fund.
- VI. Scholarship Selection Committee (Debbie Widger)
Four students have been selected. The names will be released as soon as they have accepted. The scholarships are named after previous retirees. Conrad Keyes moved that a fifth scholarship be added named after C. Quentin Ford, providing funding is available. Charles Pfeiffer seconded the motion.
- VII. 2016 Dues Payers Membership Update (Debbie Widger)
Debbie Widger began the discussion of the opportunity to restructure the finances of the Pioneers by moving from the dues-paying model to a donation model. There are several options including one where any gift to any NMSU program by a retiree would result in Pioneer membership. Another would be just the Pioneers Book Scholarship. Another would be the Book Scholarship plus a selection of some projects that have involved Pioneers in the past such as the Rio Grande Historical Collection.

Because of budgetary issues, the Foundation will not be able to continue to support the Pioneers with the dues model. Andrea Tawney reassured the group that the Foundation would cover the Pioneers communication costs if the purpose of the Pioneers fits under the umbrella of the Foundation's mission. In response to concerns about the possible dissolution of the Pioneers, she said there would still be a Pioneers identity including a Pioneers Board, a Pioneers newsletter, luncheons and other activities.

One advantage is that the donations are tax deductible while dues are not. There are 500-600 retirees who donate approximately \$450,000 to NMSU. The Foundation will be able to match up these other retiree donors from its data bases. There are currently about 36 Pioneers dues-paying members so it is expected that this opportunity would enhance Pioneers membership. Conrad Keyes noted that there were 150 Pioneers members 4 or 5 years ago, so the current method is not working. A total of \$1,950 was donated to the book scholarship or an average of \$54 per member. Tawney expected that the membership would build slowly. She outlined the results of the shift to the donation model for the President's Associates, the Alumni Association, and the Foundation.

Conrad Keyes noted that the bylaws (Article II, Section 3. Active Members) will need to be changed. The Board makes changes to the bylaws. Keyes suggested: "Any member who makes a donation to the Pioneers Book Scholarship and/or donation to other NMSU programs via the Foundation." It was decided that there will be another informal meeting of the Board to work out the proposed language, including the minimum amount. The proposed language for this opportunity will be presented at the summer luncheon. The Board will then make the decision at the September Board meeting to be effective for the 2017 year and announced at the November luncheon.

It was decided to change the September Board meeting to September 15 at 2:30 p.m.

VIII. GO Bond Volunteer Opportunity

- A. Ricardo Rel outlined the bond issues that will be on the November general election ballot. GO Bond C includes \$131 million, with \$27.5 million for NMSU. One of the projects is \$22.5 million for a new building for the Department of Art and the Art Gallery. There will be no increase in property taxes if the bond passes. The Pioneers are invited to volunteer for outreach efforts. GO bond brochures and buttons will be available at the summer luncheon. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Darlene Nelson
- B. Marisa Sage described the benefits of the Art Department to both NMSU and the State of New Mexico. There are more than 200 art majors plus 1,000 non-major students taking art classes. The Art Gallery includes a teaching mission along with civic activities. Overall the creative academy adds \$5.6 billion and 76,000 jobs to the State's economy.

IX. Benefits Update (Jacki Griffin)

Jacki Griffin reported on proposed budgetary changes affecting retirees. Employees hired after July 1, 2016, will not be offered retiree health. Current retirees will not be affected. Retirees participating in the ERB Return To Work program will accrue annual leave differently. Those who return at less than .75 FTE will not be offered insurance benefits. The decision should be made by the end of June.

VIII. Upcoming Events (Darlene Nelson)

The Summer Pioneer Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 20 at 11:15 a.m. at the Columbus Center. Darlene asked for volunteers for music.

XI. Adjourn (Debbie Widger)

The meeting was adjourned at noon.