

DRAFT MINUTES
NMSU Pioneers Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2016, 1:00PM
NMSU Educational Services Building Room 2

- I. Call to Order
President Debbie Widger called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
- II. Review and approval of June 15, 2016 Minutes
Warren Noland moved to accept the minutes, and Conrad Keyes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- III. Stewardship Card Signatures
Terra Winter asked for help in signing welcoming cards to be sent to new retirees for June, July and August. She will notify the Board when the cards are ready to sign probably at the Alumni Association Office.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Conrad Keyes reported that the Pioneers General Account has \$3,469.92 as of August 22, 2016, and the Book Scholarship Account has \$7,197.25. A transfer of \$3,000 was made to the scholarship account from the general account. There is enough money for two years of scholarships, even if there are low donations in the coming year. The Scholarship Fund will be given prominence in the newsletter. Also, it was noted that donations can be made online; a link can be added in the emailed newsletter. Charles Pfeiffer moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Emmitt Brooks seconded the motion.
- V. Dues Payers Membership Model
Debbie Widger reviewed the history of the Pioneers organization. In 1984, President Gerald Thomas retired and started the group. He also felt it was an opportunity to raise funds for NMSU. The Alumni Association and the Foundation partnered to find the funding. Later the organizational chart shifted, but the Pioneers stayed with Debbie when she moved to the Foundation. There were changes in activities and methods over the years. There are two proposals to be considered. The continuation of the Pioneers' identity is a key consideration.

Option 1: Donation Model

The Pioneers organization would continue to receive staff support from the Foundation with tasks such as organizing the events, writing the newsletter, and paying for the postage. The Donation Model would bring in all those who are eligible Pioneers and are already donating to some NMSU program via the Foundation. With the change to the Donation Model, there are approximately 475 people who donate to NMSU who also meet the criteria to be Pioneers. Members would still pay for the luncheons. Donations can be made with any frequency. The donations will be tax deductible under the auspices of the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status.

Option 2: Current Dues Model

The Pioneers members would have to do all the administration work. There would not be a designation as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-favored organization. All the banking and accounting would have to be done by the members. Currently, about 36 members pay dues.

There was a great deal of discussion of these proposals. In response to the concern for the loss of identity, Conrad Keyes noted that the objectives of the organization in Article I of the Bylaws will still govern. There was clarification of the organization of the Foundation, Alumni

Association, the President's Associates, and the Pioneers. The Pioneers Board will remain a separate entity. Confusion was expressed regarding with the Athletic Department's Aggie Athletic Club. The Club is a separate organization at the present time, so donations to it do not qualify as donations to The Foundation as described in the Pioneers' proposed Bylaws. Terra Winter confirmed that the Pioneers' newsletter will be sent out to the expanded membership, noting that it is less expensive to send out a greater volume under special postage rates. The Fall Newsletter is expected to be out by October 10.

VI. Approval of Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Conrad Keyes made the motion to accept the proposed revisions to the Bylaws. Emmitt Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed with one negative vote. A second set of changes were proposed to Article III of the Bylaws. Warren Noland moved, and Conrad Keyes seconded. The motion passed. The revised Bylaws will be distributed at the November luncheon.

VII. Discussion and Approval of CY17 Officers

Debbie Widger outlined the composition of the Board. Several people have served the maximum of two terms. The Board now consists of 15 members. The Board elects new Board Directors members from the active membership. Nominations can also come from any active member. Officers are elected by the new incoming Board at the January meeting. Conrad Keyes moved to accept the new slate, and Denise Welsh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. Scholarship Selection Committee Report

Debbie Widger presented the list of the winners of the book scholarship. They will be invited to the November Luncheon. They are:

1. In honor of former board member Glyn Throneberry
Leihani Clark Rodriguez graduated from Onate High School and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She plans on earning a minor in Women's Studies. She would like to become a neo-natal or maternity nurse in a local clinic or hospital and serve the women and families of New Mexico. Her mother graduated from NMSU from the College of Education, and her father graduated from the College of Engineering.
2. In honor of Pioneers Founder, Gerald Thomas
Kayla Johnson was home schooled and is pursuing a degree in music in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is planning to teach music and plays the violin. Her mother graduated from NMSU with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.
3. In honor of former board member, Eddie Groth
Charles Trujillo graduated from Gadsden High School and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Information Engineering Technology with a minor in security technology. He would like to become a computer forensics professional or manage a large network of computers. His mother earned an Associate's degree in Business, a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, and a Master's in the College of Education.
4. In honor of former board member Joe Creed
Shane Griffin graduated from Onate High School and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics and wishes to pursue a Master's in Physics and a PhD. He would like to work in research and development in New Mexico. Both of his parents and grandparents graduated from NMSU.

5. In honor of former board member C. Quentin Ford
Brent Carrillo graduated from Las Cruces High School and is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering and wishes to earn a Master's in Organic Chemistry or a Pharmacy degree and is interested in the field of private medical research with a focus on synthesizing new medicine. Both of his parents are graduates of NMSU.

IX. NMSU Pioneers Fall Luncheon

The Fall luncheon will be November 16, 2016. The program will include the student scholarship recipients and either a presentation on sustainability efforts or a presentation of the Hugh M. Milton book by Martha Andrews with the possibility of an actor playing Milton.

X. Other Fun NMSU Events were described.

A. The Adjustment Project (TAP) is held at 100 West Café, Gerald Thomas Hall (Drinks priced \$3-5) from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on September 30, October 7, November 4, and December 2.

B. Gerald Thomas Chair Program (College of ACES) presents the Bobby Lee Lawrence Academy of Wine, Gerald Thomas Hall (Cost: \$15) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on September 22, October 13, October 15, and November 10.

XI. Benefits Update

In lieu of Jacki Griffin, Denise related information from a retiree health presentation.

XII. The dates of the following events were outlined by Debbie Widger.

A. Giving Tuesday November 29, 2016

B. Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 10 AM
Tentatively - NMSU Alumni Association Conference Room

XIII. The meeting was adjourned by Debbie Widger at 2:30 p.m.