

## New Mexico State University Pioneers

### Bylaws

#### Preamble

We, the long-term and retired employees of New Mexico State University, in order to support higher education in general and NMSU in particular, to foster pride and recognition for the role of the employee, to strive for creation or sustenance of excellence in ourselves and others, and to maintain a closer relationship with the University and its mission, goals and objectives, do hereby ordain and establish the NMSU PIONEERS.

#### ARTICLE I

##### Objectives

The objectives of the NMSU PIONEERS are to capitalize on the experiences of former employees and others who have had close association with NMSU and to translate those experiences into initiatives that will advance the objectives of the University and its employees. The organization will support the NMSU mission of “teaching, research, and service.”

Section 1. Support to Members: The organization will provide support and assistance to retirees and long-term employees who belong to the membership through such activities as continuing education, financial planning, and dissemination of information.

Section 2. Preservation of History: The organization will assist in strengthening all historical activities appropriate for the University. Each Pioneer is a storehouse of knowledge about some aspect of NMSU.

Section 3. Teaching Excellence: Pioneers will, individually and collectively, help promote quality education and excellence in teaching at our University. In addition, the organization will assist in recruiting good students, establishing scholarships, and stimulating students to higher levels of performance.

Section 4. Research: The organization will maintain an interest in NMSU research programs and plans and make recommendations for more activities of interest to the group.

Section 5. Service and Community: The Pioneers will work with and assist the University and the community on appropriate public service projects and programs.

Section 6. General Meetings: To fully recognize the above objectives, there shall be at least two general meetings annually.

## ARTICLE II

### Members

There shall be three classes of members:

Section 1. Members: Any person who is retired from New Mexico State University or who has served 20 or more years with the University shall be considered a member of this organization. Also the spouse and/or surviving spouse of any person who meets the foregoing criteria shall be considered a member.

Section 2. Honorary Members: Any former Regent of NMSU shall be considered an Honorary Member. Any other person who has rendered outstanding service to this organization or to the University or to the advancement of higher education in New Mexico and who is not eligible for a membership according to Section 1 above may, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, be elected an Honorary Member. Honorary Members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of Active Members except the right to vote and hold office.

Section 3. Active Members: Any member who makes an annual donation to the Pioneers Book Scholarship and/or donation to other NMSU programs via the Foundation shall be considered an Active Member.

## ARTICLE III

### Board of Directors

Section 1. All lawful powers of the Pioneers shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

Each director shall serve a three-year term.

Section 2. Board Membership:

A. Directors: Fifteen (15) individuals will be elected by the current Board of Directors from active members, and nominations can come from any active member. Terms will be staggered with five members elected annually. Directors may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The term of office begins on January 1.

B. Non-voting:

1. The President of the University or appointed representative.
2. Alumni Office representative.
3. Archivist or appointed representative.
4. Employee Benefits Representative.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall have general and fiscal control and direction of the affairs of the organization and shall be responsible for carrying out its objectives. The Board of Directors may establish standing or temporary committees and determine the duties of such committees.

## ARTICLE IV

### Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Pioneers shall be as follows

- A. President
- B. President-Elect
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer

Section 2. Officers will be elected by the new incoming Board of Directors from active members.

## Article V

### Meetings of the Board of Directors

Section 1. Regular Meetings: There shall be at least two meetings of the Board of Directors each year.

Section 2. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the organization's President or by five or more directors or upon petition of fifty (50) or more active members of the organization.

Section 3. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at special and regular meetings.

Section 4. Notice: All directors shall be informed in writing of all regular and special meetings at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.