

NMSU Pioneers Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Monday, January 22, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Alumni Center

1. Call to Order

President Gregg Throneberry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with 11 members present.

2. Introduction of New Board Members

The new members of the board were introduced: Anna Chieffo, Anna Price, Lavona Ewing, Nancy Vehstedt, and Melchor Ortiz.

3. Review and Approval of September 20, 2017 Minutes

Debbie Widger moved to accept the minutes, and Emmitt Brooks seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Officer Elections/Retention Discussion

Gregg Throneberry relayed there had been confusion over the term of service for Conrad Keyes. Gregg expressed gratitude for Conrad's service. Another member is needed on the board to bring it up to the 15 members specified in the Pioneers by laws. Tina Byford agreed to serve for one year to complete Conrad's term. Gregg asked the current officers if they wished to continue. Gregg will be the president. Denise Welsh will become past president. Dianna Gibson will continue as secretary. Anna Price, a new member, agreed to serve as treasurer. Emmitt Brooks will be president elect. Charles Pfeiffer moved to accept the slate of officers, and Denise Welsh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Leslie Cervantes reviewed the reports. The operating fund has a balance of \$2,527.92. The book scholarship fund has \$3,337.25. There were only three scholarships awarded because one of the students did not meet admission requirements. Denise moved to accept the report, and Lavona Ewing seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

6. Membership

A discussion was held about ways to improve the number of Pioneers who are active in the organization. The eligibility rules to be a Pioneer were reviewed plus the additional requirement to be an "active" Pioneer, i.e. to make a donation to any NMSU organization (except Athletics). Dianna Gibson will chair a committee to include Anna Chieffo and Denise Welsh. The committee will coordinate with Leslie Cervantes to obtain lists of Pioneers for the board's review. Individual personal contact is the most effective way to enhance attendance at the luncheon or other activities. Leslie will develop a calendar of events throughout the year. Angel Mendez from the Advancement Office will assist with marketing. Business cards were distributed to board members for use in encounters with potential active members.

7. Book Scholarships

- a. An alternate method of delivery was presented by Leslie Cervantes. She proposed that two distributions of \$500 per semester to each student be used instead of a single payment of \$1,000. Charles Pfeiffer made a motion to change to two awards per year, and Emmitt Brooks seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- b. The criteria for the scholarships were discussed at length. Board members had expressed confusion because the application material was not consistent, with different questions answered by various applicants. Leslie Cervantes said that a rubric is needed to clarify the process. The current criteria are recorded in a memorandum from 2011. Tina Byford expressed the need for an actual legal document signed by the board president that would stay in force into the future. Debbie Widger described the

history of the fund. Originally, it started as an emergency fund to help a student who came to ask for help. However, it was not used often and became forgotten thus spawning the creation of the book scholarship. The board was polled to determine if need should be a factor. The consensus of the board is that the criteria should include need, junior level, and NMSU legacy through alumni or employees. A formal proposal will be developed by Gregg, Leslie, Danielle and Tina. Because the deadline for the scholarship decision is in March or April, it was decided to hold a mini-board meeting on February 13 at 10 a.m. As long as there is a quorum at the mini-meeting, comments of board members can also be made via email or phone.

8. Benefits Update

Kel Jaeger from the NMSU Benefits Office passed out the new rate sheets for the health insurance effective January 2018. He discussed a change in the preferred pharmacies to Walgreen's and Albertsons. He encouraged anyone with questions to contact the Benefits Office.

9. Luncheon Discussion

a. Fall 2017 Review.

The board praised the quality of the presentation at the fall luncheon. The costs were completely covered with 50 paid attendees. Danielle Gibbs will obtain the history of attendance at luncheons to assist in the determination of whether higher prices cause a decline in attendance.

b. Leslie Cervantes encouraged all board members to send her ideas for programs at future luncheons. The general consensus is that the Golf Course is a good location. Because the President's Residence is not always available, the board previously had wanted a single location. The hope is that all future luncheons will be at the Golf Course. A list of all student groups in each college is needed for future use.

c. Leslie will check on the dates of March 6 or March 13 for the spring luncheon. The program will be presentations by student groups.

10. Advancement Update.

a. Leslie Cervantes encouraged all board members to attend a joint meeting of all the boards connected to Advancement on Friday, April 20. More details will be sent.

b. Leslie also announced that over \$87 million has been raised toward their fund-raising goal, with \$37 million remaining.

11. Other Business

a. Angel Mendez asked for feedback regarding the Pioneers newsletter. She reviewed the sections, asking what the board wishes to have in each issue such as scholarship winners, past events, dates of upcoming events, and list of the current board members. She asked board members to send their thoughts to Gregg, Danielle, or her.

b. The mini-meeting will include the discussion of the scholarship criteria, the website, and taking pictures of the board.

c. The next regular meeting of the board will be scheduled at a future date.

12. Adjournment

Mel Ortiz made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Nancy Vehstedt. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.