

NMSU Pioneers Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT  
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 10:30 a.m. Alumni Center

1. Call to Order

President Gregg Throneberry called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Determination of quorum

There were 10 members in attendance constituting a quorum.

3. Review and Approval of January 22, 2018 Minutes

Charles Pfeiffer moved to accept the minutes, and Denise Welsh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Book Scholarship Criteria

- a. Leslie Cervantes discussed the need for a rubric to narrow down the number of candidates considered for the Pioneers Book Scholarship. The Board confirmed that financial need and connection to employees and retirees are important and part of the original intent of the scholarship. The legacy question is already in the questions that students answer on the Scholar Dollars application, the singular application used by students at NMSU for processing, awarding and applying for scholarships.
- a. All the criteria are currently available in the system. Tina Byford projected that these criteria would result in 3,500 candidates. The computer can randomly reduce the count to the number of applications the Board would like to see. Algorithms in the system ensure that scholarships are not all given to the same students.
- b. The use of a committee was discussed at length. Each person on a selection committee would evaluate applications based on personal preferences or experiences. To counteract that, more specific criteria would need to be added. It would be difficult to determine specific additional criteria acceptable to all Board members. All Board members agreed that there should be no committee and that the computer will be used produce the actual book scholarship recipients by reducing the eligible applicants to the number that the Board specifies each year, currently four.

5. Proposed Pioneer Gift Agreement

- b. Tina Byford and Gregg Throneberry developed a draft of a Current Use Agreement between the Pioneers and the New Mexico State University Foundation. The language has been reviewed by Financial Aid and determined to be in compliance with the requirements of Scholar Dollars.
- c. The agreement will be modified to add "full-time student" to the line: "Must be enrolled at Las Cruces Campus." The line "a parent, grandparent or guardian who is an NMSU alumnus" will be deleted. The line "is a current NMSU employee" will be deleted as redundant. The paragraph on the Scholarship Committee will be deleted.
- d. The two main additions to past criteria are financial need as demonstrated by official FAFSA results and the clarification of the legacy requirement.
- e. The new Current Use Agreement would go into force for Fall 2019 since the processing has already begun for Fall 2018. After revision, the agreement will be voted on at the next Board meeting. It is understood that changes can be made to the agreement in the future if the Board is not satisfied with the process.
- c. It was decided to use a committee for Fall 2018 since it is too late to apply the new Current Use Agreement. Anna Price will serve as chair, with members Emmitt Brooks, Denise Welsh, Anna Chieffo, and Debbie Widger. In order to ensure that no person on the selection committee has a conflict, the applicant forms will be blind, i.e. with all name references redacted. There will be a scoring page added to aid the committee. The deadline for the decision is approximately May 1.

6. Draft Newsletter

Angel Mendez distributed drafts of a reformatted Pioneers Newsletter and requested feedback from the Board. She will reduce the amount of gold color. A request for book scholarship donations will be added to each newsletter. The Pioneers logo will be moved to the top of the first page.

7. Passing of the Cane

Dense Welsh will perform the formal "passing of the cane" (synonymous with "passing of the gavel") to Gregg Throneberry at the Spring Luncheon. The cane was created by Gerald Thomas, previous NMSU President.

8. Other Business

- a. The Spring Luncheon will be on March 13 at the Golf Course. Leslie has arranged the student group for the presentation. Chancellor Garrey Carruthers and Provost Daniel Howard will be invited.
- b. Tina Byford is unable to serve as a board member due to the conflict with her role in NMSU Advancement. Angela Throneberry has agreed to serve the remainder of the year. Anna Chieffo made a motion to approve Angela as a board member, and Charles Pfeiffer seconded it. The motion was approved.
- c. Gregg Throneberry will begin sending thank-you notes to Book Scholarship donors.
- d. Lavona Ewing asked for and received clarification that any Pioneer can attend the luncheons, regardless of whether a donation has been made to make the person an "Active Pioneer."

9. Adjournment

Debbie Widger made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Emmitt Brooks. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.