



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2010-049

ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROCESS FOR SELECTING NOMINEES TO BOARDS OF REGENTS AT RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

WHEREAS, research universities educate the future leaders and citizens of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, research universities provide public goods necessary for economic development, effective democracy, and a thriving cultural life in New Mexico;

WHEREAS, New Mexico State University, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and the University of New Mexico are New Mexico's research universities;

WHEREAS, each of these universities is governed by a Board of Regents, members of which are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate of the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, both the complex nature of research universities and their importance to the future of New Mexico make it imperative that the best possible candidates be identified and nominated to serve on these Boards of Regents;

WHEREAS, in making nominations to the Boards of Regents, the Governor and thus the State can benefit from advice from members of the community and from faculty with expertise regarding the teaching, research, and service mission of research universities;

WHEREAS, good governance of the research universities in the State of New Mexico will be served by an advisory selection process for future Regents;

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico and its citizens and institutions are best served when its research universities are governed by Regents widely viewed as having been selected in a transparent process; and

WHEREAS, the nomination of Student Regents already occurs through a formal selection process, as set forth in the New Mexico Constitution under Article XII, Section 13.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do

hereby establish the following advisory process for the selection of nominees to the Boards of Regents at New Mexico State University, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and the University of New Mexico, with the exception of Student Regent positions:

1. Any time that a vacancy is expected or occurs on a Board of Regents at one of the research universities, potential members of the Committee on Regent Appointments ("CRA") will be identified and recommended to give advisory input to the Governor for the Regent nominee, through a two-step procedure as follows:

A. Formation of a CRA will occur at the relevant institution as follows:

1. When a term of a Regent is coming to an end, or a vacancy occurs, the Governor or his designee will notify the Regents President, the University President, and the President/Chairperson of the Faculty Senate at the relevant university that a CRA is to be constituted.
2. The Governor or designee will announce that a CRA is being formed to advise the Governor regarding potential nominees as Regent of the relevant institution.
3. The Governor or designee will announce a reasonable time period for suggested members of the CRA, from the following two groups:
 - a. Exceptional faculty members recognized as outstanding in their disciplines and as responsible university leaders, striving for diversity of disciplines, social background, and representation of the main divisions of the relevant University; and
 - b. Distinguished members of the University's constituencies in the external community, including scientific, cultural, business, and/or community representation, striving for CRA members who are familiar with higher education generally and, in particular, research universities.
4. The overall committee should include equal numbers of faculty and community members, and should include members from diverse ethnic/racial backgrounds, from urban and rural areas, and from a variety of political viewpoints. No more than one of the faculty representatives may hold a position at the level of dean or above.
5. Each suggested member of the CRA will submit a summary of his or her qualifications and interests. The Governor or designee will consult with the University President, Provost, President of the Faculty Senate, and Chairperson of the Committee on Governance before naming a CRA composed of 8-10 members and a Chairperson from the slate of CRA nominees. The CRA will be officially constituted via a joint public announcement by the Governor and the CRA Chairperson, with such announcement making clear that the CRA will provide public advisory input to the Governor's selection of Regent nominees.

2. The CRA shall forward a list of potential Regent nominees to the Governor by doing the following:

A. Once constituted, the CRA consults with the President of the Board of Regents and appropriate figures in upper administration regarding areas of expertise currently needed on the Board of Regents. CRA will write a description of general qualifications desired and a specific "needs assessment" regarding areas of expertise and other salient factors relevant in choosing nominees for this particular regent position. CRA will make public the general qualifications and needs assessment documents, and submit them to the Governor.

B. The Governor will formulate a public call for Regent applications. The Office of the Governor and the CRA will jointly solicit nominations statewide, with a reasonable deadline and necessary documentation stipulated.

C. CRA shall read and evaluate nomination documents and recommend three nominees from which the Governor is asked to choose. CRA deliberations will be subject to applicable public meeting laws, including a provision for executive sessions, where appropriate. If the Governor rejects all three nominees, he or she may ask the CRA to submit three more recommendations or may make a nomination without further CRA input.

D. In identifying future members of the Boards of Regents at research universities in New Mexico, each CRA will be a temporary advisory committee to make recommendations to the Governor and in no event shall it make final decisions regarding Regent appointments or their selection criteria.

3. Each CRA member shall serve voluntarily and shall receive no pay for their services, nor shall they be reimbursed for travel or subsistence expenses, unless otherwise provided by law.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous order, proclamations, or directives in conflict with this Executive Order. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

ATTEST:


MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2010

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

