



Diné College Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes

01/23/2026 9:00 AM MST to 4:00 PM MST

Diné College

Classroom Building, 2nd floor, classroom 210, Shiprock South Campus,

Members Present

Regent Dr. Janet Slowman, Chair, Appointment Member

Regent Dr. Maggie George, Vice Chair, Appointed Member

Regent Kimberlee Williams, Treasurer, Appointed Member

Regent Dr. Dolly Manson, Secretary, Appointed Member

Regent Claudia Edgewater, Ex-Officio Member, Navajo Nation Superintendent

Regent Ashleigh Chee, Associated Student of Diné College Student Association, Ex-Officio Member

Regent Rosalind Smith, Faculty Association President, Designated Member

Members Absent

None

Staff and Guests

Glennita Haskey, Bo Lewis, Dr. Alysa Landry, Thomas Bennett, Dr. Perphelia Fowler, Leon Jackson, Chris Burnside, Winifred Jumbo, Harley Interpreter, Wilson Yazzie, Michelle Clah

I. Call to Order

The meeting called to order by Chair Janet Slowman 10:14 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Kimberlee Williams.

III. Invocation

The invocation was provided by Dr. Dolly Manson.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motioned to approve and amend by: Dr. Maggie George, Seconded by: Dr. Dolly Manson

- One announcement and an item to vote for a secretary for the Board of Regent was added to the agenda (Item 7).
- Acting President request to move VP of Finance oral report after the faculty association to allow for her return and be able to provide the report to the board.

In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0) for both

V. Introduction of Guests and Staff

The guest and staff present, quickly introduced themselves

VI. Public Comments (Time Limit of 3 Minutes)

There were no public comments provided during the meeting.

VII. Election of Board Secretary

Regent Claudia Edgewater nominated Regent Manson to be the Secretary. Regent Manson initially declined, then later accepted the nomination. The Board appointed Dr. Dolly Manson as the Secretary for the Board of Regents. Motioned to approve by: Claudia Edgewater Seconded by: Dr. Maggie George. In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

VII. Announcements

Regent Claudia Edgewater, Superintendent of Diné Education presented a plaque to Diné College in recognition of academic excellence and partnership in the Chief Manuelito Scholarship awards, which benefited 87 students over the last two years.

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. November 14-15, 2025 Regular Meeting & Work Session

B. October 1, 2025 Annual Meeting & Special Meeting

The two above listed meeting minutes are deferred to the next Regular Board of Regent's meeting to be held March 26, 2026. Motioned to table by: Dr. Maggie George Seconded by: Claudia Edgewater. In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

IX. Consent

A. Written Reports

1. Office of the President - Glennita Haskey, Acting President
2. Office of the Provost- Dr. Alysa Landry, Provost
3. Office of Finance & Administration- Bo Lewis, Vice President
4. Office of Student Affairs- Thomas Bennett, Acting Vice President
5. Faculty Association- Rosalind Smith, Faculty Association President

Board feedback: request for administration to submit their reports a week in advance to allow thorough review of the information reported to the board.

X. Reports

A. Oral Reports

1. Office of the President

Presented By Glennita Haskey, Acting President

Personnel and Student Enrollment

Workforce Statistics: The college currently operates with 274 employees. This workforce includes 50 faculty members, 75 exempt staff, and 149 non-exempt staff. A significant majority of the staff are of Navajo descent. Enrollment Numbers: Total enrollment for the spring semester reached 1,206 students across all five main campuses. Campus Utilization: While the five main campuses host classes, the Aneth and Newcomb micro-campuses currently do not. These sites function as hubs for students to upload homework, print materials, and access financial aid services. Instructional Concerns: There is a identified need for more in-person classes at community campuses. Currently, faculty often choose where they teach, which has led to a disconnect between where classes are offered and where students are located, specifically in areas like Crown Point.

The Student Union Building (SUB) Crisis

The report revealed significant administrative and financial obstacles regarding the fire-damaged Student Union Building:

- Insurance Failures: The college is facing a massive funding gap because it only reported significantly less than minimal content value at the time of the insurance filing. Furthermore, the college failed to report square footage increases from previous renovations, leading to an inaccurate building valuation.
- Unpaid Deductibles: Risk Management has denied requests for temporary modular buildings because the college has five outstanding claims where the \$10,000 deductible per claim remains unpaid.

- Rebuilding Deficit: While rebuilding the SUB is estimated to cost \$32 million, the insurance coverage is currently expected to provide only \$15 million.

Next Steps: To close the insurance claim and seek outside funding, the college must first demolish the existing concrete foundations.

Capital Projects and Legislative Funding

CARES Act Projects: Of the 11 large-scale projects funded by CARES Act money, six have been successfully completed.

State Funding Risks: The college is managing approximately \$11 million in New Mexico state appropriations. There is an urgent need to "encumber" or legally commit these funds to avoid losing \$5 million set to revert to the state on June 30, 2026.

Financial contributions were a significant point of the report, noting that \$170,000 in total donations, with 70% of those funds specifically earmarked for student scholarships. Additionally, the college received a \$150,000 contribution from CVK Philanthropy in honor of the late president to be used for institutional and student support. The President also noted that ten students have been recruited for the upcoming AHEC conference in Bismarck, North Dakota, scheduled for mid-March

2. Office of the Finance & Administration Presented By Bo Lewis, Vice President

Bo Lewis provided an update on the college's fiscal health and infrastructure challenges. The board had previously approved a \$23 million budget, and as of the end of the first quarter, the college has expended \$6.25 million, or roughly 25% of the total. While most departments remain on task, the finance division reported higher spending at 30.9% due to frequent repairs required by the college's 52-year-old infrastructure.

Regarding financial aid, the department successfully resolved previous distribution delays and is on track to finalize summer checks by January 31. Efforts are also underway to renew the Navajo Nation Higher Education Grant, with the goal of increasing it from \$4.7 million to between \$7 million and \$10 million.

Infrastructure and Facility Updates

The college is currently managing several critical facility issues:

- The Student Union Recovery: Insurance negotiations are ongoing. While the building was initially insured for only \$2 million, the college has secured an additional \$10 million; however, contractors estimate the total replacement cost near \$30 million, leaving a potential \$15 million shortfall.
- NHC Boiler Break: A major line break caused damage across four floors of the Ned Hatathli Center. Risk management is overseeing repairs, which are expected to take approximately three months.

Campus Safety: Utilizing Title III Part A funding, the college plans to install new security cameras and electronic door access to address safety concerns raised in student surveys.

Energy Initiatives: The college is working with NTUA to monitor the output of the solar farm and is seeking grants for storage capacity to allow for 24-hour energy usage.

3. Office of External Campuses Presented By Winifred Jumbo, Director

4. Office of Marketing & Communications

Presented By Chris Burnside, Manager

5. Associated Students of Diné College -Ashleigh Chee, Associated Students of Diné College President

The Associated Students of Diné College (ASDC) reported a critical need for student leadership, noting 19 current vacancies across various campus and academic senator positions. Leadership shared concerns from the Tuba City campus, where students expressed feeling "left out" due to a lack of mental health support, wellness activities, and local programming. In response, the ASDC is prioritizing recruitment through new infographics and application drives to ensure every campus is represented.

The board discussed the written report from the marketing department will suffice as there were no additional questions.

6. Faculty Association Reports - Rosalind Smith, Faculty Association President

After all written and oral reports were given, the board motioned to accept all written & oral reports.

Motioned by: Dr. Maggie George Seconded by: Dr. Dolly Manson

In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

XI. Old Business

A. Action Item - “Approving and supporting Increased Contract Threshold Funding for Federal Lobbyist Services from Strongbow Strategies in the Amount of \$70,000.00.”

The discussion is that the contract has expired and decided the next steps should follow the procurement process. The board made the motion not to deny the increased contract threshold funding for Strongbow Strategies. Motioned to deny by: Claudia Edgewater Seconded by: Dr. Maggie George. In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0). The resolution failed.

XII. New Business

A. Action Item - “Approving and amending Diné College Board of Regents Resolution: DC-NOV-2555-21 for Tsaile Student Wellness Center Architectural and Engineering project with a change in cost in the amount of \$64,342.00 (Sixty-four thousand, three hundred forty-two dollars, thus increasing Dyron Murphy Architects contract amount to \$959,167.18 (Nine hundred fifty-nine thousand, one hundred sixty-seven dollars and eighteen cents).”

Dr. Maggie George motions to open the discussion Kimberlee Williams seconded. After much discussion, the Regents decided to Table the request. The Board requested a feasibility study and a formal presentation, questioning the project's five-year duration and the lack of secured construction funding (\$25M-\$50M estimated). Tabling Motion by: Claudia Edgewater Seconded by: Dr. Maggie George
In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

B. Action Item - “Approving and amending Dine College Board of Regents Resolution DC-JUL-2760-25 with this change order for the Dine College Multi-campus HVAC Installation with Etsitty Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$21,080.00 (Twenty-one thousand, eighty dollars) due to HVAC unit curb-stop configuration and HVAC unit control system water damaged while in storage.”

Dr. Maggie George motions to open the discussion Dr. Dolly Manson seconded. After much discussion, it is decided to approve the Action Item. The motion was made to approve the request.
Motioned by: Claudia Edgewater Seconded by: Dr. Maggie George.
In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0).

C. Action Item - “Authorizing and approving Dyron Murphy Architects for Design Build Authority for the Shiprock South Campus Student Services Center Project. Dyron Murphy through this temporary authority will work to expedite this project so as to remain in compliance with New Mexico Higher Education Department Appropriation G5382, a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$5 million, reverting on June 30, 2026 and Appropriation H2140, a \$50 thousand General Fund appropriation with a reversion date of June 30, 2027.”

Dr. Maggie George motions to open the discussion Kimberlee Williams seconded. After much discussion, the board decided to table the request. The Board tabled the design-build authority for Dyron Murphy Architects for this \$5M project. Although funds revert on June 30, 2026, the Board requests an in-person presentation from the firm to justify past delays and current deliverables. Thus, the board motioned to table. Tabling Motion by: Claudia Edgewater Seconded by: Dr. Dolly Manson
In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

D. Action Item - “Authorizing and approving the Diné College Gorman Classroom Building Roof Replacement Project with Four Seasons Construction, LLC in the amount of Seven hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred twenty-four dollars and fifty-six cents (\$479,924.56).”

Dr. Dolly Manson motions to open the discussion Kim Williams seconded. After much discussion, the board decided to approve the request and thus motion to approve. Motioned by: Dr. Maggie George Seconded by: Kim Williams
In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

E. Action Item - "Approving the Contract Between Dr. Deborah J. Dennison and the Diné College Board of Regents."

The action item was discussed under executive session, noted in agenda section XIII. After much discussion, the board decided to approve the request and thus motion to approve with an amendment to include the vice chair in discussions within the resolution & list the attachment as confidential. Motioned to approve with amendments by: Dr. Dolly Manson Seconded by: Dr. Maggie George.

In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

XIII. Executive Session (If Deemed Necessary)

Claudia Edgewater motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and insurance matters. Dr. Maggie George seconded. Time going into Executive Session: 12:39 p.m.

Claudia Edgewater motioned to exit executive session; Dr. Maggie George seconded. In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0). Time coming out of Executive Session: 1:38 p.m.

- Directive and board support for Glennita Haskey for matters discussed under the executive session. Motion by Kimberlee Williams, seconded by Dr. Maggie George. In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)
- Dr. Maggie George motioned to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add resolution. "Approving the Contract Between Dr. Deborah J. Dennison and the Diné College Board of Regents." ; Dr. Dolly Manson seconded. In favor (6) Opposed (0) Abstained (0)

XIV. Next Meeting Dates

A. Board of Regents Committee Meetings - held only virtually

B. Board of Regents Regular Meeting - Friday, March 13, 2026, 9 a.m. MST, Ned Hatathli Center

XV. Adjournment

Dr. Maggie George Motion to adjourn, and Kimberlee Williams seconded. Time: 2:18 p.m.