



Diné College Board of Regents Work Session Minutes

02/21/2026 9:00 AM MST

Diné College

Dyron Murphy Architects, Conference room, 4505 Montbel Pl NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Minutes Approved on March 21, 2026: Motion by Kimberlee Williams, Seconded by Dr. Dolly Manson.

Vote: (6) In favor, (0) Opposed, (0) Abstained.

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 [Virtual]

Regent Rosalind Smith, Faculty Association President, Designated Member [Virtual]

Members Absent

None

Guest and Staff:

Glennita Haskey, Leon Jackson, Randy Joe, Michelle Clah, Benita Lopez, Dr. Christopher Bonn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM with Chair Slowman presiding.

II. Roll Call

The roll call was conducted by Dr. Dolly Manson.

III. Invocation

The meeting prayer was conducted by Acting President Glennita Haskey.

IV. Approval of Agenda

- A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of including the title “secretary” for Dr. Manson under Roll Call & moved Executive Session was made by Dr. George and seconded by Dr. Manson. Vote: (5) In favor (0) Opposed (0) Abstained.
- A motion to suspend the rules and move item executive session to Item V & move Item H (Dyron Murphy Accomplishments) to follow item A.3 was made by Dr. Maggie George, seconded by Dr. Manson, and passed. Vote: (5) In favor (0) Opposed (0) Abstained.

V. Executive Session

A. Consultant Presentation, Dr. Bonn

- A motion to enter the executive session was made by Maggie George and seconded by Kimberly Williams, In favor (5) Opposed (0) Abstained (0). The board entered the executive session at 9:14 AM. The board asked Acting President Haskey to remain.
- A motion to exit the executive session was made by Maggie George and seconded by Kimberly Williams, In favor (5) Opposed (0) Abstained (0). The board entered the executive session at 1:35 PM.

VI. Discussion of Compliance, Project Milestones, and Master Plan Integration

A. Strategic Plan Integration (AMP, CIIP, & DC Master Plan)

1. Academic Master Plan (AMP)

The AMP needs to incorporate the actual costs of delivery, including faculty costs, technology, housing, labs, and library resources. It must also align closely with workforce needs and student demographics.

2. DC Facilities Master Plan

The college is currently updating the facility master plan for 2027 through 2033, which is required by the New Mexico Higher Education Department and the Arizona Department of Administration.

3. Capital Improvement & Investment Plan (CIIP)

The ICIP for 2026–2030 was approved, and work is underway to update and extend it to 2032.

B. Dyron Murphy Accomplishments

- Dyron Murphy Architects celebrated their 25th anniversary and presented their 5-year project history with the college.
- Completed/ongoing projects include lifting the structurally distressed GCB building, Salee lab construction, and COVID-19 micro-site renovations.
- An in-depth overview was provided detailing the cost and timeline advantages of "Design-Build" (faster execution, contractor integration) versus "Design-Bid-Build" (competitive transparent pricing, required by certain funding).
- The firm operates under a five-year Master Agreement where individual jobs are initiated via service orders.

C. Funding Sources

1. New Mexico Higher Education:

The state requires quarterly expenditure reports, progress reports, and monthly benchmark reports to the governor's office. A \$1 million South Campus improvement bond is being utilized to expedite the architectural and engineering design for a new wet lab.

2. Arizona Compact

The college normally receives \$1.7 million annually, but this year the allocation is \$2.68 million. A deviation request is being prepared to address emergency foundation shifting and disconnected utilities at the IT building, requiring a \$25,000 assessment.

3. Navajo Nation Funds

Funds include an allocation of \$1.25 million for ADA compliance across all sites and allocations for preventive maintenance, though project scoping currently lacks specificity.

4. Grants

The board requested clear tracking of external grant sources such as USDA, NSF, and Title III to augment project funding.

D. Project Development

1. Project Development Step

Projects are tracked using established checklists that cover facility planning, academic planning, budgeting, and environmental review before interfacing with legislative affairs and lobbyists.

E. RFP Processes

1. Financial Policies and Procedures

The board discussed increasing the purchase order threshold from \$65,000 to \$120,000 to streamline procurement and reduce the administrative burden of drafting contracts for smaller projects.

2. Navajo Business Opportunity Act (NBOA)/ Navajo Preference

Adhering strictly to NBOA has caused delays, as many local contractors lack the required insurance, bid bonds, or capital for large projects, frequently leading to rebidding.

F. Current Projects Overview

1. Active Projects: Percentage completion by Phase

New Mexico projects are uploaded to the Capital Projects Management System (CPMS) to track encumbrances, balances, and completion percentages.

2. Timeline projections

The Tsailie faculty apartments and Student Activity Center are roughly 95% to 100% designed and awaiting funding.

3. Project Balances (Transaction Details Report)

Details on individual projects are maintained on an internal shared dashboard to ensure financial integrity and ethical fund management.

G. Deferred Maintenance

1. Review of Deferred Maintenance

The college holds a deferred maintenance backlog of approximately \$301,000 across multiple sites, which is currently tracked manually because the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) asset management module is not utilized for this purpose.

H. Building Repairs, Renovation and Replacement

1. Planning document necessary for NMHED, AZ Compact and other Entities.

- New Mexico Higher Education requires Building Renovation and Replacement (BRR) reporting and has questioned why the college continues adding buildings without demolishing obsolete ones.
- Maintenance costs and low utilization at the North Campus were highlighted as areas requiring strategic action.

I. Future of Department of Capital Projects

1. Architect

Mr. Murphy's current contract expires on October 28. The board must decide whether to extend his on-call contract or undergo a complex rebidding process for architectural services.

2. Construction Services Division

There is ongoing discussion regarding the creation of an internal construction team for smaller projects, potentially utilizing student interns to provide hands-on vocational training.

VII. Discussion on the Board Committees

- The board discussed the structure and purpose of board committees.
- Emphasizing the principles of shared governance, the board decided they would like the college staff, faculty, and administration to take the lead in working on these items.
- This approach aims to empower the college's internal experts and maintain a clear distinction between the board's oversight role and daily institutional operations.

VIII. Next Meeting

A. Board of Regents Regular Meeting - Friday, March 8, 2026

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Maggie George. Seconded by Dr. Dolly Manson. In favor (5) Opposed (0) Abstained (0). Time: 4:52 p.m.