

**New Mexico Bioscience Authority (BSA) Board of Directors
Annual Meeting
May 21, 2026, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

Present: Tanner Schaub (Acting Chair), Tom Kieft, Alex Koglin, Lisa Kuuttila, Francisco Pallares, David Perkins, Prisca Tiasse

Absent: Christos Christodoulou, Dale Dekker, Paul Laur, Nora Sackett

Staff Present: Stephanie Tofighi, Anne-Laure Schmitt Olivier, Irene Gray, Sterling Nichols, Ryan Cangioli

#	Agenda Items	Board Actions
1.	Call to order and Confirmation of Quorum	Acting Chair Schaub called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM. A quorum was confirmed.
2.	Approval of Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 16, 2025, BOD Meeting 	<p>Acting Chair Schaub called for a motion to approve the April 16, 2025, meeting minutes.</p> <p>A motion was made by Alex Koglin with a second from David Perkins to approve the April 16th meeting minutes.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with five in the affirmative, none in opposition, one in abstention and five absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Absent, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Abstain</p>
3.	Announcements and Chair's Report	<p>NMBSA Acting Chair Tanner Schaub provided his update for the month of May.</p> <p><u>Summer Schedule: NMBSA Board Meetings</u></p> <p>The BSA will meet for the following scheduled board meetings: June 18, 2026 August 20, 2026 The BOD will not meet in the month of July.</p>

		<p><u>NMBSA Annual Calendar</u></p> <p>NMBSA Executive Director Stephanie Tofighi will present the BSA’s schedule of Board and Committee meetings for 2026-2027, in May Executive Director’s Report.</p> <p><u>In Person NMBSA Board Meeting</u></p> <p>The BOD will discuss plans for hosting an in-person board meeting in the Fall of 2026.</p> <p><u>NMBSA Feasibility Study Update</u></p> <p>NMBSA President Dr. David Perkins will provide an update on the feasibility study in the May President’s Report.</p> <p>The Chair concluded his report</p>
4.	Executive Director’s Report	<p>NMBSA Executive Director (ED) Stephanie Tofighi provided an update on the following items for the month of May.</p> <p><u>NMBSA 2026 Summer Business Entrepreneur Experience (BEE) Internship Program</u></p> <p>NMBSA Communications and Industry Outreach Manager (CIOM) Irene Gray is leading the development and launch of the recurring summer BEE Internship program following a successful pilot BEE program held this Spring. ED Tofighi confirmed the BEE internship program has doubled in size for the 2026 Summer Cohort. CIOM Gray will present on the summer program in the May Mission Accomplishment Committee Report.</p> <p><u>Bioscience Commercialization Internship Program</u></p> <p>The BSA will have three interns assisting with programmatic efforts during the Summer of 2026.</p> <p>Damian Vigil Sade Smith Aaron Miller</p>

		<p><u>Feasibility Study</u></p> <p>FBT Architects of Albuquerque has been selected by the BOD to conduct the Feasibility Study. ED Tofighi, NMBSA Staff and BSA board members attended a study Launch meeting to evaluate potential sites for construction of wet and dry lab space.</p> <p><u>Research and Public Service Projects Report (RPSP)</u></p> <p>ED Tofighi completed the annual RPSP report detailing the BSA’s activities and providing insight on the operational budget.</p> <p>ED Tofighi concluded her report.</p>
5.	President’s Report	<p>NMBSA President Dr. David Perkins presented his report for the month of May.</p> <p><u>NMBSA Feasibility Study Update</u></p> <p>President Perkins, BSA Staff and board members attend the FBT Architects Feasibility Study Launch meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The Launch meeting was held to discuss construction of a proposed wet and dry lab facility in which critical components were identified for a thorough analysis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Timing</u> – Ability to meet a July 2026 deadline for completion of the study. 2. <u>Selection</u> – Details on proposed construction of wet and dry lab space were discussed. FBT Architects provided examples of potential lab space layouts according to style, model, size, location, cost, renovation and spatial considerations. 3. <u>Spatial considerations</u> – Identifying square footage of ‘<i>complete space</i>’ vs ‘<i>usable space</i>’ to determine ‘<i>full space</i>’ for a more accurate assessment in the construction of a facility.

		<p>President Perkins concluded his update stating that the meeting provided clarification and an opportunity to encourage dialogue and input on the study.</p> <p>Director Tom Kieft joined the meeting at 11:55 AM.</p>
6.	UNM School of Medicine Senior Associate Dean for Research	<p>Raj Vadigepalli, PhD, Senior Associate Dean (SAD) of Research for the UNM School of Medicine (SOM) joined the BSA’s May 21st meeting to present on the UNM SOM’s current mission, vision and core values.</p> <p>SAD Vadigepalli, has a background integrating engineering, modeling and informatics with pathology research and medicine. Vadigepalli has also developed curriculum by authoring Artificial Intelligence programs that were used in medical education settings.</p> <p>Through screenshare SAD Vadigepalli presented the current mission for the UNM-SOM.</p> <p>The University of New Mexico School of Medicine</p> <p>The School of Medicine has a robust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PhD program -MD Program -Master’s Program --MD PhD Program <p>The SOM has a large education, health and workforce mission beyond clinical care. The SOM is an academic-medical center.</p> <p>Focus</p> <p>The SOM has several centers focused on specific and important topics for the health of New Mexicans.</p> <p>Initiatives for 2026 and Beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introducing Health Technology -Implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI)

		<p>-Embrace Innovation -Expand curriculum by offering an Master’s program with an AI Focus -Offer medical training to Graduate and Undergraduate students</p> <p>Research at the UNM Health Sciences Center</p> <p>-As the only academic medical center in New Mexico, the SOM is dedicated to push forward into uncharted research territory</p> <p>-The SOM manages over 300 Clinical trials and 900 major research projects.</p> <p>-The research centers at the Health Sciences strive to create a healthier New Mexico through partnerships, and education programs.</p> <p>Accomplishments at School of Medicine</p> <p>799 Awards received in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025</p> <p>2000+ Publications in FY 2025</p> <p>\$200 Million in Contract and Grant Expenditures in FY 2025</p> <p>\$228 Million + in research dollars awarded</p> <p>Senior Associate Dean Vadigepalli concluded his presentation.</p>
7.	<p>Executive Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMBSA Staff Reclassification Recommendation 	<p>Director Tanner Schaub presented the Executive Committee Report for the month of April.</p> <p><u>NMBSA Staff Reclassification Recommendation</u></p> <p>The BOD was presented with a staff reclassification proposal for Program Specialist (PS) Sterling Nichols. Sterling’s work duties have expanded with the expansion of the BSA’s programmatic measures. PS Nichols is currently listed as Grade 12 UNM Employee. The reclassification would make PS Nichols a Grade 13 with the title of Operations Manager.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026/2027 Committee Assignments 	<p>Director Schaub called for a motion to approve the Staff Reclassification for Sterling Nichols.</p> <p>A motion was made by David Perkins with a second from Alex Koglin to approve the staff reclassification.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttilla-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Affirm</p> <p><u>2026/2027 Committee Assignments</u></p> <p>Through screenshare Director Schaub presented the proposed 2026/2027 NMBSA Committee Assignments.</p> <p>NMBSA Board Member Committees Reporting</p> <p>Executive Committee Paul Laur Alex Koglin Francisco Pallares David Perkins Prisca Tiasse</p> <p>Mission Accomplishment Committee Tom Kieft Dale Dekker Lisa Kuuttilla Christos Christodoulou</p> <p>Finance Committee Alex Koglin Paul Laur Nora Sackett Tanner Schaub</p> <p>Director Schaub called for a motion to approve the 2026/2027 Committee Assignments.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee Approved NMBSA Spending Decisions 	<p>A motion was made by Alex Koglin with a second from Francisco Pallares to approve the 2026/2027 Committee Assignments.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Affirm</p> <p><u>Executive Committee Approved NMBSA Spending Decisions</u></p> <p>The Executive Committee approved the purchase of updated computer equipment for BSA Staff at the Rainforest location during their May Executive Committee meeting that did not need to be approved by the full board before the purchase was made.</p> <p>NMBSA Office Computers</p> <p>Stephanie Tofighi – Dell Operating Unit (CPU) \$1,367.70</p> <p>Sterling Nichols- Computer Monitors, CPU \$338.62</p> <p>Director Schaub concluded his report.</p>
8.	<p>Finance Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Financial Statement Review (April) 	<p>Finance Committee Chair (FCC) Alex Koglin presented the Executive Committee Report for the month of April.</p> <p>Through screenshare, FCC Koglin presented the 2026 April Financial Statement.</p> <p>April 2026 Financial Statement</p> <p>FCC Koglin reported there were no significant changes to the budget for the month of April.</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to approve the April 2026 financial statement.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NM Angels Venture Builder and Cohort Sponsorship 	<p>A motion was made by Tanner Schaub to approve the April financial statement with a second from Francisco Pallares.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Affirm</p> <p><u>NM Angels Venture Builder and Cohort Sponsorship</u></p> <p>FCC Koglin said the BSA received a venture builder and cohort sponsorship proposal from the New Mexico Angels that would create a cohort of companies providing leadership and guidance to prospective entrepreneurs. Koglin continued stating he wanted to obtain additional information not mentioned in the proposal such as the companies and people involved, the number of biotech companies supported by the sponsorship program and if the BSA would be a host sponsor to a company. Also, of concern is the ‘visibility’ for the BSA and bioscience companies as well as the participation rates for participation in the program.</p> <p>Executive Director Stephanie Tofighi provided clarification stating if the BSA agreed to a sponsorship amount it would be to support the program in general and would not guarantee individual company oversight. Director Lisa Kuuttila expressed her specific concerns of support for the sponsorship asking what the company’s current funding stages are, would sponsorship be directed to bioscience companies and that some companies might benefit from the UNM Rainforest offerings, as opposed to the NM Angels program, if they originate at UNM. Director Prisca Tiasse asked if there is any recruitment information provided by the NM Angels. Tiasse also asked if the companies participating in the program would need to be ones already being funded by NM Angel investment.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMBSA Staff BIO Travel Budget Recommendation 	<p>FCC Koglin asked if the BOD would consider tabling the sponsorship discussion so more information could be gathered.</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to table the discussion until the June 2026 Executive Committee Meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made by Prisca Tiasse to table the NM Angel’s Venture Builders sponsorship discussion until more information could be assessed at the June Executive Committee meeting with a second from Tom Kieft.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Affirm</p> <p><u>NMBSA Staff BIO Travel Budget Recommendation</u></p> <p>Chair Koglin presented the BSA Staff BIO Travel Budget via screenshare.</p> <p>Stephanie Tofighi Travel Budget \$2,886.00</p> <p>Irene Gray Travel Budget \$2,886.00</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to approve the NMBSA Staff BIO Travel Budget Recommendation.</p> <p>A motion was made by Prisca Tiasse to approve the NMBSA Staff BIO Travel Budget Recommendation with a second from Tom Kieft.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm,</p>
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		<p>Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Affirm</p> <p>Chair Koglin concluded his report.</p>
9.	<p>Mission Accomplishment Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee Program Update Report 	<p>Mission Accomplishment Committee (MAC) Chair Tom Kieft presented his report for the month of May.</p> <p><u>Bee Program Update Report</u></p> <p>NMBSA Communications and Industry Outreach Manager (CIOM) Irene Gray presented the BEE Program Update through screenshare.</p> <p>Summer 2026 BEE Cohort Data</p> <p>Spring 2026 Pilot Cohort</p> <p>-The BEE has 30 interns representing all of New Mexico’s major research universities, as well as CNM.</p> <p>-Three do not have a school affiliation</p> <p>-Four are attending school outside of NM</p> <p>Comparisons to Spring 2026 Cohort</p> <p>123% increase in interns 116% increase in companies 331% increase in applicants 118% increase of interested companies</p> <p>Intern Degree Status</p> <p>Bachelors represent 41% Masters represent 31% Associates represent 10% Other represents 10% Doctoral represent 7%</p> <p>Intern Majors</p> <p>Biology Business Admin</p>

		<p>Computer Science Mathematics Biochemistry Chemical Engineering Biomedical Engineering Psychology Neuroscience</p> <p>Intern Locations 30 Interns from an assortment of colleges and universities in and out of the state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CNM ▪ Colorado School of Mines ▪ NMSU ▪ NM Tech ▪ Scripps College ▪ Smith College ▪ UNM ▪ UPenn <p>Host Organizations 13 Companies over 3 counties</p> <p>In Santa Fe County NeuroGeneces Santa Fe Business Incubator UpSpring Associates Vitazi.ai</p> <p>In Bernalillo County Albuquerque Clinical Trials Creative LIBS Solutions Functional Flow Solutions Life Science Testing & Analysis Mesa Alta Research Prosperous Research Systems Tramway Ventures YEEO Eco-Safe</p> <p>In Sierra County Algae Aura & Algae Analytics</p>
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		<p>Host Org Recruitment 24 Companies expressed interest</p> <p>Intern Applicants 82 applications received from 11 New Mexico Counties</p> <p>Planned Future Outreach — Interns -Monthly NMBSA newsletter -Strategic participation in career fairs throughout the state -Hold monthly info sessions for potential companies and interns (with current company and intern attendance) -Strengthen relationships with university career centers -Develop relationships with strategic student groups -Video for website</p> <p>Planned Future Outreach — Host Orgs -Monthly NMBSA newsletter -Continue tabling at major bio events in the state -Hold monthly info sessions for potential companies and interns (with current company and intern attendance) NMBSA board recommendations -Advertising in external business/association newsletters -Local news stories/ads -Video for website</p> <p>Future Considerations -Universal database for submitting applications and tracking participants (needs to be FERPA compliant) -Rolling application system or annual? -Remote participation for increased accessibility — is there a system that can support this? -What to do with potential interns who don't place? -Where do we need to strategically focus?</p> <p>Growing the BEE Monitoring program feedback from companies and interns will assist with expansion of the BEE. Input from the BOD will also assist the BEE's expansion</p>
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		CIOM Gray concluded her presentation.
10.	Other NMBSA Related Business Discussion	<p><u>Ideas for Fall 2026 NMBSA In-Person meeting</u></p> <p>Acting Chair Schaub informed the BOD that we will gather ideas about the Fall In Person meeting at the June 2026 board meeting and to expect a survey from ED Tofighi prior to that time.</p>
11.	Adjourn	<p>Acting Chair Schaub called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made by Francisco Pallares to adjourn the meeting with a second from Prisca Tiasse.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Absent, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Affirm</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Sterling Nichols & Stephanie Tofighi.