New Mexico Bioscience Authority (NMBSA) Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
September 17, 2026, 11:36 AM – 12:35 PM

Present: Paul Laur (Chair), Christos Christodoulou, Tom Kieft, Lisa Kuuttila, Francisco Pallares, David Perkins, Nora Sackett, Tanner Schaub

Absent: Dale Dekker, Alex Koglin, Prisca Tiasse

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

#	Agenda Items	Board Actions
1.	Call to order and Confirmation of Quorum	Chair Laur called the meeting to order at 11:36 AM. A quorum was confirmed.
2.	Approval of Minutes: • August 20, 2026, BOD Meeting	Chair Laur called for a motion to approve the August 20, 2026 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Francisco Pallares with a second from David Perkins to approve the August 20, 2026 meeting minutes. A roll call vote of all board members was called with five in the affirmative, none in opposition, two in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows: Christodoulou-Affirm, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Absent, Alex Koglin-Absent, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Abstain, Schaub-Abstain, Tiasse-Absent
3.	Announcements and Chair's Report	NMBSA Chair Paul Laur provided his update for the month of **September**. **<u>2027 State of New Mexico Legislative Session (NMLS27)</u>** The chair announced that the upcoming legislative session is three months away and in preparation for NMLS27 he presented the current schedule of Legislative Interim

		Committee meetings to be held in the last quarter of 2026 that Board members may attend. **2026 New Mexico State Legislature Interim Committee Meetings:** *Science Technology & Telecommunications Committee* *October 7, 2026* *Finance Committee* *October 28, 2026* **NMBSA Budget Proposal for 2027 Legislative Session** NMBSA Executive Director Stephanie Tofighi has prepared a proposed budget to present at the 2027 NM Legislative Session. **New Mexico APEX Accelerator Introductions** The Chair confirmed that the New Mexico APEX Accelerator organization will present at today's meeting following the September Presidents report. **2026 State of New Mexico's Governor's Economic Development Conference; September 3-4, 2026, Albuquerque, NM** NMBSA Staff and leadership attended the two-day event to network and discuss current economic development initiatives affecting the state. **Bio Southwestern Conference; September 17, 2026** The Chair reported that he planned to participate in the virtual conference to discuss bioscience concerns affecting states in the Southwest region such as New Mexico, Utah, Arizona and Colorado. The Chair concluded his report.

4.	Executive Director's Report	NMBSA Executive Director (ED) Stephanie Tofighi provided an update on the following items for the month of **September.** **<u>Meet & Greet Event for new University of New Mexico President: Dr. Steve Goldstein</u>** NMBSA staff and leadership attended a business-community meet and greet welcoming newly appointed UNM President Dr. Steven Goldstein. **<u>Curia Global Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; September 4, 2026, Albuquerque, New Mexico</u>** ED Tofighi attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Curia's expanded Albuquerque campus. During the event, she met with state and local officials, including Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. **<u>Santa Fe Business Navigator Networking and Finance Fair; September 9, 2026</u>** ED Tofighi attended the Santa Fe Business Navigator Networking and Finance Fair, which connected resource partners with regional financial institutions. She noted the potential value of hosting similar events in Albuquerque or Las Cruces. **<u>State of New Mexico Economic Development Department Technology Innovation Office (TIO) Board Meeting; September 2026</u>** Tofighi represented NMBSA as a member of the TIO Advisory Board, contributing to discussions regarding TIO's objectives and goals for the next four years and collaborating with fellow board members to support the advancement of New Mexico's technology and innovation ecosystem. **<u>New Mexico Biotechnology and Biomedical Association (NMBio) Lunch & Learn Event; September 16, 2026</u>** NMBSA staff attended NMBio's quarterly event to learn

		about biomanufacturing, innovation, and business growth in New Mexico. **<u>NMBSA Proposed Budget</u>** ED Tofighi shared a draft of NMBSA's proposed budget, including anticipated programmatic and operational expenditures. ED Tofighi concluded her report.
5.	President's Report	NMBSA President Dr. David Perkins presented his report for the month of **September.** **<u>Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medicine Curriculum</u>** President Perkins informed that UNM Health Sciences Project ECHO is offering an AI course in medicine beginning September 18, 2026 that he will be helping to instruct. Dr. Perkins concluded his report.
6.	New Mexico APEX Accelerator Introduction	Chair Laur introduced Gillis Lang, Procurement Advisor with New Mexico APEX Accelerator, who provided an overview of the organization and its services for New Mexico businesses seeking government contracting opportunities. Lang explained that NM APEX Accelerator is a government funded program that provides assistance to small businesses who wish to sell their products and or services to government agencies, educational institutions or tribal entities. NM APEX provides counseling and training related to government procurement, proposal development, certifications, vendor registration, contract readiness, contract management, and applicable regulatory and cybersecurity requirements. He also discussed the program's statewide presence and partnerships with economic development and business-support organizations.

		Lang concluded his presentation. Director Tom Kieft joined the meeting at 12:10 PM. Director Tanner Schaub left the meeting at 12:15 PM.
7.	Executive Committee Report • 2026 Health AI Summit Participation • New Mexico Bioscience Connect Ecomap Update	Executive Committee Chair Paul Laur presented his report for the month of **September.** **<u>Health AI Participation</u>** The Board discussed participation in the 2026 Health AI Summit on October 8, 2026 in Albuquerque, NM. The Chair called for a motion to participate in the summit as a *'Community Partner'* at a cost of $200. A motion was made by Christos Christodoulou with a second from Nora Sackett to participate in the summit at the Community Partner sponsorship level. 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: Christodoulou-Affirm, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Absent, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Affirm, Schaub-Absent, Tiasse-Absent **<u>New Mexico Bioscience Connect Ecomap Update</u>** The New Mexico Bioscience Connect Ecomap is now fully accessible through the NMBSA website. ED Tofighi confirmed that username and password registration is no longer required. The ecomap will incorporate a universal search function in the near future. The Chair concluded his report.

8.	Finance Committee Report ➢ Monthly Financial Statement Review (**July & August**)	In the absence of Finance Committee Chair Alex Koglin, Chair Laur asked Executive Director Stephanie Tofighi to present the Finance Committee Report. ED Tofighi reviewed the **July** and **August 2026** financial statements. **<u>July 2026 Financial Statement</u>** ED Tofighi reviewed the FY27 budgets for NMBSA's recurring RPSP funding and $1 million legislative appropriation. She reported that the budgets largely reflected FY26 spending categories, with increases in Out-of-State Travel and Participant Support Costs associated with the BIO Travel Grant Program and BEE internship stipends. **<u>August 2026 Financial Statement</u>** Tofighi reported there were no significant changes to the budget for the month of **August**. The Chair called for a motion to approve the July and August financial statements. A motion was made by Christos Christodoulou with a second from Nora Sackett to approve the July and August 2026 Financial Statements. 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: Christodoulou-Affirm, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Absent, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Affirm, Schaub-Absent, Tiasse-Absent The Chair concluded the Finance Committee report.
9.	Other NMBSA Related Business Discussion	Chair Laur reported that the Executive Committee would discuss at its next meeting a suggestion received from Stuart Rose regarding the next stage of development for the Bioscience Center. No action was taken.

10.	Adjourn	NMBSA Chair Laur called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Francisco Pallares to adjourn the meeting with a second from Nora Sackett. 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: Christodoulou-Affirm, Dekker-Absent, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Absent, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Affirm, Schaub-Absent, Tiasse-Absent The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sterling Nichols and Stephanie Tofighi.