

MINUTES
of the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

September 30-October 1, 2024
University of New Mexico
Science and Technology Park Rotunda
801 University Boulevard SE
Albuquerque

The fourth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on September 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Science and Technology Park Rotunda at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Michael Padilla (9/30)
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules

Absent

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Charlotte Little

Advisory Members

Rep. Christine Chandler (9/30)
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (9/30)
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Linda Serrato

Guest Legislators

Rep. Art De La Cruz
Sen. Linda M. López (9/30)

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, LCS
Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, LCS
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS

Minutes Approval

The minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, September 30

Welcome and Introductions (10:00 a.m.)

Representative Sariñana welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and Update from UNM (10:05 a.m.)

Hengameh Raissy, Pharm.D., research professor and interim vice president for research, Health Sciences Center, UNM, discussed the emphasis that UNM places on research, particularly in the health sciences, and explained how state funding assists the university in obtaining grants. David Hanson, Ph.D., assistant vice president for research, UNM, described the economic aspects of UNM research and related how those efforts benefit New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy Programs (11:03 a.m.)

Leo Lo, Ed.D., dean, College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, UNM, discussed the societal, ethical and practical implications of AI and the need for more global understanding of those implications. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

AI Ethics Issues (1:03 p.m.)

Melanie Moses, Ph.D., professor, Department of Computer Science, UNM, discussed the AI opportunities in health care, climate and environmental research and material science. She

discussed the potential solutions that AI has made possible but also highlighted challenges posed by AI. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Use of AI in Patient Care and Medical Services (1:56 p.m.)

Patricia W. Finn, M.D., dean, UNM School of Medicine, and David Perkins, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, UNM School of Medicine, discussed the shortage of health care professionals in New Mexico and how AI could make these professionals more effective and efficient. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=4>

Resource Impacts and Demands Anticipated from AI (3:00 p.m.)

Patrick Bridges, Ph.D., director, Center for Advanced Research Computing, UNM, discussed the energy and water requirements of common data centers and the ongoing research to provide more efficient power and cooling. Manel Martínez-Ramón, Ph.D., professor and King Felipe VI endowed chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UNM, discussed research at UNM that ensures AI growth in a sustainable environment. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Quantum Computing Program Status Update (4:05 p.m.)

Ivan Deutsch, Ph.D., director, Center for Quantum Information and Control, UNM, described the objective of UNM's Quantum New Mexico Institute to make New Mexico a world-class quantum technology ecosystem in collaboration with Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Dr. Hanson; Jake Douglass, business development lead, SNL; and Michael Rabin, Ph.D., Quantum Group leader, LANL, discussed the current collaborations in quantum research and highlighted the need to establish a New Mexico Quantum Campus. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:07 p.m.

Tuesday, October 1

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

UNM Rainforest Innovations (UNMRI) Status Update (9:10 a.m.)

Lisa Kuuttila, chief executive officer and chief economic development officer, UNMRI, described the UNMRI organization and provided an update of the activities at UNMRI. Rick Thomson, founder, The Yar Group, and chief executive officer, Sandia Medical; John Stormont, Ph.D., P.E., chief technical officer, TS-Nano; and Thomas J. Stephenson, chief executive officer, Pajarito Powder, described their experiences working with UNMRI and the start-up companies that were created with the help of UNMRI. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

State Investment in Technology Programs: Considerations and Methodologies for Creating a Successful Investment Program (10:21 a.m.)

Jon Clark, state investment officer, State Investment Council (SIC), described the SIC's strategies of using the permanent and endowment funds to invest in private equity firms and diversify the New Mexico economy. Ryan Marie Decker, policy and capital strategist, New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA), described the NMFA's venture capital program that provides investments in private equity funds and New Mexico businesses. Nora Sackett, director, Office of Strategy, Science and Technology (OSST), Economic Development Department, described the OSST's mission to promote the innovation infrastructure in New Mexico by providing grants to small businesses focusing on science and technology. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/30/2024&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment (12:18 p.m.)

A list of individuals who made public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.