

**Roswell Town Hall Meeting  
September 28, 2007**

The meeting was convened by Bruce Hinrichs at 1:20 p.m. in the Roswell Civic Center. He introduced Larry Hobson, member of the Extension and Research Support Council, who made opening remarks. He turned it over to dean Lowell Catlett, who introduced the associate deans. The floor was opened for comments and questions.

Steve Henderson, city councilor and president of the board of Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell, noted that the Chile Cheese Festival was instigated by NMSU and cited Charollette Collins work. He said he appreciated NMSU's economic development work including feasibility studies. He said NMSU/ENMU partnerships are welcome and that there were already partnerships with NMHU and UNM. ENMU-R would be glad to be involved in distance ed, where NMSU credit could be offered.

Doug Whitney, director of the NM Hay Association, asked about changes and trends at the university. He specifically asked about the name change process and was concerned about the term "environmental science." (The dean updated Mr. Whitney on the name change process, saying he would seek more input, and he and all associate deans talked about positive change, in which agriculture is central to the college mission.)

Jim Burke, assistant county manager in Lea County, lauded Wayne Cox for the agricultural 4-H work he is doing. He said the livestock sale at the fair brought in close to \$500,000. He said Lea County has close to zero unemployment and that it was important to increase salaries to keep people in extension.

Brad Houston, a member of the extension and Research Advisory council from Artesia, said he was concerned about the slow hiring process at NMSU and was asking that they speed up the hiring of an agronomist for the Agricultural science Center at Artesia. (LeRoy Daugherty said there was a failed search and they were interviewing now for the next round.)

LeRoy Lang, former support council member from Chaves County, said the county had the best extension program in the state, but it was without a county agent and they needed an agent at the Farm Bureau board and Conservation boards.

Daniel Meech, a 4-H father from Roswell, said there needed to be better communication from the top down regarding changes in the 4-H program. He said 4-H is declining in the county. There were fewer country kids and that there needed to be more advertising and programming that competed with video games, etc. (Frank Hodnett said he was open to ideas and said we should consider computer game clubs, skateboard clubs, basketball clubs, etc.)

Susie Taylor, a master gardener and advisory council member from Chaves County, said there was a need to increase base funding for extension to address both

operations and salaries. She said she appreciated the Chaves County office's involvement in the Anti Drug Coalition and appreciated Robert Flynn's public presentations. She also thought there should be work on addressing concerns about nitrates related to dairies and the water table.

Jesus Trujillo of Hagerman, representing the New Mexico Agricultural Education Teachers' Association, expressed concern that NMSU was not providing agricultural teachers. Out of 16 openings in the state last year, not one was filled by a graduate from NMSU. In fact, due to higher teachers' salaries, schools were now recruiting extension agents to teach Vo-Ag. (Dean Catlett said that the comments were right on target.)

Larry Hobson said that the college should be proud of its name as is. He said he was impassioned about extension and was concerned that we were not seeing specialists as much as he used to see them. He was concerned that agents' profession was being taken away. He said the Town Hall concept was a good one and thanked NMSU for it.

The meeting was adjourned for informal interaction at 2:25 p.m.