

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, NM 87701
March 31, 2010 at 1:00 pm

1. Call to Order – Chairman Leveo V. Sanchez
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for March 31, 2010
4. Approval of the Minutes from January 27, 2010
5. FY11 Budget Overview
6. FY11 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates – Action Item
7. Rodeo and Wrestling – Action Item
8. Early Retirement Program – Action Item
9. Contracts for Remodeling the Natatorium – Action Item
10. 2010 STB Resolution – Action Item
11. Honors Program Minor – Action Item
12. President’s Report – Dr. James Fries
13. Executive Session – (1) Limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation, or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against an employee; (2) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining; (3) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the University may become a participant; and (4) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(5)(7)&(8)
14. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
March 31, 2010**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met for a special meeting on March 31, 2010 at the Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall, on the New Mexico Highlands University main campus in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Chairman Sanchez called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Mr. Leveo V. Sanchez, Mr. Pete Aguilar, Mr. Jesus L. López, and Mr. Gregory A. Rael. Ms. Nancy R. Long participated in the meeting via conference call.

For the record Regent López stated that Regent Long was participating in the meeting via conference call as permitted by the Open Meetings Act.

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. James Fries, President; Dr. Gilbert Rivera, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Taylor, Vice President for Finance & Administration, and Ms. Judy Cordova-Romero, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Maxine Salas, Staff Advisory President; Mr. Nicholas Maestas, ASNMHU Vice President; Mr. Simon Cao, AGS President; and Ms. Carolina Garduño, Executive Administrative Assistant; and numerous other individuals in the audience, including faculty, staff, students, community representatives, and media. The Board meeting was broadcast live via instructional television video to the NMHU Farmington, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, and Raton Centers, and over the KEDP Radio Station.

Approval of Meeting Agenda for March 31, 2010

President Fries asked the Board to consider amending the agenda to have item #11 Honors Program Minor to follow item #4 Approval of the Minutes.

Regent Rael moved to approve the March 31, 2010 agenda with the amendment recommended by President Fries. Regent Aguilar seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from January 27, 2010

Regent López moved to approve the minutes from January 27, 2010 as presented. Regent Rael seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Honors Program Minor – Action Item

Vice President Rivera informed the Board that the Honors Program Minor was approved by the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee and that they, along with the administration, are recommending the approval of the program.

Regent Rael moved to approve the Honors Program Minor as presented (**Attachment A**). Regent Aguilar seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

FY11 Budget Overview

President Fries gave a PowerPoint presentation (**Attachment B**) on the FY09 through FY11 budget reductions. President Fries informed the Board that over the past two fiscal years NMHU's state funding has been significantly reduced resulting in a \$4.9 million reduction, which is a reduction of 14.43%.

President Fries informed the Board that nearly half of the RPSF Programs at NMHU did not receive funding for FY11 and that overall funding for RPSF Programs has been cut more than 50%.

President Fries stated that in preparation of budget reductions, the administration is planning to reduce the BR&R budget by \$581,000; contingency funds by \$400,000; and the utilities budget by \$200,000. Other reductions include: administrative mergers and/or reductions; College and Department mergers; eliminate staff vacancies; staff reassignments; reduce non-salary and travel budgets; course section consolidations/reductions; and an early retirement program.

Regent Aguilar asked if the state has a budget adjustment contingency plan. President Fries informed the Board that the state maintains a 5% contingency fund to absorb modest errors in the revenue forecasts, however, if the budget problems near \$100,000-\$200,000, state agencies will likely be asked to make further adjustments.

Chairman Sanchez asked if the Federal or State Government have defined criteria on how the stimulus funds are to be used. President Fries informed the Board that language in the Appropriations Bill (House Bill #2) directed that stimulus money for higher education is to be used for instruction & general (I&G) purposes.

Mr. Ralph Arellanes, Chairman of the Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico asked if Highlands was pursuing grant funding to assist with funding reductions. President Fries informed the Board that since his return to NMHU he has reestablished the Research and Grants Office which has been actively writing grants and currently brings in \$15-\$16 million in grant funding. President Fries reported that grant funding is very specific to grant programs and funding cannot be used for other university purposes.

Regent López introduced Mr. Arellanes to the Board and recognized that Mr. Arellanes is the Chair of the Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico. He is also an NMHU alumnus.

FY11 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates – Action Item

President Fries noted that NMHU serves large numbers of first generation, low income students and as a result the administration works hard to provide quality degree programs and still maintain low tuition rates. President Fries informed the Board that the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) recently conducted a study and found that Highlands offers the lowest tuition and fees of any four-year university in the eleven state

western region. Highlands' tuition and fees are hundreds less than those at Eastern and Western and nearly half the rates at UNM. President Fries presented the tuition & fees and the room & board tables (**Attachment C**), pointing out that the ABL Food Service is not seeking a rate increase this year and that the administration is proposing a 5% room rate increase.

Regent López moved for approval of the FY11 Tuition & Fees, and Room & Board Rates as presented to be implemented in the summer 2010 session. Regent Aguilar seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Rodeo and Wrestling – Action Item (Attachment D)

President Fries informed the Board that state funding for athletics has decreased by \$347,200 over the past two years, a 14.7% decrease. Highlands currently offers 14 sports and nearly 1 out of every 4 main campus undergraduate students is a student athlete. President Fries stated in 2006 Highlands received legislative appropriations specifically to launch the Girls Rodeo and Wrestling Programs but the \$347,000 athletic budget cuts eliminate funding for these programs. President Fries informed the Board that the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) requires Highlands to field 10 sport programs. The rodeo program is not a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) program. President Fries also informed the Board that Title IX issues would result from the elimination of a female sport programs at HU.

President Fries thanked everyone for their emails and phone calls in support of the Rodeo and Wrestling programs. President Fries stated that both programs are important to the university but budget cuts are forcing the elimination of the programs.

The Board heard from numerous members of the audience including: Mr. Jonathan Peek, NMHU Rodeo Coach; Mr. Doug Moses, NMHU Wrestling Coach; Mr. Ralph Arellanes; Mr. Michael Lujan, Wrestling Coach at Santa Fe High School; Mr. Ted Maestas, NMHU H-Club; Dr. Ronald Maestas, NMHU H-Club; Ms. Lorraine Esquibel, Ride to Pride; and Mr. G.M. "Dogie" Jones, community member; who were in support of retaining the programs.

Regent López commented that there was not a person in the room that was not in support of the programs but due to fiscal cuts the programs were at risk of elimination. Regent López added that he was sure that President Fries and the administration had exhausted every avenue to salvage the programs. Regent López stated that President Fries and the Board members were contacted by Senator Phil Griego requesting that no action be made on the fate of the programs until he had the opportunity to find funding for the programs.

Regent Rael encouraged everyone to attend the open forum to discuss the Rodeo and Wrestling programs scheduled for April 6, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy Hall.

Regent López moved to table the item until the next Board meeting which is scheduled for April 28, 2010. Regent Rael seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Early Retirement Program – Action Item

Regent López moved for approval of the Early Retirement Program as presented (**Attachment E**). Regent Aguilar seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Contracts for Remodeling the Natatorium – Action Item

Regent López moved for approval and award of the Natatorium remodeling contract to the White Sands Construction Company in the amount of \$898,000 (**Attachment F**). Regent Aguilar seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

2010 Severance Tax Bond (STB) Resolution – Action Item

Regent López moved for approval of the 2010A Severance Tax Bond (STB) Resolution as presented (**Attachment G**). Regent Rael seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Fries disseminated copies of the new Highlands publication developed by Mr. Sean Weaver and the University Relations Office. President Fries thanked Mr. Weaver for the university's on-line marketing efforts, which gets the word out on Highlands worldwide (**Attachment H**).

President Fries presented the "Education and Training Pay" salary schedule (**Attachment I**) comparing average salaries for those with different levels of education.

President Fries informed the Board of the following:

- The Staff Advisory Senate developed a newsletter called the "Pony Express" and he thanked them for their work.
- The Federal Direct Loan Program will be the only option available to New Mexico students.
- \$110 million will be available to Hispanic Serving Institutions to improve STEM education and articulation agreements with two-year institutions.

Chairman Sanchez called on Ms. Maxine Salas, Staff Advisory Senate President for an update on the Staff Senate. Ms. Salas informed the Board that the Staff Senate was busy reviewing the Employee Policies and Procedures; developing and distributing the Pony Express Newsletter; and are planning a Staff Development Week.

Mr. Nicholas Maestas, ASNMHU Vice President reported that the ASNMHU was working on revising the ASNMHU Constitution and assisting with SynergyFest 2010. Mr. Maestas stated that he would do what he could to assist the Rodeo and Wrestling programs adding the he was on his high schools wrestling team.

Mr. Simon Cao, AGS President informed the Board that:

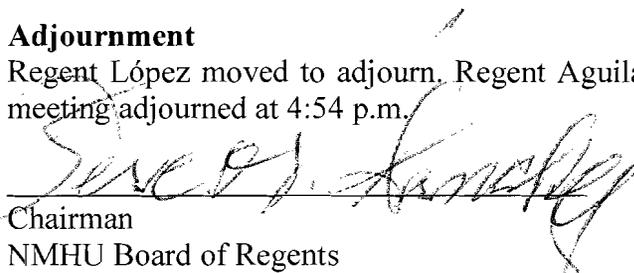
- New AGS members are being appointed by department faculty, the AGS does not hold member elections.
- They are working on publishing a journal.
- The AGS voted against raising tuition and fees but understand that the increase is necessary.

Executive Session – (1) Limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation, or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against an employee; (2) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining; (3) threatened or pending litigation subject to attorney-client privileges in which the University may become a participant; and (4) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, 10-15-1 (H)(2)(5)&(8). Regent López moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the items listed. Regent Aguilar seconded. A roll call was taken and voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion carried and the Board went into executive session at 4:11 p.m.

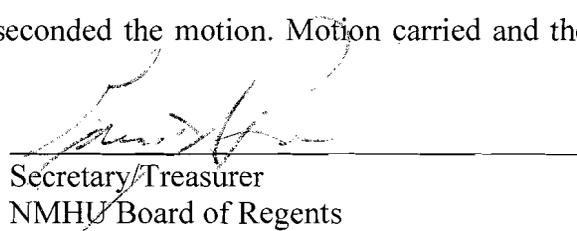
Regent López moved to come out of executive session into open session and stated that only those items specified under the executive session item were discussed and that no action was taken. Regents present confirmed. Regent Rael seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and voting in favor of coming out of executive session into regular session were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 4:53 p.m.

Adjournment

Regent López moved to adjourn. Regent Aguilar seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.



Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents



Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents