

**Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University
2013-14 Student Senate
Regular Meeting
4:00 p.m., September 8, 2013
Student Union Building Governance Room**

Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 4:04pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call by Secretary Jillisa Grant

Members Present:

President Sione
Vice President Burns
Secretary Grant
Treasurer Christie
Senator Allen
Senator Armijo
Senator Brister
Senator Cordova
Senator Dominguez
Senator Hargrave
Senator Guillermo Martinez
Senator Jonathan Martinez
Senator Ramon Martinez
Senator Maxwell
Senator Myers
Senator Phipps
Senator Robinson
Senator Rochester
Senator Rollins
Senator Sanchez
Senator Shrestha
Senator Thompson
Senator Williamson

Members Absent:

Senator Jauregui

Quorum met.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Senator Guillermo Martinez to approve the agenda, Second by Senator Wallace Lebrane. Brief Discussion by Dr. Trujillo regarding action/non-action items. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Approval of minutes

Since this was the first meeting of the semester, there were no minutes from previous meeting. Dr. Trujillo suggested that, technically, minutes from the last meeting of the spring semester should be reviewed/approved.

VI. Discussion of unanimous and general consent items by Dr. Trujillo.

Unanimous consent/ general consent are parliamentary procedures in which no one present objects to general comments by a member for inclusion in the meeting record. Unanimous consent can greatly expedite business by eliminating the need for formal votes on routine questions in which the existence of consensus is likely and will lead to more efficient meetings as opposed to staying for four or five hours each meeting. For purposes of ASNMHU business, all bills, resolutions, and nominations should be properly introduced by a motion, second to the motion, discussion/debate, and voted on. The unanimous/general consent provision is reserved for issues, concerns, acknowledgments or recognition that Senators want to give to a particular issue, individual, team or organization.

Each general consent item should be between 1-2 minutes and, ideally, should be prepared in advance and a type-written document handed to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes. Dr. Trujillo gave an example of a general consent item by congratulating the cross country team for their performance this past weekend and also the football team on their season-opening victory.

Dr. Trujillo also discussed the role and expectations of ASNMHU senators/officers since we have not had a retreat this year to discuss such things. One item to enhance professionalism is to address each other by their title and last name. President Sione, Senator Dominguez, Secretary Grant, for example. Senator Guillermo Martinez asked how we address Senators with the same last name. Dr. Trujillo replied that we may still refer to one another by title and last name, but for the minutes and official action, it is appropriate to use an officer's full name to avoid confusion.

Lastly, there was some discussion on the retreat, team building, senate budget, the need to set deadlines for submitting bills and resolutions, and setting goals for the semester/year.

VI. Action Items.

A. Certification of Special Elections: Dr Trujillo spoke about how the special election was coordinated by the Office of Campus Life to reflect proportional representation of undergraduate and graduate students based on main campus enrolment.

Motion made by Senator Guillermo Martinez to certify the ASNMHU Special Election that was held on September 4, 2013. Motion seconded by Senator Rochester.

Senator G. Martinez and Senator Brister spoke in favor of the motion. No one spoke against. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Presidential Appointments.

There are two remaining vacant seats for graduate senators, one each from the School of Business, Media, and Technology, and the School of Social Work. President Sione stated that she had received communication from an interested student in Business and would solicit interest from someone in Social Work. Motion made by Senator Guillermo Martinez to table the matter until the President was ready to make a nomination for appointments. Motion seconded by Senator Lebrane. Senator Guillermo Martinez and Senator Ramon Martinez spoke in favor of tabling. No one spoke against. Motion passed unanimously.

There was also discussion about the vacant attorney general position. A motion was made by Senator Guillermo Martinez to table the appointment until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Senator Thompson. Senator Thompson and Senator Sanchez spoke in favor of tabling. No one spoke against. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Trujillo discussed the constitutional language about the Senate Pro Tempore position coming from within the ranks of Senators and keeping their right to vote. The pro tem chairs meetings in the absence of the Vice President and when acting as Chair, can only vote in the case of a tie. There was a motion on the floor by Senator Sanchez to nominate Senator Guillermo Martinez as Senate Pro Tempore. Motion seconded by Senator Armijo. Senators Armijo and Thompson spoke in favor of the nomination. No one spoke against. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills and resolutions. This being the first meeting, there were no bills or resolutions introduced. Dr. Trujillo stated that bills are supposed to be submitted by individuals or clubs by the Wednesday before a Sunday meeting; each bill should be numbered as they come in and secure a Senator to sponsor and introduce the bill. There will be future discussion over the budget for the graduate committee.

VII. Non-action items

Dr. Trujillo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Senators. He also swore in Secretary Grant and Treasurer Christie, who did not attend the swearing-in ceremony last spring.

VIII. Executive Reports

President Crystal Sione stated we are student government and we are the voice of the students, also students have come forward for help from the senate with issues with the school, in addition to that she is happy to see each senator and would like each senator to come out and help with events when asked for assistance from other clubs on campus. Also, we are not going to have a work study this year, so each member of the senate should sign up for hours to work in covering the senate office, answering calls, greeting students, preparing for meetings, etc. The money saved by not hiring a work-study is intended to cover costs of student transportation from campus to Walmart or to the golf course. Her expectations are for professionalism at all times: no fighting, no gossiping, live as one because we are here for the students.

Vice President Chris Burns commented that if anyone needs help with anything, they can look to him for help. He also wants this Senate to get along, he encouraged Senators to sit beside someone who you don't know. President Sione congratulated Vice President Burns on his recent marriage.

Treasurer Kemoy Christie stated that she has not received a budget from Yvonne Duran yet. She also doesn't want to wait until the end of the school year to award the Gloria Brown Scholarship. She also asked for shirt sizes from new members. President Sione directed each person to provide contact information to Secretary Grant.

Secretary Jillisa Grant make sure each and every one attend the events, if anyone is won't be available to attend the event should let anyone from the executive body no and have a legit reason why. Hope each and everyone have a good year.

Dean of Students Report: Dr. Trujillo would like to review the constitution and budget so that everyone is on the same page. Once committees are in place, there needs to be discussion and action on such things as the graduate committee budget. Dr. Trujillo gave a broad overview of his duties and role as advisor to the Senate. He suggested that the updated constitution be uploaded on the university website. Senator Ramon Martinez suggested posting an updated listing of Student Senators on the ASNMHU page. Senator Brister also recommended uploading meeting minutes so that students can know what business is before the Senate and so we can be transparent. Dr. Trujillo gave examples of previous accomplishments of student government at NMHU and talked about the importance of students taking advantage of serving on committees and having a seat at the table at Board of Regents meetings, presidents advisory council, faculty senate, etc. Dr. Trujillo stated that there are plans to convert the old dining room in Archuleta Hall to an exercise facility with treadmills, elliptical machines and weights. This would be for the general student body, not just athletics.

IX. Old business

There was some discussion regarding the time capsule, both in terms of when it will be buried as well as costs. Dr Trujillo will get more information on that and let the senate know the full details, but he believes the time capsule will be buried as part of the Homecoming activities. Treasure Christie added that they put money aside last year just for the time capsule, so this Senate shouldn't be charged for last year's expenses.

X. New business

Senator Thompson and Senator Robinson both suggested changing the time of the meetings.

XI. Set Date and Time of Next Meeting

A motion to set the time and date for the next meeting as September 15, 2014 was made by Senator Guillermo Martinez. That is only one week away and meetings are typically held bi-weekly. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion to have the meeting on September 22, 2013 at 3pm was made by Senator Williamson. Motion seconded by Senator Rochester. Motion passed by majority. Senator Thompson abstained.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Guillermo Martinez. Seconded by Senator Lebrane. Motion passed unanimously.