

# ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY

## STUDENT SENATE RETREAT

Saturday, September 12, 2015

NMHU-Rio Rancho Center; 1700 Grande Boulevard, SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – ASNMHU Vice-President Gabriel Cordova called the meeting to order at 10:15AM on Saturday, September 12, 2015.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion made by President Pro-Tempore Vigil to amend the Retreat Agenda with the deletion of the action item for New Mexico Geological Society Graduate Funding. Senator Lujan seconded the motion to amend the agenda as recommended. Motion passes unanimously.
- III. **WELCOME WORDS** – ASNMHU President Joseph Dominguez welcomed student senators to the retreat and hoped this will be rewarding and informative experience. President Pro-Tempore/Retreat Committee Chair John Ramon Vigil welcomed those who attended and hoped that the retreat would be an informing and enlightening experience for new senators and reinvigorate some returning senators. Laura LaCour-Johnson, a NMHU-Rio Rancho staff member, coordinated ASNMHU Senate's usage of facilities and welcomed us to their campus and hoped for continued outreach with NMHU's Distance Centers.

IV. **BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS (ROLL CALL)** –

<i>President</i> Joseph Dominguez	<i>Vice-President</i> Gabriel Cordova	<i>Treasurer</i> Danisha Phipps
<i>Parliamentarian</i> Marcus Garcia	<i>President Pro-Tempore</i> John Ramon Vigil	
Senator Angelica Gonzalez	Senator Ariadna Izaguirre	Senator Rachael Zayas
Senator Shyann Romero-Martinez	Senator Joshua Alcon	Senator Chantel Rivera
Senator Natasha Lujan	Senator Tamlyn Crain	Senator Alejandra Roa
Senator Trenton Ward	Grad Senator Gia LaFerriere	Grad Senator Xiaowei Wu

Dr. Fidel J. Trujillo, Dean of Students / Student Government Adviser was also present for the Retreat. President Pro-Tempore asked for appreciation of Dr. Trujillo for providing his services as a chauffeur for the day.

*The Following ASNMHU Senate Members were Absent:*

Senators Issac Lopez, Leticia Merrills-Gonzalez, Krystal Meyers, Jereece Maxwell, and Tarissa Mellin provided a documented excuse to the Retreat Committee for absence. Secretary Alaena Romero did not provide a documented excuse for her absence from the retreat.

- V. **ROLE AND PURPOSE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT** – Dr. Fidel J. Trujillo provided a summary and account on the purpose behind organized student government. The roles and functions of the Student Senate and the responsibilities we are responsible for to the student body. The term of servant leadership and working for the benefit of others was reiterated.
- VI. **ICE BREAKERS / TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES** – Student Senate Members participated in activities and social exercises coordinated by the Retreat Committee.
- VII. **CONSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW** – Parliamentarian Marcus Garcia reviewed the current 2015-2016 ASNMHU Constitution with members of the Senate. Clarification to various points in the Constitution was reviewed and broken down for a much clearer understanding. Parliamentarian Garcia recommended that if any member has suggested changes for the Constitution that it is to be recommended to the Steering & Rules Committee for review.
- VIII. **BUDGET BREAKDOWN** – *Note: The 2015-2016 Budget was approved at the prior ASNMHU Senate Meeting held on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and the agenda item served as just an informational item.* Treasurer Phipps went over the 2015-2016 Budget for ASNMHU Senate not including final cost analysis for the 2015 Retreat. The budget is expected to come in under the budgeted allocation. Graduate Committee met

prior to the retreat and awarded the Senate an allocation of \$5,000 to cover operational costs and expenses for the fiscal year.

- IX. **APPROVAL OF 2015-2016 BYLAWS** – Parliamentarian Garcia presented the bylaws as suggested at the August 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Treasurer Phipps recommends their ratification as submitted. Motion made by Senator Zayas to approve the 2015-2016 Bylaws; Senator Rivera seconded the motion to approve bylaws. Motion passes unanimously.
- X. **MEETING SCHEDULE/COMMITTEES/EXPECTATIONS** – President-Pro Tempore Vigil reiterated that meetings are held Sundays on a bi-weekly basis at 5:00pm in the Governance Room of the Student Union Building unless otherwise noted. Please notify, with advance notice, the President Pro-Tempore or the Secretary of your expected absence. Senators and Executives are reminded that they may not have more than three (3) unexcused absences.

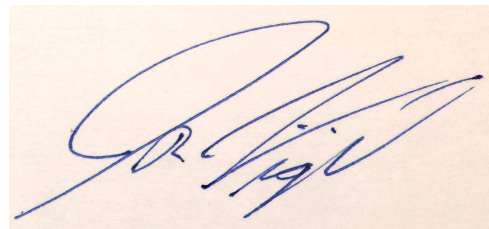
President Joseph Dominguez announced the following Senators were to serve as Senate Committee Chairs: Senator LaFerriere, Graduate Committee; and Senator Izaguirre, Activities Committee. President Pro-Tempore Vigil and Parliamentarian Garcia announced the appointment of Senator Lujan as Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch with Senators Alcon and Ward serving as Associate Justices. President Dominguez indicated that members of the Marketing Committee will need to meet and elect a chairperson for the said committee.

The Executive Officers hoped that Senate Committees may be active for the 2015-2016 Year and be fully engaged with student activities and concerns on campus.

- XI. **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS** – As stated in the ASNMHU Constitution, the President Pro-Tempore has the authority to assign various members to standing committees. President Pro-Tempore Vigil instead asked for each of the senators to indicate their top three (3) committees they would like to serve on and the committee chairs would meet and select the membership and composition of their committees.

*Attachment:* ASNMHU Senate Committees 2015-2016

- XII. **SENATE GOAL SETTING FOR THE 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR** – President Dominguez discussed his proposed goals for the upcoming Academic Year: It's On Us Campaign, the Food Pantry, and the planning of a student transportation system. Other senators indicated goals of: a Safety Walk reviewing dangers and issues throughout campus; increased service hours at Donnelly Library; Marketing Committee working with the Recruitment Office for student recruitment efforts; new additions to the MTVU Channel in the Cafeteria; increased communication with our Distance Centers by hosting activities and inviting their participation; and the introduction of a community message board for students about campus events and activities. Dr. Trujillo recommended that the various committees take up responsibility for each goal and coordinate logistics and the entire Senate will help with coordination and conducting the activity.
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to call for adjournment to the 2015 Retreat was made by Senator Izaguirre. Senator A. Gonzalez seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:56PM. ASNMHU Senate Members then traveled to Hinkle Family Fun Center for social activities and networking afterwards.



*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**John Ramon Vigil**  
**ASNMHU President Pro-Tempore**