

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, NM 87701
April 28, 2008 at 2:00 pm

1. Call to Order – Chairman Javier Gonzales
2. Approval of Agenda for April 28, 2008
3. Resolution to Approve Golf Course Equipment Lease – Action Item
4. FY09 Meal Plan Rates (Tabled March 14, 2008) – Action Item
5. FY08 Budget Adjustment Resolution – Action Item
6. FY09 Operating Budget – Action Item
7. President's Report – President James Fries
8. 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)
9. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
April 28, 2008**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met for a special session on Friday, April 28, 2008 at the Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico. Chairman Gonzales called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Mr. Javier M. Gonzales, Ms. Nancy R. Long, Mr. Jesus L. Lopez, and Ms. Sherry Salas. Board Members Absent: Mr. Robert Benavides

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

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Mr. Greg Rael, Student Senate President; Mr. Jesse Lopez, Graduate Student Senate President; Ms. Carolina López, Board of Regents 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 to the NMHU Farmington, Santa Fe, and Rio Rancho Centers, and over the KEDP Radio Station

Approval of Agenda for Meeting of April 28, 2008

President Fries requested that the board remove Item #5 FY08 Budget Adjustment Resolution from the agenda and that Item #8 Executive Session be moved to fall after Item #4.

Regent Long moved to approve the April 28, 2008 agenda with the amendments requested by President Fries. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Gonzales, Regent Long, Regent Lopez and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution to Approve Golf Course Equipment Lease – Action Item

President Fries presented the Golf Course Equipment Lease Resolution (Attachment A).

Chairman Gonzales asked if the lease was an operating lease or a lease with an option to buy. Vice President Taylor informed the Board that the lease was a lease with an option to buy at the end of the five-year lease. Chairman Gonzales asked why the university selected an option to buy lease. Vice President Taylor stated that the university researched other lease options and found that the option to buy lease would be most beneficial.

Regent Lopez moved to approve the Golf Course Equipment Lease Resolution #09, with the caveat that the Administration utilizes prudent practices when expending public funding. Regent Long seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Gonzales, Regent Long, Regent Lopez and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

FY09 Meal Plan Rate (Tabled March 14, 2008) – Action Item (Attachment B)

Vice President Cordova-Romero reported that since the meeting with ABL's Chief Executive Officer, ABL's Manager, Regent Salas, ASNMHU President Rael, and AGS President Lopez the following food services changes have occurred:

- The Cantina (snack bar) and Coffee Shop have increased their hours of operation
- Students using meal cards in the Cantina can purchase a full meal with one meal card swipe
- ABL conducted a Student Satisfaction Survey; the survey will be performed annually
- A 19 Meal Plan option will be added in the fall of 2009
- ABL will provide training for the on-site manager

Vice President Cordova-Romero stated that based on the food service review and improvements the Administration is recommending a meal plan increase of 4.3%.

AGS President Lopez and ASNMHU President Rael both thanked President Fries, Vice President Cordova-Romero, Vice President Taylor, and Regent Salas for their time and assistance addressing the meal plan concerns.

Vice President Cordova-Romero thanked ASNMHU President Rael and AGS President Lopez for being great student advocates.

Regent Lopez moved to approve the FY09 Meal Plan Rate increase of 4.3% as presented. Regent Long seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Gonzales, Regent Long, Regent Lopez and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

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 disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H) (2)(5)(7)&(8). Regent Lopez moved to enter into executive session. Regent Salas seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and voting in favor of the motion were: Regent Gonzales, yes; Regent Long, yes; Regent Lopez, yes; and Regent Salas, yes. Motion carried and the Board went into executive session at 2:22 pm.

Regent Long moved to come out of executive session into open session. Regent Salas seconded the motion. For the record, Chairman Gonzales stated that only those items cited in the motion were discussed in executive session and no action was taken. Regents present confirmed the statement. A roll call was taken and voting in favor of the motion were: Regent Gonzales, yes; Regent Long, yes; Regent Lopez, yes; and Regent Salas, yes. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 3:00 pm.

FY09 Operating Budget – Action Item

President Fries thanked Vice President Taylor, Associate Vice President Trujillo, and Business Office staff for developing the proposal together.

Vice President Taylor acknowledged Mr. Jesus Baquera, Interim Comptroller; Ms. Darlene Tapia, Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Finance; Ms. Donna Castro, Human Resources Director; Mr. Manoj Shah, Graduate Assistant; and Associate Vice President Trujillo for their hard work on the budget proposal.

Vice President Taylor presented the FY09 Operating Budget (Attachment C) and FY08 Budget Adjustment Resolution (Attachment D).

Chairman Gonzales directed the administration to work with the Budget & Finance Committee to identify needs for one-time funding opportunities like scholarships as opposed to routinely using available funding for capital outlay projects.

Vice President Taylor pointed out that the budget proposal would increase funding available for faculty salaries by 30%.

Chairman Gonzales asked the administration to put forth a concentrated effort to invest in programs that attract students to the university such as the Media Arts Program.

Chairman Gonzales requested that the Administration include the Board in the next budget strategic planning process.

Vice President Taylor reported that the University Relations budget would increase to allow for the hiring of a new employee, a webmaster, equipment, and advertising. Chairman Gonzales commended Mr. Sean Weaver, University Relations Director for a job well done. Chairman Gonzales commented that there are missed recruitment opportunities due to the university's website format. President Fries agreed that the university needs to spend more on advertising and informed the Board that the advertising budget would increase by 26% in FY09.

Chairman Gonzales directed the administration to identify costs for getting each new NMHU building LEED Certified and to establish an annual fund for said purpose. President Fries reported that in an effort to move towards a green campus, the university is replacing all of the boiler systems.

Chairman Gonzales asked for the amount budgeted for the Athletic Department. President Fries informed the Board that \$2.5 million was budgeted for Athletics in the FY09 proposal. Mr. Trujillo, Associate Vice President, informed the Board that the Rodeo and Wrestling funding are included in the university's budget but that separate funding also comes from the State through Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP). Mr. Trujillo stated that during this year's legislative session, Highlands lobbied successfully for funding for the Rodeo and Wrestling programs to be awarded directly to the Athletic Department. Mr. Trujillo added that additional funding for wrestling was also received. Mr. Ed Manzanares, Athletic Director, informed the Board that the athletic recruitment budget and the athletic scholarship budget need to be increased.

Regent Lopez asked what the university's total revenue is. Vice President Taylor informed the Board that the university would budget \$62 million in FY08-09. Vice President Rivera added that the university would receive \$15 million in grant funding. President Fries informed the Board that

\$7.5 million of the universities budget is carryover funding from prior years and that the total budget will be \$95 million.

Regent Lopez moved to approve the FY09 Operating Budget, which includes the FY08 Budget Adjustment Resolution, with the caveat that the Administration makes budget changes in proper form, as needed. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Chairman Gonzales asked that the Administration develop a policy related to the annual funding of a Green Fund to invest in creating more energy efficiencies at the university. Chairman Gonzales also asked that the Administration schedule a Strategic Planning Meeting with the Board, within the next few months, to discuss programmatic efforts and future investments in those programs. Voting in favor were: Regent Gonzales, Regent Long, Regent Lopez and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report – President James Fries

President Fries announced that the Student Senate elections were held last week and that Ms. Nicole Parra-Perez was elected President, Ms. Stephanie Butts was elected Vice President, Mr. Anthony Lopez was elected Treasurer, and Ms. Shantelle Quintana was elected Secretary.

President Fries reported the following:

- NMHU Legal Counsel will work with the Department of Finance to re-secure the \$200 legislative appropriation for the Raton Learning Center ADA remodeling
- The Las Vegas City Council will meet on April 30, 2008 to consider the university's request to vacate a portion of Washington Avenue
- The Residence Hall project bond closed
- Request for Proposals for a new auditing firm, the new student center, and the Felix Martinez Building remodeling will be issued soon

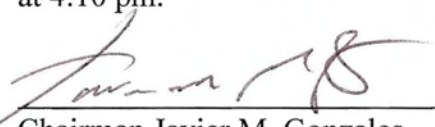
President Fries announced that Governor Bill Richardson would be the commencement keynote speaker and invited the Board to participate in the commencement ceremony.

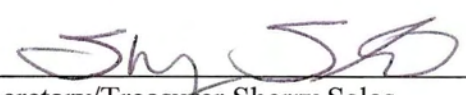
Chairman Gonzales stated that the Board should exert additional participation in next year's budget preparation and suggested the Administration schedule a strategic planning meeting with the Board.

Mr. Trujillo clarified that the FY09 Budget would not be final until approved by the Higher Education Department and the Department of Finance & Administration.

Adjournment

Regent Lopez moved to adjourn. Regent Long seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.


Chairman Javier M. Gonzales
NMHU Board of Regents


Secretary/Treasurer Sherry Salas
NMHU Board of Regents