

## **Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University**

### **Emergency Meeting November 23, 2008**

#### **I. Call to order**

The Emergency Meeting of the Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

#### **II. Pledge of allegiance**

#### **III. Roll call**

#### **IV. Approval of Agenda**

Senator Rael made a motion to add comments from the Gala as item A under new business. Senator Torres had the second.

Senator Durham was recognized to his seat at 7:36 p.m.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. Comments from the Gallery**

##### **B. Censure (action item)**

Senator Ulibarri made a motion to approve the Censure process to being for Senator Lopez and Senator Martinez. Senator Apodaca had the second. Senator Lopez and Senator Martinez were removed from their seat at 7:37 p.m.

President Pro-Temp Ulibarri explained the censure process as a warning and having the authority of removing someone from their seat without having to go through an impeachment process. President Pro Temp stated that basically what we are going to do is that we is not having a meeting to remove anyone from their seat. This meeting is to allow others to know what's occurred from November 14<sup>th</sup> on and it's a warning that if they do anything after this they can be removed from their seat. These two individuals were representing NMHU and they took pizza's that were paid for by the high schools. The situation is not about what happened it was the way they represented the university. The actions that followed were not ones that student leaders should have conducted themselves in. It's a prevention of further offended acts and a procedure from public officials for appropriate individuals. President Pro Temp made it clear that all individuals from the senate have the ability to speak for at least five minutes about the situation and the victims can't rebuttal they just have to listen to what everyone has to say to them.

Senator Tresor was recognized to his seat at 7:40 p.m.

Senator Blanco mentioned that he was called about voting about this matter and just wants to know if we have the documentations. VP Butt stated that the phone call that was made as stated on the constitution. The executive team took a vote to move forward with the censure process instead of the impeachment. Everyone that President Parra Perez was able to get a hold of was informed that they have five minutes to speak on behalf of these two individuals. Senator Ivo asked if we had the information and documents to know exactly what was going on. Senator Tresor mentioned that he was not called and he wants to know what's going on because from his understanding he

was supposed to be here for an impeachment process not a censure process. VP Cordova-Romero mentioned that she and the executive team were approached with a situation and reiterated the fact that there were 100 students from Los Lunas, who saw the two individuals take the pizzas. The senate was asked if they could help on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for this tour event from the Ambassadors. From documentation that she's received that on the 13<sup>th</sup> that both senators were involved in the tours. On the 13<sup>th</sup> as the tour ended the students were brought back to the student center. There were games in which these students participated in. On the 12<sup>th</sup> the university bought the pizza's and the 13<sup>th</sup> the high school bought the pizza's. VP Cordova- Romero did receive compliments on their work throughout the tours. The ambassadors biggest thing was that they had to make sure that there was enough pizza's for all the students. At one point there was individuals who notified the Recruitment office about the situation of two senate members who took two pizzas and people were upset about how they acted and how it was unprofessional of becoming of a senate member and students leader. The executive team met on Monday and they wanted to know what to do with the situation at hand. At that time President Parra-Perez issued a letter to the two individuals asking them to resign from their seats. They were told that they had 24 hours to respond and if they did not the senate would be polled or called to see if they wanted to proceed with the impeachment process. By Tuesday at 5:00 they both submitted a letter to the senate indicating that they would not resign. Although Senator Martinez's letter was a little confusing he did not resign. The executive team met and discussed issue and concluded that since the two individuals decided they wouldn't resign how they could move forward. This had to be done in a timely manner and you only have 14 days to do it. There was a process that allowed for a phone meeting and it's stated in the by-laws that you could do a phone vote and have a 2/3 vote. And you also had to bring it to the senate if they continued with the impeachment process. In the meantime both senator Martinez and Senator Lopez have been required the advice of Dr. Corbin and at that time they entered into a discussion about the situation and asked if there could be another alternative to take. An action of a censure was put on the table instead of an impeachment. The executive team discussed the pros and cons of it and decidd to continue with a censure process. At this time she asked that President Pro Temp Ulibarri reads what a censure is so that everyone could get a better understanding.

Senator Roseby was recognized to her seat at 7:51

President Pro Temp Ulibarri read that a censure is a reprimand at reformation at the person and prevention of the individual from further offending acts. It's basically a warning that if any other offense occurs again they will be removed from their seat without an impeachment process. The censoring allows that each senator is can approach the two individuals and speak. The senators have a 5 min opportunity to address the two individuals regarding the senators and their behavior. They two individuals are not allowed to speak until after each senator has had the opportunity to speak.

Senator Tresor wants to know why the executive team had the authority to change the process if the vote to proceed was overruled. Senator Blanco's mentioned that he feels his vote did not count and it's merit. The executive team did follow the process in which they felt was right and continued to proceed. Senator Blanco made a statement he is very confused that first a letter was given to the two individuals asking them to resign, then there was a phone vote and now he comes to the meeting to come to a rebuttal. VP Butts mentioned that once it was suggested by Dr. Corbin the executive team met and let him know that we were considering a vote of censure. It was the majority vote to move on with the censure instead of the impeachment thru the executive team. Senator Rael did state that the point of the phone call didn't state that this meeting was/wasn't to move on with the impeachment but to hear both sides of the story before any impeachment process was to begin. President Pro-temp Ulibarri mentioned that the motion on the floor is to move forward with the censure. Can everyone please raise their hands when wanting to speak and maintain. Is there any senator who would like to speak on behalf with the censure process? VP Cordova-Romero mentioned that we could not have a rebuttal and that was asked by their advisor. There is a motion that has already been passed. Senator Tresor wants to know who has the authority to make the call on their behavior at that time.

Senator Rael was involved when the incident took place. He was supposed to give a tour with Martinez but had to go with another group because of not having enough tour people. There was excess pizza and they were told that if they wanted to take a piece of pizza they could. As he walked into the ballroom he saw Martinez grab a box of pizza running out of the ball room saying "let's go Wade". At that point Senator Rael wasn't aware that you could grab only one piece. It was at that time that Aja Currey informed Rael that they weren't allowed to take the whole pizza. He notified Jenny Arguello and he felt it was very unprofessional. The needs of the students were not put first and as student leaders that is misrepresentation and the university should hold some weight and should not be tolerated by the senate. Senator Lopez was elected by peers Martinez was elected by the senate. He is not saying that they don't do a great job he has seen the senators represent themselves good but at this time this situation should not go overlooked.

Senator Ulibarri read her statement:

On Wednesday October 12, 2008 I represented NMHU for Student Ambassadors, as well as ASNHU Senate by participating in a campus tour for Los Lunas High School freshmen. This was a two-day event, and after these tours each day we served pizza to these students, then after feeding them, members from Ambassadors and Senate were allowed to eat as well. Each student was allowed two slices of pizza and a drink. On the first day, we did not have enough pizza to feed the Ambassadors and Senators, after all of the students were fed there was two slices left. Wade Lopez, a senator and Jason Burns a football player walked into the ballroom, grabbed the last two slices of pizza and at this time Aja, Currey, the Ambassadors President told Wade Osh so people who don't help out get to eat but the one's who help don't?" Wade then replied, "I helped, I

walked around.” This was the issue that happened the first day and because of this, us senators and ambassadors who helped were pretty upset. Then on the second day Wade Lopez did show up to help give the tour. We also had John Paul Martinez, a student senator helping out too. After the tours on the second day, we again served lunch, pizza, to the students. One group of students were still out on a tour and before they got back Wade and John Paul took it upon themselves to each get a brand new box of pizza and walk out of the ballroom and leave. Once again all of us senator and ambassadors were really upset and we also did not have enough pizza for the students and chaperones. Jenny from recruitment called Wade on his cell phone and told him that that was very wrong of him and John Paul to take a whole box of pizza each, and that it was pretty much like they were stealing. He then told her to stop being an F\*\*\*in drama queen. She then told him I will be contacting your president (Nicole Parra-Perez):. After this she hung up on the phone I would also like to mention that the pizzas were paid for by Los Lunas High School, not NMHU. I was a witness of all the events taken place with those two days.

Senator Ivo mentioned that from his understanding the two individuals should be condemned their actions. He asked that they ask for forgiveness. He prays that the students need be fulfilled. He wished that this should not become an issue of us against them. Senator Means said he agreed with everyone’s concerns and thinks we all need to respect each other and represent the student senate and student grounds and are a symbol of good behaviors also with the bad language used in the situation shows poorly and hopes we could move forward and learn from this and be able to represent ourselves and he is concerned with the actions that have happened.

Senator Torres said that she feels that they have both done their job and have been actively involved. The students knew that something was going on and people were upset and it wasn’t fair for the other people that were helping. It was disrespectful for the senators.

Senator Glenn wanted to know that if everyone has seen this going on why they didn’t address it at this time.

Senator Tresor had no idea about what happened and had to talk to people to get to know a little bit about the issue and what is here and that they did something wrong and we are not supporting that. The point is that they should know that we are representing the students campus and thinks their writing letters is a good thing and hope they will represent the student body in a positive way.

Senator Apodaca would just like to say that she is disappointed in the two senators and we have a big responsibility and we represent the university and is very disgusted with their behavior and hopes that they understand what they did is wrong.

Senator Blanco was confused about the situation. He really believes that if they did something wrong that you have to take responsibilities and really believes that they did something wrong taking pizza’s and being disrespectful and he also read the letters and saw that President Parra Perez issued them a letter and the reasons behind it.

Senator Durham said that as a student senate and ambassador something was done wrong and no one is happy with it. He doesn't want this to tear the senate apart from the Glorieta we created a bond and hopes that hasn't been destroyed.

Senator Salas is disappointed in their behavior and wants them to redeem themselves being allowed to be able to maintain their seats and be able to represent the senate and university at a higher level.

At this time comments from the gala could be taken.

Jenny Arguello: is from the recruitment office and is a part of the student ambassadors. She was very disappointed with the actions and embarrassed. She could care less about the pizzas she just wanted an apology. They are representing the student body and she thought they did an awesome job. The way they represented NMHU as senators is what is at hand. She felt it was thrown in her face because she was holding these individuals to a higher standard.

Sophia: just thought it was inappropriate how the situation was talked about in the classroom and thought it was unprofessional and others did not need to know what was going on.

Aja: thought they were awesome it wasn't about the pizza's it was more about the representation. Everyone worked hard for this event to represent the university at a higher level and a situation like this completely brought it down.

Executives:

Treasurer Lopez stated that it was obvious both senators did something wrong and don't completely agree with their actions. He feels that he doesn't understand and thinks the process was flawed and we've all misrepresented senate. There are more drama and more feelings of people not liking each other and trying to find ways and makes sure we follow protocol and make sure something is taken care of in such a manner.

President Parra Perez:

Stated that she is not to sing higher praises. Senator Martinez has actively represented the senate and feels that Senator Lopez hasn't. There are 96 students made a complaint against Martinez and 92 against Senator Lopez it was not about pizza and they did a great job making it seem that way. There was 200 potential students and their actions could have hurt the university. If they would not have acted in this manner we would not be here. She does not think that they should keep their seat and she will voice the opinions of the senate and what's occurred to the student body because it is her job to fulfill the needs of 2300+ students and is not going to back up the actions of individuals who have misrepresented the senate and the university in such a manner.

President Pro Temp Ulibarri mentioned that we did have students coming and complaining and we do have to take action and as senators we have to represent the students and what they have to say. These were potential students and this could cause some issues of whether they would like to come to an institution such as this one. They both have potential to be very good senators it had to be acted upon because we had students come to us.

Secretary Quintana stated that she is not happy with the actions of these two senators and as everyone has stated they are before us because of actions they took and the behavior they allowed to follow. I hope that you two can take this opportunity now if ever, being able to maintain your seats as senators, to prove your capabilities of becoming a great student leader not only to yourself but to the entire university. This not only goes for the two senators who decided to take on bad leadership skills but to the entire senate and try to redeem ourselves as a entire group and show the students that we are all capable of being good student leaders. We have many needs to fulfill for the university and making sure that situations like this get taken care of are very important. I hope that you two understand the situation they've put themselves in and along with the entire senate and university and hope that we can move forward with this and hope that no other situations like this occur again.

VP Butts:

( statement)

Seantor Ulibarri made a motion to censure Senator Wade Lopez and Senator John Paul Martinez and for any other actions later that go against the ASNMHU constitution or student handbook for required act on by the office of student affairs will lead them to being removed from their seat.

Seantor Glenn had the second.

Senator Lopez started off by saying that he would like to thank everyone for being here. As a college student we could all be at home with our families for thanksgiving break. He would like to be home with his three brothers. He would like to start off by apologizing for his actions on November 13 and any other things that happened after the event. Sometimes he gets frustrated and loses his temper. He would like to apologize for his actions on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> towards the recruitment office as well as the student ambassadors they are the heart and soul of NMHU and second he would like to apologize to the recruitment office who worked very hard to make those days a success. He would also like to send out his apologies to the senate. He also gave out his sincere apology to the university. The way he acted is not the way a student leader should not act. He knows that we are looked upon by students and faculty.

Seantor Martinez: apologized for his actions he feels that he's disgraced himself and students of NMHU at the time he took the pizza. He apologized that to recruitment and ambassadors. He is sorry for disrespecting everyone.

VI. **Adjourn:**

Senator Rael made the motion to adjourn and Senator Torres had the second.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.