

**New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents Meeting  
New Mexico Highlands University**

**March 16, 2007**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met in regular session on March 16, 2007 at the Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico. Vice-Chairman Walter Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Attendance**

Board Members Present: Mr. Walter Adams, Mr. Robert Benavides, and Ms. Sherry Salas

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. James Fries, President; Ms. Judy Cordova, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Gilbert Rivera, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Domingo Sánchez III, Vice President for Finance & Administration; Ms. Rachel King, Legal Counsel

Others Present: Dr. Joseph Sabutis, Faculty Senate Chair; Mr. Jesse Lopez, Student Senate President; Ms. Carolina López, Board of Regents 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 Santa Fe, and Rio Rancho Centers, and over the KEDP NMHU Radio Station.

**Approval of Agenda for Meeting of March 16, 2007**

Regent Salas moved to amend the Agenda by moving Item 15 – Executive Session after Item 5 and before Item 6. Regent Benavides seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas, Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2007**

Regent Benavides moved to approve the minutes from January 12, 2007. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Regent Benavides seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas, Motion passed unanimously.

**Introduction of Dr. James Fries**

Vice-Chairman Gonzales introduced Dr. James Fries as the newly appointed President and welcomed him to New Mexico Highlands University. President Fries stated that he was glad to be back at Highlands.

**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 Salas moved to adjourn to executive session Regent Benavides seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and voting in favor of the motion were: Regent Adams, yes; Regent Benavides, yes; and Regent Salas, yes. Motion carried unanimously and the Board went into executive session at 10:10 am. Acting Chairman Adams stated that Chairman Gonzales would be present during executive session via teleconference.

Regent Benavides moved to come out of executive session into open session. Regent Salas seconded the motion. For the record, Acting Chairman Adams reported 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 Adams, yes; Regent Benavides, yes; and Regent Salas, yes. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 11:10 am. For the record Acting Chairman Adams stated that Chairman Gonzales participated in executive session via teleconference.

Acting Chairman Adams offered condolences for Dr. James Alarid, Ms. Elaine Martinez, and Ms. Lou Ann Romero who each recently lost a family member.

### **Consent Calendar**

- a) Budget Adjustment Request to Amend FY07 Budget – Action Item**  
Vice President Sanchez presented the Budget Adjustment Request to Amend FY07 Budget (Attachment A).

Regent Benavides moved to approve the Budget Adjustment Request to Amend FY07 Budget. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, Regent, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**b) Approval of FY06 Audit – Action Item**

Vice President Sanchez presented the Audit for FY06 (Attachment B).

Regent Benavides moved to approve the Audit for FY06. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, Regent, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**c) Digital Traffic Systems, Inc. Fire Alarm Enunciator System - \$368,701.12– Action Item**

Vice President Sánchez presented on the Digital Traffic Systems, Inc. Fire Alarm Enunciator System (Attachment C). Vice president Sanchez informed the committee that Chairman Gonzales had requested supporting documentation for this item and that the document was provided.

Regent Benavides moved to approve the Digital Traffic Systems, Inc. Fire Alarm Enunciator System. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**d) Brandenburg Industrial Services Company – Demolition of El Conquistador (Hi-Rise) – estimated \$520,415 – Action Item**

Vice President Sánchez presented on the Brandenburg Industrial Services Company – Demolition of El Conquistador (Hi-Rise) (Attachment D).

Regent Benavides moved to approve the Brandenburg Industrial Services Company – Demolition of El Conquistador (Hi-Rise). Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

Acting Chairman Adams asked that a reception be held before the demolition begins.

**e) Cooperative Educational Services – Burriss Hall Renovations - \$457,084.70 – Action Item**

Vice President Sanchez presented on the Cooperative Educational Services – Burriss Hall Renovations (Attachment E).

Regent Benavides moved to approve the Cooperative Educational Services – Burris Hall Renovations. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**f) 1306 Ninth Street, Las Vegas Trust, Inc. – Northeastern Regional Hospital Inc. (Owner) – Action Item**

Vice President Sanchez presented on the 1306 Ninth Street, Las Vegas Trust, Inc. – Northeastern Regional Hospital Inc. (Attachment F).

Regent Benavides moved to approve the 1306 Ninth Street, Las Vegas Trust, Inc. – Northeastern Regional Hospital Inc. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**g) 1102 University Avenue, Student Union Baptist Center – Action Item**

Vice President Sanchez presented on the 1102 University Avenue, Student Union Baptist Center (Attachment G). Vice President Sánchez stated that he had heard that the building may become available for purchase and was asking the Board for permission to investigate and negotiate a purchase. Vice President Sánchez informed the Board that NMHU had owned the property and that it fits into the NMHU master plan.

Regent Benavides moved to approve the 1102 University Avenue, Student Union Baptist Center. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**h) Quintana Property – Action Item**

Vice President Sanchez presented on the Quintana Property (Attachment H). Vice President Sánchez informed the Board that Mr. Quintana donated a five acre parcel to the university, however the property should have been donated to the NMHU Foundation. Vice President Sánchez stated that in order to resolve the matter NMHU had to transfer the property back to the Quintana family who would then donate it to the NMHU Foundation as originally intended. Ms. King, NMHU Legal Counsel, stated that transferring the property as stated NMHU could record the deeds in proper order

Regent Benavides moved to approve the Quintana Property. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Adams, Regent Benavides, and Regent Salas. Motion passed unanimously.

**Academic Affairs Committee – Regent Rosanna Vázquez**

President Fries stated that Regent Vázquez was not present due to a family illness and that there are no action items from the Academic Affairs Committee. Interim Vice President Rivera provided a written report (Attachment I).

**Budget and Finance Committee – Regent Robert Benavides**

Regent Benavides stated that there were no further items to discuss. Regent Benavides thanked everyone for their hard work in preparing the budget items. Vice President Sanchez provided a written report (Attachment J).

**Buildings and Grounds Committee – Regent Walter Adams**

Regent Adams stated that there were no further items to discuss. Regent Adams called on Mr. George DuFour, Director of Facilities Management to present a report. Mr. DuFour stated the Board that Chairman Gonzales had requested that NMHU investigate energy conservation solutions. Mr. DuFour informed that Board that the Facilities Department had converted most of the buildings to stand-alone heating systems resulting in a savings of \$30,824. Mr. DuFour informed the Board that \$500,000 is budgeted each year for streamline repairs. Regent Benavides asked if the department had looked into solar heating as a way to cut energy costs. Mr. DuFour stated that he would investigate the possibility of solar heating. President Fries informed the Board that he had met with representative from a firm that deals with different energy saving approaches.

**Student Affairs Committee – Regent Sherry Salas**

Regent Salas stated that there were no further items to discuss. Vice President Cordova provided a written report (Attachment K).

**Student Senate Report – Mr. Jesse Lopez**

President Lopez presented and provided the ASNMHU report (Attachment L). President Lopez thanked Vice President Sánchez, Mr. Trujillo, Associate Vice President for Budget and Administration, and Mr. Max Baca, Director of Information Technology Services, for their assistance during the Legislative Session. President Lopez welcomed Regents Governor Robert Benavides and Ms. Sherry Salas to NMHU.

Acting Chairman Adams extended condolences to the Gallegos family on behalf of the Board.

President Lopez informed the Board that a letter regarding a Graduate Student Association had been included in the ASNMHU packet to the Board. Regent Salas commended the ASNMHU for a job well done on all a lot large projects and for tackling a lot of small projects as well. President Fries informed the Board that the ASNMHU was very active during this Legislative Session and was successful in securing funding for campus security and congratulated them for their work.

#### **Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Joseph Sabutis**

Dr. Sabutis presented and provided a written report (Attachment M). President Fries informed the Board that a large number of faculty searches were underway. President Fries cited concerns with the small applicant pools and that NMHU might have to hire visiting professors rather than tenure or tenure-track professors.

#### **Persons Wishing to Address the Board**

Mr. Tim Sánchez, NMHU Pool Manager, graduate student in the Exercise and Sports Sciences Program and President of the Exercise and Sports Sciences Club informed the Board that the ESS club was sponsoring a Cinco de Mayo HU Celebration Run and indicated that the ESS Club was trying to find sponsors. Mr. Sánchez stated that the run would be dedicated to the student athletes who have passed away recently. Ms. Myrriah Gomez, Secretary for the ESS Club, had been collaborating with other clubs and organizations to raise funds for the run, but was still lacking funding to support the run. Ms. Gomez challenged the Board of Regents to match the \$1,000 award from the ASNMHU. President Fries stated that he would follow-up on the possibility of a donation for the run. Acting Chairman Adams commended the ESS Club for working to bring NMHU and the Las Vegas community together.

#### **President's Report – Dr. James Fries, President**

President Fries indicated that the welcome he had received had exceeded anything that he expected. President Fries thanked President Lopez and the ASNMHU for organizing President Jim Fries Day and thanked Dr. Sabutis for the opportunity to speak at the Faculty Senate Meeting. President Fries announced that Dr. Gilbert Rivera had accepted the position of Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Linda LaGrange had accepted the position of Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and their appointments have been positively received. President Fries stated that the search of an Athletic Director and University Relations Director would begin soon.

President Fries informed the Board that one of his concerns is the amount of students that require developmental courses stating that in the fall of 2006, 87.9% of the new freshman needed one or more developmental courses in Math or English or both. President Fries informed the Board that he had asked the Faculty, Deans, and the Campus Life Retention Committee to come up with meaningful courses that students who need register this fall developmental courses can register this full schedule and achieve success. President Fries stated that all university level courses should be at the university level and therefore students need to demonstrate that they are ready before they are allowed to register.

President Fries informed the Board that he had asked the Retention Committee to work on the Early Alert reporting system so that data could be better utilized.

President Fries reported that the NCATE accreditation for the School of Education was renewed with conditions in 2004 with a focus visit to be done this fall to look as our assessment efforts. The visiting team felt that more improvements were needed. President Fries informed the Board that NMHU had filed a response highlighting the progress that had been made and requested removal of the conditions. NCATE will be back for the next comprehensive visit in 2008.

President Fries informed the Board that North Central Accreditation (NCA) is requiring three reports; the first is in the area of Board/Administrative relationships, the second in Shared Governance Structures and the third in Institutional Research that need to be submitted to NCA by July 1, 2007. The next comprehensive visit from NCA will likely be in the fall of 2009.

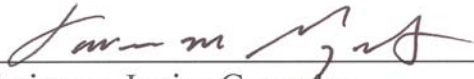
President Fries informed the Board that communication and coordination between the main campuses and centers needs to be reviewed, and that Vice President Rivera, Deans, and Center Directors are meeting to work on defining roles to better serve the students.

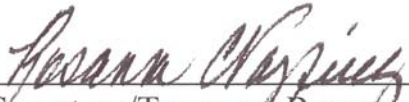
President Fries stated that Highlands had a well established presence at the Legislature and thanked Vice President Sánchez, Mr. Trujillo, Mr. Max Baca, Chairman Gonzales and Regent Benavides for their assistance during the Legislative Session and outlined a few of the funded items. President Fries indicated that he would like to start the legislative process even earlier next year.

President Fries reported that he had met with Dr. Thomas Bowles, Governor's Science Advisor in hopes that NMHU would be one of the first participants in the Gateway Program, a supercomputing network. President Fries also reported that

**Adjournment**

Regent Benavides moved to adjourn the meeting. Regent Vázquez seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

  
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Chairman Javier Gonzales  
NMHU Board of Regents

  
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Secretary/Treasurer Rosanna Vázquez  
NMHU Board of Regents