

New Mexico Highlands University  
Board of Regents Meeting  
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall  
NMHU Main Campus  
Las Vegas, NM  
September 26, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Javier Gonzales
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for September 26, 2008
4. Approval of the Minutes from July 11, 2008
5. Vice President for Academic Affairs Report – Dr. Gilbert Rivera
  - a. New faculty – fall 2007 and 2008
  - b. Minority Doctoral Fellows Program
  - c. RPSP update – 2007-08
  - d. Other
6. Vice President for Student Affairs Report – Dr. Judy Cordova-Romero
  - a. Campus life
  - b. Fall Retention Initiatives
  - c. Other
7. Vice President for Finance and Administration Report – Dr. Bill Taylor
  - a. Sole Source Contracts
  - b. Major construction projects
  - c. FY08 Audit update
  - d. RFP's for Architectural Services – Action Item
  - e. RFP for Legal Services
  - f. Campus Security Plan
  - g. Other
8. Campus Police SOP Resolution – Action Item
9. Student Senate Report – Ms. Nicole Parra-Perez
10. Graduate Student Senate Report – Ms. Ashley Ramirez
11. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maurine Romine
12. Persons wishing to address the Board

13. Comments by the Regents

14. President's Report – Dr. James Fries

- a. GO Bond campaign
- b. Campus Strategic Planning process
- c. Board Committees and Meetings – Action Item
- d. Farmington Market Study Proposal – Action Item
- e. Other

15. 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)

16. Acquisition of old LV Hospital property – Action Item

17. President's Contract – Action Item

18. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University  
Board of Regents Meeting  
September 26, 2008**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met in regular session on September 28, 2008 at the Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall, on the New Mexico Highlands University main campus in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Chairman Gonzales called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

**Attendance**

Board Members Present: Chairman Javier Gonzales, Ms. Nancy Long, Ms. Sherry Salas, and Mr. Jesus Lopez

Board Members Absent: Mr. Leveo Sanchez

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. William Taylor, Vice President for Finance & Administration, and Ms. Rachel King, Legal Counsel

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Stephanie Butts, ASNMHU Vice President; Ms. Ashley Ramirez, AGS President; Ms. Susie Maestas, 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, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, and Raton Centers, and over the KEDP Radio Station

**Approval of Agenda for Meeting of September 26, 2008**

Regent Lopez moved to approve the September 26, 2008 agenda. Regent Long seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Gonzales, Regent Salas, Regent Lopez and Regent Long. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2008**

Regent Lopez moved to approve the July 11, 2008 minutes as presented. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Regent Long, Regent Lopez, Regent Salas. Chairman Gonzales abstained. Motion passed.

**Vice President for Academic Affairs Report – Dr. Gilbert Rivera**

Chairman Gonzales welcomed Dr. Gilbert Rivera back after being out on sick leave. Dr. Rivera indicated that his health is improving on a daily basis.

**a. New Faculty – fall 2007 and 2008**

Dr. Rivera reported that the University has hired 53 new faculty members over the last two years. Many of the positions are not new, but were taught by visiting faculty or adjunct professors. (Attachment 5.1)

**b. Minority Doctoral Fellows Program**

Dr. Rivera reported on the Minority Doctoral Fellows:

- There are five faculty members that have completed their Ph.D. programs employed in tenure or tenure-track positions in various disciplines.
- Dr. Edward Martinez, Minority Doctoral Fellows Program recipient, was appointed Interim Department Head of Natural Resources.
- Two other faculty members are currently employed in the School of Education and School of Social Work while they pursue their doctorate.
- Three Minority Doctoral Fellows, Ph.D.'s are working on doctorates's in Computer Science, Political Science and Hispanic Studies. (Attachment 5.2)

Dr. Rivera provided a report on all full-time faculty, which covers Fall Semester Sessions 1997, 2006 and 2008. The total FTE's for those years: 130 in 2006, 137 in 2007 and 152 this fall.

Dr. Rivera indicated that the number of faculty has increased in Rio Rancho and Farmington.

**c. RPSP update–2007-08**

Dr. Rivera summarized the accomplishments of the Research & Public Service Projects (RPSP's) for 2008-2009. (Attachment 5.3)

- Medical School/Health-Related Career Prep
- Visiting Scientist Program
- AP New Mexico
- Medical Health Interpreter Project
- The Spanish Program
- The Spanish/English Immersion Project

**Vice President for Student Affairs Report – Dr. Judy Cordova-Romero**

**a. Campus Life**

Ms. Cordova-Romero reported that it's been an exciting beginning of the semester with student activities and campus life has been busy with different activities. More students have been involved in the activities. Vice President Cordova-Romero reported that the Recruitment office along with Student Senate, participated in the State Fair Parade and the Santa Fe Fiesta Parade. The Rodeo Team joined the Senate in Santa Fe. Their float won first place and was awarded \$500.00.

VP Romero-Cordova reported that there is a decline behavioral and discipline issues in Housing this year.

Chairman Gonzales asked if the dorms were at full occupancy. VP Cordova-Romero reported that it is about 98% occupancy. She indicated that all students were moved from hotel rooms within one week due to the effectiveness of the new application process.

**b. Fall Retention Initiatives-Early Alert**

VP Cordova-Romero provided a report on the Fall 2008, Retention Initiatives. (Attachment 6.2)

- September 14, 2008 – Fourth Week Early Alert Program for 2008.
- Over 57% of the Early Alerts reported.
- Majority of students reported are enrolled in English, Math, History and Biology.
- Early Alert Students are being contact by the offices of Academic Support, Support Services and Faculty Advisors.

**c. Enrollment Success Contract**

VP Cordova-Romero reported that the Enrollment Success cohort consists of 134 First-Time Freshmen who are enrolled in both English and Math 100. Out of the 134 students, 42% were reported by Early Alert.

Vice President Cordova-Romero reported that President Fries sent out a global email indicating that there had been an attempted sexual assault on a street that borders the campus. City Police and campus police were involved. VP Cordova-Romero stated that it gave the University an opportunity to use the newly implemented text messaging system. An alert was sent out to those students who enrolled for text messages. In order to further educate the students, Vice President Cordova has had a pamphlet given to students entitled, "*Staying Safe on Campus.*"

Regent Salas asked what global email addresses were used to alert students. VP Cordova-Romero indicated the email addresses used was the University's.

**Vice President for Finance and Administration Report – Dr. Bill Taylor**

**a. Sole Source Contracts**

Vice President Taylor summarized four sole source contracts. He indicated that the contracts do not require Board approval and are for informational purposes. The four sole source contracts summarized were: 1) ACS Scientific contract for \$159,328, 2) OI Analytical contract for \$54,062, 3) Comcast Cable Company contract for \$20,000 and 4) Blackboard Inc. contract for \$21,600. (Attachment 7a.)

In reference to Blackboard, Chairman Gonzales asked that on-line and ITV courses be assessed to see how successful these programs are. Vice President Rivera said it was a good time to review student's evaluations to see the type of feedback that students are providing.

**b. Major Construction projects**

Ms. Marisol Greene, Facilities Director provided a summary of the current major construction projects which include: Housing, Science Annex, and the Boiler Projects. Ms. Greene stated that the smaller projects are coming along smoothly. Chairman Gonzales requested that a report on the University's projects, be drafted and forwarded on to the Board.

**c. FY08 Audit Update**

Vice President Taylor asked Controller Nesbitt Hagood to provide an update to the Board regarding the FY08 Audit. Controller Hagood said that the audit is 99% complete. Mr. Hagood said they were two months ahead of schedule and does expect a clean opinion on the audit. Without being able to disclose details, Mr. Hagood said that there were 3 audit findings.

Chairman Gonzales asked for an update on the University's investment funds. Controller Hagood indicated that as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the University had \$43 million in cash. Presently, it has \$48 million in cash and investments. The majority of the funds; are at the State Treasurer's Office, some will be placed back in the bank and some will be moved to multiple banks. Chairman Gonzales expressed concern in lieu of the current financial situation with banks nationwide; however, Mr. Hagood assured Chairman Gonzales and the Board that the bank(s) they are working with are secure.

Chairman Gonzales asked Mr. Hagood what is being done to ensure the safety of the University's funds. Mr. Hagood responded that the University is asking for 100% collateralization. Chairman Gonzales requested that prior to monies being transferred, a report be provided to the Board of Regents Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Regent Lopez, for his review.

**d. RFP's for Architectural Services – Action Item**

Dr. Taylor reported that RFP's for construction projects were reviewed recently. Projects include the new Student Union Building, Felix Martinez building and the University's Master Plan. VP Taylor indicated they spent three days interviewing architects. VP Taylor reported that state law prohibits the University from including prices or fees as part of the selection criteria for architectural services. Based on this selection criteria, VP Taylor asked for direction from the Board.

President Fries indicated that they could informally announce to the Board, who of the architectural firms, are the most qualified or perhaps call a special meeting and then enter into negotiations with them.

After further discussion, Ms. Rachel King, Legal Counsel proposed to move Item 7d. to Executive Session. Chairman Gonzales agreed.

**e. RFP for Legal Services**

Vice President Taylor reported that the Legal Services contract ends in mid-December. The committee to review the RFP for Legal Services includes Regents Long and Sanchez, plus Dr. Fries, and Dr. Taylor.

**f. Campus Security Plan**

Mr. Max Baca, ITS Director provided an updated report on their efforts to continue securing the campus. Items discussed in the updated report:

- Physical Security – Classroom Protection
- Notification System – Security Poles

- Main Campus and Rio Rancho Video Surveillance
- Communications Systems – Text Messaging/Website
- Policies – Update Student Code of Conduct
- Updated Campus Security Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Gonzales commended individuals involved in the project(s) to secure the campus. Chairman Gonzales requested that an annual training or drill be conducted to promote safety awareness on campus. He asked that administration, faculty, staff and students be included in the training. (Attachment 7f)

**g. Other**

Vice President Taylor reported that the Golf Course opened in July. Marisol Greene, Director of Facilities awarded a plaque to facilities employees, Gilbert Valdez and Greg Martinez for their hard work. Chairman Gonzales commended Marisol Greene and Max Baca for their efforts regarding the Golf Course.

**Campus Police SOP Resolution – Action Item**

President Fries reported to the Board that the University employees two types of campus police: certified police officers and security officers. The certified officers meet the criteria to serve as police officers anywhere in the State. President Fries indicated that the certified officers on campus must undergo training and recertification periodically. President Fries informed the Board that Highlands is the only four-year university in the State that does not have armed officers. He said that as a State university, Highlands is its own police jurisdiction and that our own officers are the first responders to incidents on campus. Currently, the university has 6 certified officers and 7 security officers. President Fries indicated that the issue has been under discussion for several years and that there are sincere differences of opinion with the campus community. He also indicated that he presented the information at a General Faculty meeting on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and received no response from faculty.

Chairman Gonzales asked the Student representatives for their input. Graduate Student President, Ashley Ramirez indicated that the Graduate Senate met on this issue last semester, it was very controversial and voted against it. Vice President for Student Senate, Stephanie Butts indicated that certified officers know what they are doing and should trust in them. She indicated that the current Student Senate body has not addressed this issue.

Vice Presidents Rivera, Taylor and Cordova-Romero expressed support of arming police officers on campus.

Discussions regarding certified campus police to carry firearms included the following:

- 911 calls are now transferred to Campus Security – some 911 calls are handled by State Police.
- The number of certified officers may grow, but security officers will still be needed.
- Provide annual training of Campus Police.
- Authority to use Taser guns by Campus Police.
- Campus safety issues.

Chairman Gonzales asked if there was anyone in audience wishing to address the Board.

- Dr. Erika Derkas, Associate Professor in Sociology asked the Board to pause in making a decision allowing certified police officers to carry firearms on campus. She stated that an Open Forum has not been held to discuss this very important issue. She indicated that national studies do not indicate that arming officers acts as a deterrent to crime. She indicated that the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate voted against this issue. Secondly, any decision to carry firearms should be data driven and not be based on professionalism. Thirdly, being the only 4-year institution that doesn't carry firearms is not a basis for carrying them.
- Dr. Merryl Kravitz, Professor, School of Education asked that the Board take into consideration that the faculty or students support the use of handguns by campus police. Dr. Kravitz expressed great concern about the fact that many students have attempted to commit suicide and the possibility of someone taking their own life might be enhanced by the carrying of firearms by certified campus police.
- Cordilia Thatcher, student said that she would like to see handguns banned all together.
- Sammy Cao, student and Connor Hall Resident Director, asked the Board to not allow campus police to bear firearms. He asked what benefit is there in using lethal measures should an altercation of that caliber arise?
- Dr. Maureen Romine indicated that the Faculty Senate at a General Faculty meeting last fall, resolved that campus police not be allowed to carry firearms and recommended that other alternatives be sought.

After a lengthy discuss, Regent Lopez made a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the University Police Force and to authorize the use of taser guns and the removal of the brackets noted in Item 2 of the Resolution. Regent Long seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the Resolution as noted were: Chairman Gonzales, yes; Regent Salas, yes; Regent Lopez, yes; and Regent Long, yes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Student Senate Report – Ms. Stephanie Butts**

ASNMHU Vice President Stephanie Butts presented the ASNMHU written report. (Attachment 9)

#### **Graduate Student Senate Report – Ms. Ashley Ramirez**

AGS President Ashley Ramirez presented the AGS Senate written report. (Attachment 10)

#### **Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maureen Romine**

Dr. Maureen Romine informed the Board of the following:

- Pino Endowment – request for proposals sent out and the deadline is November 3, 2008.
- Ballen Endowment Committee – meeting next week to set up a timeline for applications.
- NCA and Assessment – Soliciting faculty input on student traits and a survey developed by the Assessment of Student Learning Committee has been sent to the faculty.
- Faculty Handbook revisions – removing parts currently covered in the Collective Bargaining handbook.
- Reviewing Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures.



### **Comments by Regents**

Chairman Gonzales requested that new chairs be ordered for the Board of Regents meetings.

**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 adjourn to executive session. Regent Salas seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Gonzales, yes; Regent Long, yes; Regent Salas, yes; and Regent Lopez, yes. Motion carried and the Board went into executive session at 12:24 pm.

Regent Salas moved to come out of executive session into open session. Regent Long seconded the motion. For the record, Vice Chair Long 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: Chairman Gonzales, yes; Regent Long, yes; Regent Salas, yes; and Regent Lopez, yes. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 11:40 am.

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

#### **a. GO Bond campaign**

President Fries reported that there will be four Bond Issues A-Senior Citizens, B-Library, C-Health Facilities and D-Higher Education on the ballot. President Fries indicated that Bond Issue D-Higher Education includes \$10.8 million in funding for the University, \$9 million for infrastructure and \$1.8 million for the Laura Shield Remodeling Project. President Fries indicated that each of the four Bonds are very important to Las Vegas and San Miguel County.

President Fries stated that Mr. Sean Weaver, University Relations Director, compiled an overview booklet of the different bonds and will campaign via posters, alumni and radio stations.

#### **b. Campus Strategic Planning Process**

President Fries provided a list of planning issues for the University inclusive of those discussed at the Board of Regents Retreat. President Fries said he plans to appoint a Steering Committee to help coordinate the planning process. President Fries said that the University needs to revisit the Institutional Vision, Mission and Major Goals Statements found in the Strategic Plan.

#### **c. Board Committees and Meetings – Action Item**

President Fries requested Board approval to merge the four current standing committees into an Academic and Student Affairs Committee and a Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee.

President Fries also suggested the Board of Regents consider quarterly meetings.

Regent Nancy Long made a motion to approve the merging of the four current standing committees' to two and to hold quarterly Board meetings. Regent Lopez seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Gonzales; yes, Regent Long, yes; Regent Lopez, yes; and Regent Salas, yes.

Chairman Gonzales requested that Regent Lopez be Chair the Budget and Finance, and Facilities Committee and Regent Long be Chair and Regent Salas serve on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

**d. Farmington Market Student Proposal – Action Item**

President Fries requested Board approval to contract with the UNM Bureau of Business & Economic Research to do a market study of the need for upper division and graduate education in the Farmington area. The cost of the study would be \$24,925.

Regent Nancy Long made a motion to contract with the UNM, Bureau of Business & Economic Research. Regent Lopez seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Gonzales, yes; Regent Long, yes; Regent Lopez, yes and Regent Salas, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

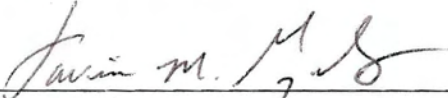
**Acquisition of old LV Hospital Property – Action Item**

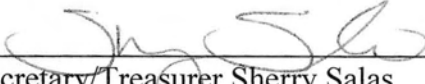
Dr. Fries recommended that the Board approve submitting an offer subject to an appropriation for the purchase to buy the Old Las Vegas Hospital, which sits on 3.245 acres of land, located at 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street and was appraised a year ago at \$1,680,000.

After discussion of the acquisition and a suggestion to have another appraisal done, Regent Long made a motion to submit an offer, subject to an appropriation during the 2009 Legislative Session for the purchase to buy the Old Las Vegas Hospital. Regent Salas seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Gonzales, yes; Regent Lopez, yes; Regent Long, yes; and Regents Salas, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Regent Lopez moved to adjourn. Regent Long seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.

  
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Chairman Javier M. Gonzales  
NMHU Board of Regents

  
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Secretary/Treasurer Sherry Salas  
NMHU Board of Regents