

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, NM 87701
February 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Leveo V. Sanchez
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for February 1, 2012
4. Approval of the Minutes from October 27, 2011
5. Consent Calendar – Action Items
 - a. FY11 University Audit
 - b. FY11 Stable Isotope Corp. Audit
 - c. Quarterly Report
 - d. Request for Deletion of 1993 Chevrolet Suburban 2500
6. Academic and Student Affairs Committee – Regent Nancy R. Long
 - a. AGS 2007 Constitution – Action Item
 - b. Informational Items
7. Finance and Administration Committee Report – Regent Jesus L. López
 - a. 2008 Bonds Refinancing – Action Item
 - b. Informational Items
8. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maureen Romine
9. Staff Advisory Senate Report – Ms. Margaret Gonzales
 - a. Staff Advisory Senate By-laws Changes – Action Item
10. Student Senate Report – Mr. Chris Burns
11. Persons Wishing to Address the Board
12. President’s Report
 - a. Naming of Gym Floor in Wilson Center – Action Item
 - b. Other
13. 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)
14. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
February 1, 2012**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special meeting on February 1, 2012 in the Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall, on the New Mexico Highlands University main campus in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Chairman Sanchez called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Mr. Leveo V. Sanchez, Ms. Nancy R. Long, Mr. Jesus L. López, Mr. Frank Marchi, and Ms. Caitlin Syner.

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. James Fries, President; Dr. Gilbert Rivera, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Fidel Trujillo, Dean of Student Affairs; and Ms. Rachel King, NMHU Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Margaret Gonzales, Staff Advisory Senate President; Mr. Chris Burns, ASNMHU President; Ms. Carolina Martínez, 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 Site, and over the KEDP Radio Station.

Approval of Meeting Agenda for February 1, 2012

Regent Long moved to amend the February 1, 2012 agenda by moving item #12a to follow item #4. Regent Syner seconded. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from October 27, 2011

Regent López moved to approve the minutes from October 27, 2011 as presented. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

Naming of Gym Floor in Wilson Center – Action Item

Chairman Sanchez opened the item for public discussion and called the audience to come forward and present their suggestions for the naming of the gym floor in Wilson Complex.

Dr. Ron Maestas, President of the H-Club asked Dr. Fidel Trujillo, Dean of Students, to report on the ASNMHU's vote regarding the naming of the gym floor. Dr. Trujillo informed the Board that during the last meeting of the ASNMHU, they voted unanimously to name the gym floor after Mr. Sanchez.

Dr. Maestas provided a synopsis on Mr. Sanchez' life, career, and achievements. Dr. Maestas informed the Board that the H-Club was in full support of naming the gym floor after Mr. Sanchez.

Dr. Joe McCaffrey, Foundation Board member and Mr. Ted Maestas, H-Club Vice President also spoke in favor of naming the gym floor after Mr. Sanchez.

Mr. Maestas recommended that the Board consider naming the new student center after Mrs. Emeteria "Matie" Martínez Robinson Viles and Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Sue Crimmin; whose endowments have provided many scholarships for local students attending NMHU.

Chairman Sanchez asked Mr. Maestas if the H-Club would like to withdraw their previous proposal of naming the gym floor after Mr. Don Gibson. Mr. Maestas responded that the H-Club has honored Mr. Gibson by naming an annual homecoming golf tournament after him and now chose to request that the gym floor be named in honor of Mr. Sanchez.

Regent López moved to approve the naming of the gym floor in Wilson Complex in honor of former Mayor, NMHU alumni, and H-Club member after Mr. Henry O. Sanchez. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar – Action Items

- a. FY11 University Audit (**Attachment A**)
- b. FY11 Stable Isotope Corp. Audit (**Attachment B**)
- c. Quarterly Report (**Attachment C**)
- d. Request for Deletion of 1993 Chevrolet Suburban 2500 (**Attachment D**)

President Fries informed the Board that the Finance & Administration subcommittee meeting held on January 30, 2012, was attended by Regent López, who chaired the committee; Chairman Sanchez; and Regent Marchi. The consent calendar items were discussed in detail during the meeting.

Regent López moved to approve consent calendar items A-D as presented. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman asked President Fries to report on the Stable Isotope Corporation. President Fries informed the Board that the University holds a number of different patents that fall into two categories; one category is the Stable Isotopes work, the second deals with hydrazine remediation. The January 20, 2012, edition of the New Mexico Business Weekly featured an article about the patents. The patents were all developed by Dr. Rudy Martínez and Dr. Merritt Helvenston; both are faculty in the Chemistry Department. The hydrazine remediation technology has been extensively tested by NASA. There have also been several promising meetings with representatives of the United States Air Force regarding the hydrazine remediation. Hydrazine fuel is used for space flights, F16 aircrafts, and in the power industries. A Japanese company invented a car that would run on hydrazine. President Fries explained that hydrazine is bio-hazardous and hazmat suits must be worn and extensive chemical treatments must be used on the extensive clean-up. The technology that Highlands has patented allows direct application to the material, the reaction is almost instantaneous, the resulting byproduct is

no longer a health hazard and does not require clean-up; testing is ongoing to confirm. The stable isotope works includes a growing number of patents involving a technology that simplifies the production process for an array of compounds with potential applications in various industries; including the pharmaceutical industry. Highlands has been working with Sigma Aldridge, an international company which has listed Highlands' products in their catalogs.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report – Regent Nancy R. Long

Regent Long informed the Board that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee met on Monday and is bringing one action item before the Board for consideration. The motion is to void the Associated Graduate Senate Constitution. Regent Long reported that a merger of the two student senate bodies had been under discussion for some time. The dissolution of the AGS would cut administrative and financial costs, allowing use of funds for student programs. Regent Long informed the Board that Mr. Chris Burns, the current ASNMHU President, is a graduate student. The graduate students will continue to be represented via graduate student committee within the ASNMHU. The Board will still have to consider some constitutional amendments approved by ASNMHU once the student body has voted on them.

a. AGS 2007 Constitution – Action Item

President Fries reported that the Board did approve changes to the ASNMHU Constitution last year that establishes proportional representation of graduate and undergraduate students. This year under Mr. Burns' leadership, the ASNMHU established the graduate student committee and funding for which the AGS was formed will continue to be used for such graduate student activities. The AGS has gone through periods of activity and inactivity and he feels that the purposes for which the AGS had been established have been absorbed into the ASNMHU Constitution.

President Fries thanked Mr. Burns, the ASNMHU and Dr. Trujillo for their participation and assistance regarding the AGS. He also thanked members of the AGS for helping to identify the needs of graduate students.

Regent Long moved to void the AGS 2007 Constitution (**Attachment E**). Regent Syner seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Informational Items

Dr. Gilbert Rivera, Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided a written VPAA Report (**Attachment F**).

- Dr. Rivera reported that the Higher Learning Commission approved the request for expansion of the NMHU distance learning via on-line and ITV.
- The Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council approved the accreditation of NMHU's Master's of Science Program in Psychology-Clinical/Counseling Psychology Concentration.

- The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) is recommending accreditation of the School of Education at both levels.
- The School of Social Work and the Rehabilitation Counseling Program will have their accreditation visits in April.
- The School of Business, Media Arts and Technology submitted its Quality Assurance Report during the fall semester. The report was reviewed and approved by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP) Board of Commissioners. The next accreditation visit will be in 2017.
- The American Foresters Committee on Accreditation accepted NMHU's Forestry Program 2011 progress report. The Forestry Program's Candidacy for Accreditation will continue through 2013.

Dr. Fidel Trujillo, Dean of Student Affairs, provided a written Student Affairs Report (**Attachment G**).

- Dr. Trujillo informed the Board that the new food vendor on campus is A'viands. They began providing services at the university on December 2011. The transition to the new food service was smooth; students, faculty, and staff have had positive remarks about the quality of food and customer service A'viands is providing. A'viands provides dining, retail, catering services, and manages the concession stands during sporting events.

President Fries commented that he has been impressed with the corporate commitment noting that even their CEO helped bus tables during the student's welcome back barbeque.

- Dr. Trujillo reported that the Upward Bound Program submitted a proposal for refunding and should receive notice of award by the end of the semester. The Upward Bound Program has been at Highlands since 1965.

Finance and Administration Committee Report – Regent Jesus L. López

Regent López reported that a Board quorum met for the Finance & Administration Committee on Monday, January 30, 2012 and approved of the refinancing of the 2008 Revenue Bonds for the new student residence.

a. 2008 Bond Refinancing – Action Item

Regent López called on Mr. Paul Cassidy, Manager/Investment Banker at RBC Capital Markets and Mr. Chris Muirhead, Lawyer at Modrall Sperling to present the 2008 Bond Issue (**Attachment H**).

Mr. Cassidy is recommending that the Board approve two bond resolutions. The first resolution is an avocation resolution with the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to apply for refinancing through them. The second resolution is a

parameters bond ordinance that allows the transaction to move forward, not in final form, setting parameters in which the sale can take place. After rates are negotiated with NMFA, the resolutions including the negotiated rates will be presented to the Board for final approval.

Regent Long asked if the current rate on the existing 2008 bonds was 4.41%. Mr. Cassidy confirmed the current rate at 4.41%. The refinanced rate should be approximately 3.9% resulting in an anticipated annual savings of more than \$60,000 over the remaining life of the bonds which is 22 years.

President Fries informed the Board that the bond resolutions require approval from the Higher Education Department and the New Mexico Board of Finance before the refinancing can proceed.

Regent López moved to adopt the resolution authorizing issuance of the New Mexico Highlands University System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2012, in the amount not to exceed \$18,500,000. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Informational Items

No informational items were discussed.

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maureen Romine

Dr. Maureen Romine read her written report (**Attachment I**).

Staff Advisory Senate Report – Ms. Margaret Gonzales

Ms. Gonzales read her written report (**Attachment J**) and informed the Board that the third issue of the *Pony Express* (**Attachment K**), the Staff Advisory Newsletter, was included in their meeting packet.

Staff Advisory Senate By-laws Changes – Action Item

Regent López moved to approve the Staff Advisory Senate By-laws Changes as presented (**Attachment L**). Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion passed unanimously.

Student Senate Report – Mr. Chris Burns

Mr. Burns commended the Board of Regents, President Fries, Dr. Trujillo, and Ms. Gonzales for their leadership at NMHU.

Mr. Burns reported the following:

- A'viands is doing a great job. The students are pleased with the food quality being provided.

- A meet and greet with local business was held on January 12, 2012. Approximately 16 businesses participated in the event informing students about their business.
- On January 29, 2012, the ASNMHU voted unanimously to name the gym floor at Wilson Complex after Mr. Henry O. Sanchez.

Person's Wishing to Address the Board

No one came forward.

President's Report

President Fries reported the following:

- NMHU is requesting a \$71,769 grant funding shift from the New Mexico Department of Transportation. The funding was initially going to be used for the reconstruction of University Avenue from Eighth Street to National Avenue. If the funding shift is approved the funding will be used for the reconstruction of Ninth Street from Columbia Avenue to Washington Avenue.
- NMHU's legal counsel, Sutin, Thayer & Browne, is now a woman owned firm. It may be the largest women owned law firm in the United States.
- The Hispano Round Table Legislative Dinner is scheduled for February 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Fe Convention Center. Highlands has sponsored a table at the event.
- Regent Marchi and Regent Syner attended a meeting for regents on January 4, 2012, sponsored by the Higher Education Department. The revised funding formula was the main topic of discussion.
- New Mexico Business Weekly highlighted the overall changes at Highlands as well as the hydrazine and stable isotopes. Their blog entitled "Lessons from a University's Turn Around" noted that although Highlands still faces challenges from state budget cuts to graduation rates, they now has the luxury of dealing with those issues from a position of strength not one of instability and turmoil.
- The Hispanic Outlook on Higher Education, a national publication, listed Highlands 40th on a list of 100 higher education institutions across the country for awarding master's degrees to Hispanic students Highlands awarded 173 master's degrees to Hispanic students in 2011.
- The Albuquerque Journal listed Highlands as having the most student satisfaction rating of any four-year institution in the state. In the same survey Highlands was rated second on alumni satisfaction.
- The Felix Martínez Building and the Lora Shields remodeling projects achieved LEED Gold Certification. It is likely that the Natatorium will receive LEED Gold Certification after its remodel.

- House Bill 2 will add funding for higher education if approved.
- A request for proposal for a car rental program on campus has been sent out.
- NMHU and representatives from the NMDOT Park & Ride program have discussed the possibility of establishing a park a ride lot on the north end of the NMHU campus.

President Fries identified the following future university goals:

- Work to increase enrollment from 3,800 to 4,200 over the next two years if possible.
- Further integrate technology by migrating to Desire 2 Learn, educational/instructional, software and eliminate BlackBoard; training employees on how to use electronic files to decrease the amount of paper used by the university; and making the university more environmentally friendly.
- Expand the university's involvement and leadership in the community.

The President's Gala is scheduled for April 21, 2012. The intent is to raise scholarship money for NMHU students and to celebrate his 5th year at NMHU.

Other

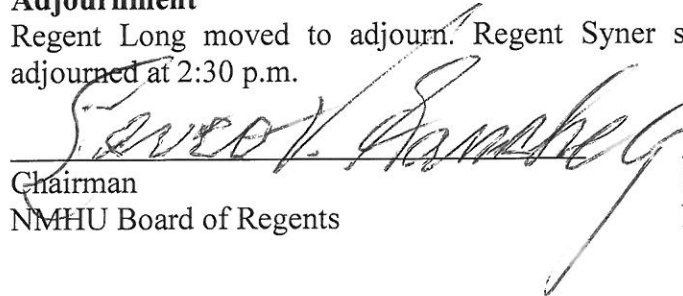
Regent Syner informed the Board that she worked with Dr. Romine to establish a Board of Regents Student Recognition Award. The student awardee, from the main campus or centers, will be recognized by the Board at each regular Board meeting and will receive a \$25 check from the Foundation.

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). Regent López moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the items listed. Regent Long seconded. A roll call was taken and voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long; Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion carried and the Board went into executive session at 11:10 a.m.

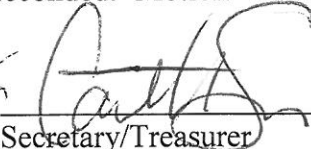
Regent Long moved to come out of executive session into open session. Regent López seconded. Regent Long stated for the record that only those items specified under the executive session item were discussed and that no action was taken. Regents present confirmed. A roll call was taken and voting in favor of coming out of executive session into regular session were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Syner. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 2:29 p.m.

Adjournment

Regent Long moved to adjourn. Regent Syner seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents



Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents