

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, NM 87701
October 28, 2009 at 9:00 am

1. Call to Order – Chairman Leveo V. Sanchez
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for October 28, 2009
4. Approval of the Minutes from October 6, 2009
5. Consent Calendar
 - A. Quarterly Report – Action Item
 - B. Donation of Soccer Goal and Scoring Tables – Action Item
6. Academic and Student Affairs Committee – Regent Nancy Long
 - A. Strategic Plan – Action Item
 - B. Other
7. Finance and Administration Committee – Regent Jesus López
8. Student Senate Report – Mr. Wade Lopez
9. Graduate Student Senate Report – Ms. Georgianne Brown
10. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maureen Romine
11. Staff Advisory Senate Report – Ms. Maxine Salas
12. Persons Wishing to Address the Board
13. President's Report – Dr. James Fries
 - A. HLC-NCA Visit
 - B. Budget Overview
 - C. Open Meetings Act Resolution – Action Item
 - D. Other
14. Comments by the Regents
15. Executive Session – (1) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H(8))
16. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
October 28, 2009**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met on October 28, 2009 at 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 9:20 am.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Mr. Leveo V. Sanchez, Mr. Pete Aguilar, Ms. Nancy R. Long, Mr. Jesus L. López, and Mr. Gregory A. Rael.

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

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Maxine Salas, Staff Advisory President; Mr. Wade López, ASNMHU President; Ms. Carolina Garduño, 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, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, and Raton Centers, and over the KEDP Radio Station.

Approval of Meeting Agenda for October 28, 2009

Regent Long moved to approve the October 28, 2009 agenda. Regent Rael seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from October 6, 2009

Regent Long moved to approve the minutes from October 6, 2009. Regent López seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar – Action Item

Quarterly Report (**Attachment A**) – Action Item

Donation of Soccer Goal and Scoring Tables (**Attachment B**) – Action Item

Regent López moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Regent Rael seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee – Regent Nancy R. Long

Regent Long reported that the Career Services Office under the Direction of Ron Garcia, held a successful Career Fair 30, employers were present. Former Student Regent Sherry Salas was in attendance recruiting for Los Alamos National Laboratories. The next Career Fair is scheduled for the Spring 2010 semester.

The university has hired Mr. Paul Fornell, a Licensed Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor to provide short term counseling for students.

Regent Long called on Vice President Cordova-Romero to inform the Board about the recent Suicide Prevention Grant NMHU received. Vice President Cordova-Romero stated that NMHU was one of 22 universities to receive funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). NMHU will receive \$100,000/year for three years to aid in suicide prevention. The university will collaborate with the Sangre de Cristo Mental Health Partnership and New Mexico Suicide Intervention.

Vice President Cordova-Romero reported that Dr. Susan Williams along with two of her nursing students; the Student Health Center; the Facilities Department; University Relations, Human Resources and the Student Affairs staff have been helping educate students about the H1N1 flu.

Regent Long reported that the university is in the process of selecting department chairs to replace several interim appointments. Vice President Rivera informed the Board that most of the faculty department chairs will be selected by the end of next week.

Strategic Plan – Action Item

Regent Long called on Vice President Rivera to present the Strategic Plan and informed the Board that each department is creating a unit-specific plan. The unit-specific plans will align with the university-wide strategic plan.

Regent Long moved to approve the 5 year Strategic Plan as presented (**Attachment C**). Regent López seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance & Administration Committee – Regent Jesus L. López

Regent López indicated that the Finance & Administration Committee met on Monday, October 26, 2009 in which he, Regent Aguilar and Regent Rael were present. Regent López called on President Fries and Vice President Taylor to summarize the committee report.

Vice President Taylor reported that the committee reviewed the third quarterly report and indicated that overall revenues and expenditures are as expected. Vice President Taylor indicated that the university is in good financial standing as preparations are being made to deal with budget reductions enacted by the legislature. A plan is being developed but no action will be taken until the Governor has signed the various bills. Vice President Taylor noted that the broad outlines of the reductions will include a 4% overall reduction in I&G support from the state appropriation, replaced in part by 2% appropriation from federal funds stimulus package. The research and public service projects and athletic department cuts will be approximately 6.5%.

President Fries gave a budget overview informing the Board that should the Governor sign House Bill 17 there will be an impact of \$564,000 on the university's I&G funding and a \$227,000 on Athletics and Research & Public Service Projects. President Fries stated that the

university's 4% operating budget reduction for FY10 which will be the base for operating budget consideration for FY11. President Fries noted that the Governor ordered a freeze on capital projects that are funded by either general fund or severance tax money and is hopeful that the current projects are far enough along to avoid impacts. Chairman Sanchez asked which capital projects might be impacted with the freeze. President Fries responded that the only project impacted would be the new Student Union Building because the project is partially funded with both general fund and severance tax monies. However, the project will move forward using bond monies.

Student Senate Report – Mr. Wade Lopez

Mr. Wade López, ASNMHU President reported that the ASNMHU is running smoothly and that they are in full support of all athletic programs. Mr. López indicated that the ASNMHU is prepared for the HLC visit.

Graduate Student Senate Report

No AGS member attended the Board meeting and no written report was provided.

President Fries informed the Board as far as he knows that the AGS is not active. President Fries noted that President López, is a graduate student and that several other members of the ASNMHU are graduate students, therefore graduate students are still being represented by student government.

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maureen Romine

Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair summarized her written report (**Attachment D**).

Staff Advisory Senate – Ms. Maxine Salas

Ms. Maxine Salas, Staff Advisory Senate President presented her written report (**Attachment E**).

Persons Wishing to Address the Board

Chairman Sanchez asked if anyone would like to address the Board, no one came forward.

President's Report

HLC-NCA Visit

President Fries informed the Board that the Nursing Program completed their accreditation visit and received full accreditation with no reports or special requirements.

President Fries reported that the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation is the university's major accreditation. A nine member team lead by Dr. Stephen Rowe, Interim Vice President and Academic Dean of Concord University in West Virginia, will begin their visit on November 2-4, 2009.

The last accreditation visit was in 2000. At that time, the team identified the following eight benchmarks and required a 2004 focus visit with various special reports:

- evidence of open hostility between and among the regents and between the regents and the administrators a clear stable and workable relationship should be demonstrated to exist between that campus administration and the regents;
- evidence that budget deficits have been overcome with respect to enrollment, finances and showing continued financial health;
- evidence that a new computer system generates accurate budgets and controlled data for budget managers;
- evidence of increased enrollment on the main campus;
- evidence of an established broadly participatory planning process;
- evidence of efforts to revive faculty and student governance structure;
- evidence that a permanent budgeted structure to collect and analyze data is established;
- and evidence that a permanent structure has been established to assist units understanding and implementation of their assessment plans

President Fries communicated that he felt that the previous benchmarks were no longer areas of concern because they have all been addressed.

President Fries announced that the NMHU Cowboy Basketball Team will play the UNM Lobos in an exhibition game at the PIT in Albuquerque on Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00 pm.

President Fries informed the Board that the Blackboard software used for many of the courses has been problematic for most of the fall semester. President Fries pointed out that the university contracts with IDEAL NM a Public Education and Higher Education Department collaboration who contracts with Blackboard. Mr. Max Baca is working with IDEAL NM and others in an effort to fix Blackboard's ongoing problems.

President Fries recognized the loss of Mr. Steve Watson, NMHU Golf Pro, who passed away on October 20th adding that he will be missed by many. President Fries also informed the Board that Mr. Anthony Gonzales, brother of former Board Chairman Javier Gonzales passed away.

President Fries proposed a Board Retreat during the Spring 2010 semester. Regents communicated that a retreat would be beneficial.

Open Meetings Act Resolution – Action Item

President Fries presented the Open Meetings Act Resolution (**Attachment F**). Ms. Rachel King, NMHU Legal Counsel recommended that the wording on paragraph # 8 be changed as follows:

Working Sessions of a quorum of the Board are open meetings and are open to the public. Any person wishing to attend a working session of the Board shall be allowed to attend and listen to

the discussions. The notice of a working session will be posted in the same manner as the special meetings rule.

Regent López moved to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution with the revisions recommended by NMHU Legal Counsel. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Aguilar, Regent Long, Regent López, and Regent Rael. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments by the Regents

Regent López informed the Board that Mr. Ray Leger 1951 NMHU graduate passed away. Mr. Leger served as a New Mexico State Senator and was the Superintendent of West Las Vegas Schools. Regent López also acknowledged the recent loss of Frank Montenegro, NMHU alum.

Regent López introduced 1972 NMHU graduate Dr. Joseph P. López, a thoracic surgeon practicing in Albuquerque. Dr. López was a member of the NMHU Board of Regents from 1991-1996.

Regent Long thanked Chairman Sanchez for everything he does for the university and for hosting an alumni event at his home in Santa Fe.

Chairman Sanchez urged all of the Regents to attend the November 3, 2009, HLC lunch meeting.

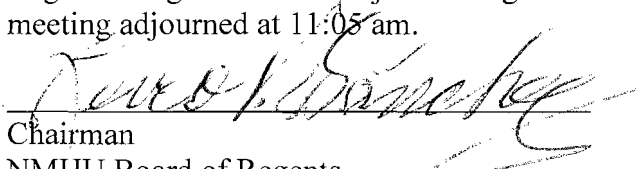
Executive Session – (1) Real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, 10-15-1 (H)(8). Regent López moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of considering real estate acquisition or disposal as allowed by section 10-15-1 (H)(8) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act 1978. Regent Long seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, yes; Regent Aguilar, yes; Regent Long, yes; Regent López, yes; and Regent Rael, yes. Motion carried and the Board went into executive session at 10:39 am.

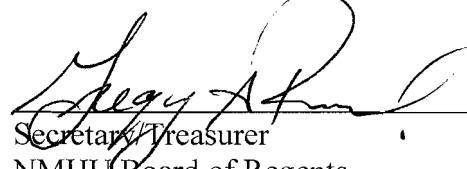
Regent López exited the meeting at 10:55 am.

Regent Long moved to come out of executive session into open session. Regent Rael seconded the motion. For the record, Regent Long stated that only matters of real estate acquisition 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 Sanchez, yes; Regent Aguilar, yes; Regent Long, yes; and Regent Rael, yes. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 11:04 am.

Adjournment

Regent Long moved to adjourn. Regent Rael seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.


Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents


Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents