

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
Friday, March 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Sanchez
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for Friday, March 28, 2014
4. Approval of the Minutes of December 18, 2013 and January 21, 2014
5. Matters of the Board
 - A. Board of Regents Election of Officers – Action Item
 - B. Board of Regents Subcommittee Appointments
6. State Land Office – Ray Powell, State Land Commissioner
7. Academic and Student Affairs
 - A. Student Affairs Report – Dr. Fidel Trujillo
 - a. Service and Comfort Animals Policy – Action Item
 - b. Proposed NMHU Student Handbook (Section 6) Changes – Action Item
 - c. NCAA DII National Champion in Indoor Track Long Jump – Shanice McPherson
 - d. Other
 - B. Academic Affairs Report – Dr. Teresita Aguilar
 - a. Graduation Requirements – Action Item
 - b. Associates of Science Degree in General Engineering – Action Item
 - c. Other
8. Finance & Administration – Mr. Max Baca
 - A. 2nd Quarterly Report – Action Item
 - B. Travel Reimbursement Rates – Action Item
 - C. SUB Closeout
 - D. Golf Course Easement for Effluent Lines – Action Item
 - E. FY13 Audit Approval – Action Item
 - F. Programming for Trolley Building – Action Item
 - G. Statewide License for Adobe Products
 - H. Other
9. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Maureen Romine
10. Staff Advisory Senate Report – Ms. Margaret Gonzales
11. ASNMHU Report – Ms. Tina Sione
12. Person's Wishing to Address the Board

13. President's Report – Dr. James Fries, President
 - A. English USA Language School Agreement – Action Item
 - B. Scholarship Policies – Action Item
 - C. Administrative Searches
 - D. Hydrazine Technology Recognition
 - E. NMHU Research Day April 4th
 - F. Commencement Speakers: Dr. Sylvester Perez in Las Vegas and Ms. Monica Armenta in Rio Rancho
 - G. Possible MOU with National Hispanic Cultural Center as Satellite
 - H. 8th Street Parking Lot
 - I. Las Vegas Moving Forward
 - J. Goals
 - K. IPEDS and Peer Group
 - L. Funding Formula
 - M. 2014 Legislative Session
 - N. FY15 Budget Overview
 - Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates
 - Salaries and Benefits
 - Positions
 - Operations and Travel Policies
 - Travel Policies
 - Programs
 - Athletics
 - O. Other
14. 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) deliberation upon competitive sealed proposals for an audit firm, legal services, ATM; and golf course restaurant lease; (3) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining; (4) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the University may become a participant; and (5) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(6)(5)(7)&(8)
15. Emeritus Faculty Nomination – Action Item
16. FY14 Audit Firm Contract – Action Item
17. Legal Services Contracts – Action Item
18. ATM Placement Agreement – Action Item
19. Golf Course Restaurant Lease – Action Item
20. Public Action as Necessary on Closed Session Discussions – Action Item
21. Future Board of Regents Meeting Dates: April 23, 2014; July 25, 2014; and October 24, 2014
22. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
March 28, 2014**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met on March 28, 2014 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 10:15 a.m.

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

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. James Fries, President; Mr. Max Baca, Interim Vice President for Finance & Administration; Dr. Teresita Aguilar, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Fidel Trujillo, Dean of Students

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Margaret Gonzales, Staff Advisory Senate President; Ms. Tina Sione, ASNMHU President; Mr. Ramon Vigil, NMHU Legal Counsel/Cuddy & McCarthy Law; and Ms. Carolina Martínez, Executive Administrative Assistant; and numerous other individuals in the audience including: faculty, staff, and media

Approval of the March 28, 2014 Meeting Agenda

President Fries recommended deleting item #6, State Land Office because Mr. Ray Powell, New Mexico Land Commissioner is unable to attend the meeting due to another obligation. President Fries also recommended moving item #14, Executive Session before the item #13, President's report with all the action items after the executive session to follow. Regent López moved to amend and approve the agenda as recommended by President Fries. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez.

Chairman Sanchez recognized and called on Dr. Tomas Salazar, New Mexico State Representative to address the Board. Rep. Salazar acknowledged the hard work President Fries and Mr. Baca put forth lobbying for NMHU funding at this year's legislative session. President Fries noted that Rep. Salazar has an extensive background in higher education and at Highlands and thanked him for supporting NMHU during the session.

Approval of the Minutes from December 18, 2013 and January 21, 2014

Regent Marchi moved to approve the minutes from December 18, 2013 and January 21, 2014 as presented. Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Matters of the Board

Board of Regents Election of Officers – Action Item

Regent López moved to retain Board officers as is with Regent Sanchez serving as Chair; himself as Vice-Chair; and Regent Marchi serving as Secretary/Treasurer. Regent Long seconded. Voting

in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Regent López also recommended committee chairs remain as is with Regent Long serving as Chair for the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and he remain at chair of the Finance & Administration Committee. Regents present approved of the recommendation.

Academic and Student Affairs

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Fidel Trujillo provided a written report (**Attachment A**).

Service and Comfort Animals Policy – Action Item

Dr. Trujillo informed the Board that the Service and Comfort Animal Policy (**Attachment B**) was reviewed and approved by NMHU legal counsel; the NMHU administration; the Accessibility Services Office; and the Housing Office.

The policy clarifies the difference between service and companion animals and outlines a protocol for responding to animals in areas where pets are not allowed.

If approved by the Board, the policy will be included in the 2014-2015 Student Handbook.

Regent Long moved to approve the Service and Comfort Animals Policy (**Attachment C**) as presented. Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed NMHU Student Handbook (Section 6) Changes – Action Item

Dr. Trujillo informed the Board that in the section as written, suspension is defined as temporary removal from the university for a specified period of time and expulsion is defined as permanent removal from the university. Language added to section 6 includes: Suspension is defined as restrictions from university property during a specified time including areas of campus that are open to the public such as the library, retail and residential dining facilities, the bookstore, Ilfeld Auditorium, and athletic facilities. Individuals on disciplinary suspension are prohibited from enrolling in classes, residing in university residence halls, and participating in any university event or activity during the specified time. It also notes that suspension does not appear on university transcripts.

Expulsion does appear on university transcripts and is permanent restriction of individuals. Students are prohibited from ever enrolling in classes and coming onto campus for any reason.

Regents were concerned with the permanent restriction from the university.

Mr. Ramon Vigil, NMHU legal counsel suggested replacing the word “permanent” with “indefinite period”.

Regent López moved to approve the NMHU Student Handbook (section 6) Changes subject to verbiage clarification by President Fries and NMHU legal counsel (**Attachment D**). Regent

Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

NCAA DII National Champion Indoor Track Long Jump – Shanice McPherson

Dr. Trujillo stated that it was his honor and privilege to recognize NMHU's newest national champion, Ms. Shanice McPherson. Ms. McPherson is a freshman from Manchester, Jamaica. She is majoring in exercise science. She is the daughter of Richard McPherson and Maurine Mullins. At the recent NCAA Track & Field Championship held in Winston, NC, Ms. McPherson became the first freshman since 1999 to win the Division II NCAA indoor long jump title. She also became the second NMHU Cowgirl to win a national title; joining fellow country mate Jalissa Grant who won and is the current record holder in the long jump in 2012.

Dr. Trujillo recognized the remarkable job done the women's track and field coach, Bob DeVries and Assistant Coach, Patrick Johnson.

Chairman Sanchez stated that the Board was appreciative of Ms. McPherson's achievement.

Coach DeVries thanked the Board for acknowledging the hard work put forth by the track team.

Other

Chairman Sanchez asked Dr. Trujillo to provide a report on student recruitment.

Dr. Trujillo reported that Mr. Gil Gonzalez, Recruitment Director and his staff currently have a group of students from Coachella, CA on campus. The recruitment staff have been visiting local schools and attending transfer fairs. Enrollment numbers for the fall are a little lower than anticipated but initiatives are in place to assist individuals who have applied but have not yet been accepted to get enrolled.

Chairman Sanchez asked if there was enough funding for recruitment services. Dr. Trujillo responded that all departments have been asked to do more with less due to funding cuts, but the office is doing what they can.

Dr. Trujillo reminded the Board of its charge to recruit more Native American Students; the university has hired a Ms. Charlynda Begay as the new Native American Recruiter. Ms. Begay has been recruiting in northern New Mexico and surrounds areas.

Dr. Trujillo reported that he is working with Ms. Tina Clayton, International Student Services Director to recruit more international students.

Regent López thanked Dr. Trujillo for following the directive given by the Board to recruit more Native American students. Dr. Trujillo reported that 23 pueblos have signed memorandums of understanding with NMHU.

Academic Affairs Report

Graduation Requirements – Action Item

Dr. Aguilar informed the Board that the graduation requirements (**Attachment E**) item was tabled during the Faculty Senate meeting held March 26, 2014 therefore, no Board action can be taken at this time. The proposal is to change the bachelor's degree requirements from 128 to 120 credits. Dr. Aguilar informed the Board that (7) of NMHU's peer institutions require a minimum of 120 credits for their bachelor's degrees. New Mexico has a state statute that indicates baccalaureate degrees must meet at least 120 academic credits.

President Fries commented that he is hopeful the Faculty Senate will approve the credit requirement reduction so the new requirements could be implemented in the Fall 2014 semester.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Associates of Science Degree in General Engineering – Action Item

Dr. Aguilar informed the Board that the Associate of Arts Degree in Engineering (ASGE) would prepare students to continue onto a bachelor's program. The program is comprised of 76 credit hours with the possibility of a reduction to 64 credit hours. The program will not require additional resources.

Regent Martinez moved to approve the Associates of Science Degree in General Engineering (**Attachment F**) as presented. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Other

- Dr. Aguilar also reported on the following:
- 95 faculty members at Highlands are tenure/tenure track.
- 65 faculty members at NMHU are tenured.
- 40 faculty members are full-time term (1-3 years or annual).
- The university also employs 131 adjunct faculty members.
- 10 applications for sabbatical were received; the university can only support 4 applications as per the collective bargaining agreement. Faculty members who were awarded sabbaticals this year were Ms. Megan Jacobs, associate professor of media arts; Mr. Warren Lail, associate professor of anthropology; Dr. Michael Petronis, associate professor of geology; and Dr. Rey Martinez, professor of Social Work.
- The university currently has 5 international faculty members on H1B visas. Two of which have requested the university's assistance to obtain permanent residence.
- The nursing program completed their accreditation site visit and the program passed all four standards.
- The School of Social Work completed their accreditation visit and is providing a response to one issue.
- Discussion to establish a graduate council, the council will address graduate student grading policy, graduate programs; and assistantships.
- Discussions with department faculty regarding offering associate's degrees where they have seen students doing well during their first two years of school and then discontinuing their education have taken place.

- The School of Business received accreditation from the ASBSP.
- The math department is proposing to eliminate the math 100 course, which students do not get credit for, move the first level of math to math 120 and add a lab to allow faculty to work more closely with students to increase the level of success and eliminate the stigma of remedial math and remedial courses in general.
- The program review process is undergoing refinement.
- The New Mexico Higher Education Workgroup is working on teacher education, preparedness, and effectiveness.
- The NMHU-Farmington Center is finalizing four transfer agreements in the BBA oil & gas management program. The Center is working on the possibility of offering a course on Navajo Language.
- The NMHU-Santa Fe Center has participated in several transfer days and is an active participant in the higher education center.
- The NMHU-Rio Rancho Center is working to increase their visibility by working with the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and posting advertisements on billboards.
- The NMHU-Raton Center continues to offer courses in various subjects and degrees. They are working with the community for increased visibility.
- The dean searches have been postponed following the arbitration hearing.

2nd Quarterly Report – Action Item

Mr. Max informed the Board that NMHED requires that universities submit quarterly reports. There were no questions regarding the report.

Regent López moved to approve the 2nd Quarterly Report (**Attachment G**) as presented. Regent Martínez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Travel Reimbursement Rates – Action Item

Mr. Baca reported that the proposal is a request to increase the reimbursement rates from \$0.32 to \$0.36 for employees traveling in their personal vehicles. If approved by the Board the university will implement the new reimbursement rates on Monday, March 31, 2014.

Regent López moved to approve the Travel Reimbursements Rates from \$0.32 to \$0.36 as presented (**Attachment H**). Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

SUB Closeout

Mr. Baca reported that a meeting with Franken Construction to review the punch list and closeout costs was held. There are only a few more items on the list and they will be addressed next week.

The university received a \$26,800 check from PNM for the building design and energy efficiency.

An invitation to bid for audio visual equipment went out and A/V equipment should be installed within the next three weeks.

Highlands is the recipient of and award for the SUB from the National Association of Internal Office Providers for the Post-Secondary.

The SUB also received LEED Gold Certification.

Golf Course Easement for Effluent Lines – Action Item

Mr. Baca presented the proposed golf course easement for effluent lines (**Attachment I**) noting that the easement was reviewed and approved by NMHU legal counsel and by the City of Las Vegas attorney.

Regent López moved approve the golf course easement for effluent lines as presented. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

FY13 Audit Approval – Action Item

Mr. Baca reported that the university had two audit findings. The university is working on addressing the findings. The first finding shows a posting entry error as an over expenditure and the university is working to address the posting. The second finding is the deficit the university carries in regards to the HSI Isotope project. It is hopeful the HSI will start to generate revenue soon.

Regent López moved accept the FY13 Audit Report (**Attachment J**). Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Programming for Trolley Building – Action Item

Mr. Baca introduced Mr. Mark Baker from Baker A&E to present on the programming for the Trolley Building. Mr. Baker informed the Board that meeting with Mr. Kerry Loewen, Chair of the Media Arts Department; Sylvia Baca, Interim Facilities Director; and others to refine the building design to accommodate the funding. The Baker firm met with the Historic Preservation Society regarding renovation plans for the Trolley Building. The plans were approved. The programming phase completion date is on schedule. The schematic design phase should be completed by the end of June. The expected construction phase will take place from May 2015 to April 2016.

Regent López moved to approve the Programming Design for the Trolley Building (**Attachment K**) as presented. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Statewide License for Adobe Products

Mr. Baca indicated that he has been working with Mr. Gil Gonzales, Chief Information Officer at University of New Mexico to reduce the amount New Mexico universities pay for Adobe product licensing. The result is a 95% savings totaling approximately \$.5 million over the next three years.

President Fries highlighted Mr. Baca's professional expertise when negotiating the statewide agreement with Adobe.

Other

Mr. Baca informed the board of the following:

- Ms. Eileen Bentley, Budget Director, held budget meetings with every campus department before moving to Wyoming.
- Mr. Jesus Baquera, Comptroller, is working to improve customer services within the business Office.
- Ms. Donna Castro, Human Resources Director, and her staff are working to address the discrepancies with the HayGroup study. Student employee time sheets are now online.
- The ITS Department experienced a slight power outage at the beginning of the academic year. The outage was due to an upgrade of the Banner system to a cloud base system.
- Campus Police & Security is working with the City of Las Vegas Police Department to provide active shooter trainings to NMHU faculty and staff.
- The Safety Office is providing fire drill trainings and instructions on how to use fire extinguishers.
- KEDP/Ilfeld update: The Cineflix movies are very well attended by NMHU students, faculty, staff, and community members.
- The NMHU Daycare completed a site visit by the Children Youth & Families Department.
- Mr. Michael Saavedra, Purchasing Director, and his staff are collecting bids for seven RFP's.
- The university is looking into the possibility of using PCards, campus credit cards.
- There were three sole source purchases made (Attachment L). They include a \$129, 500 purchase of and integrated HPGe Gamma Ray Spectrometer system from Canberra Industries; an annual service agreement with Cisco system in the amount of \$95,888.25; and \$253,076.22 to Freiberg Instruments for the purchase of an automated thermoluminescence/optically stimulated luminescence reader.

Mr. Baca congratulated Ms. Jennifer Madrid, purchasing department, for earning her bachelor's in Business and Mr. Saavedra for becoming a certified procurement officer.

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Maureen Romine presented the written Faculty Senate Report (**Attachment M**).

Dr. Romine thanked Dr. Aguilar for her willingness, patience, and openness while working with the faculty.

Dr. Romine reported that two faculty members will receive funding from the Pino Endowment. Mr. Kerry Loewen will be attending a conference for his work on 3DHD work flows in Las Vegas, NV. Dr. Carol Linder will receive funding to continue her research on molecular techniques at John Hopkins University.

Dr. Romine disseminated the Spring 2014 Faculty Activities Report and informed the Board that the information is also online. The report is being developed by media arts students under the direction of Mr. Loewen.

Staff Advisory Senate Report

Ms. Margaret Gonzales presented the written Staff Advisory Senate Report (**Attachment N**)

Ms. Gonzales informed the Board that the *Pony Express*, the Staff Newsletters, for October 2013 (**Attachment O**) and March 2014 (**Attachment P**) were in their meeting packets.

ASNMHU Report

Ms. Tina Sione, ASNMHU President reported on the following:

- The student senate election will be held on April 10th-11th.
- The Political Science Club will be hosting the senate debate.
- The Student Senate Gala is scheduled for April 30, 2014.
- The senate reviewed the ASNMHU Constitution and nine changes are being proposed. They will be on the voting ballots.
- The ASNMHU endorses the graduation requirement reduction to 120 credits.

Dr. Trujillo introduced Mr. Guillermo Martinez, ASNMHU Attorney General and Ms. Grace Thompson ASNMHU Secretary. Ms. Thompson is also a former soccer player and performed in the sold out musical *Grease*. President Fries commented that the *Grease* performance was phenomenal. Both performances were sold out.

Dr. Trujillo noted that the ASNMHU Constitutional changes will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Regents present thanked Ms. Sione for her reports and her student leadership.

Person's Wishing to Address the Board

Ms. Thompson reported that the ASNMHU unanimously passed the graduation reduction requirement amendment with the exception of one abstention.

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) deliberation upon competitive sealed proposals for an audit firm, legal services, ATM; and golf course restaurant lease; (3) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining; (4) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the University may become a participant; and (5) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(6)(5)(7)&(8). Regent López moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the items listed. Regent Marchi seconded. A roll call was taken; voting in favor were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion carried. The Board went into executive session at 1:35 p.m.

Regent Long exited the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Regent López moved to come out of executive session into open session. Regent Marchi seconded. Regent López stated for the record that only those items specified under the executive session item were discussed and 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 López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order at 3:46 p.m.

Emeritus Faculty Nomination – Action Item

President Fries reported that Dr. Merryl Kravitz from the School of Education was nominated for emeritus status. She retired from the university in the summer of 2013 after over 20 years of service. She received a Fulbright scholarship in the spring of 2001. He indicated that he was in support of the nomination.

Regent López moved to approve Dr. Merryl Kravitz for Emeritus Faculty status. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

FY14 Audit Firm Contract – Action Item

President Fries recommended a 1-year extension of the auditing firm contract with the Moss Adams Firm for the university's FY14 audit.

Regent López moved to extend Moss Adams Firm contract for the FY14 Audit (**Attachment Q**). Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Services Contract – Action Item

President Fries recommended extending the Cuddy & McCarthy and the Sutin Thayer Browne legal services contracts each for a 1-year period.

Regent López moved to approve the 1-year legal services contract with Cuddy & McCarthy and the Sutin Thayer & Browne law firms (**Attachment R**). Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

ATM Placement Agreement – Action Item

President Fries informed the Board that the university issued an RFP for an ATM in the SUB. Southwest Capital Bank submitted a proposal. The bank will pay the university a \$300 monthly fee. President Fries commented that the installation of an ATM in the SUB will provide a great service to students.

Regent Martinez moved to approve an ATM Placement Agreement with Southwest Capital Bank (**Attachment S**). Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Golf Course Restaurant Lease – Action Item

President Fries informed the Board that the university issued an RFP for restaurant services at the golf course. Two bids were received. The committee strongly recommended awarding the bid to Mr. Juan Ortiz, owner and proprietor of El Fidel Restaurant.

Regent Marchi moved to approve the Golf Course Restaurant Lease Agreement with Mr. Juan Ortiz (**Attachment T**). Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Action as Necessary on Closed Session Discussions – Action Item

No further action was taken.

Future Board of Regents Meeting Dates: April 23, 2014; July 25, 2014; and October 24, 2014 – Action Item

Regent López moved to approve the proposed meeting dates subject to revisions as needed. Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Fries provided an overview of the PowerPoint presentation (**Attachment U**) he gave at the President's Forum on March 24, 2014.

Regent López exited the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

English USA Language School Agreement – Action Item

President Fries reported that the university entered into an agreement with this school a few years ago. The school was called English Time School. The school is based in Las Vegas, NV. The school will promote Highlands as an institution that foreign students can select. If the students need English language training they would attend the school in Las Vegas, NV. Students would be given conditional admissions to Highlands. Highlands gets visibility, marketing, and a cohort of international students.

The agreement was reviewed and approved by NMHU legal counsel. The administration is recommending Board approval.

Regent Marchi moved to approve the English USA Language School Agreement (**Attachment V**) as presented. Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

Scholarship Policies – Action Item

President Fries informed the Board that despite an array of funding sources for academic scholarships, the need for financial aid exceeds available funding. Most of the scholarships are tied to tuition and other campus charges such that the cost of the scholarship increases every time tuition and fees are increased. Because tuition decisions are not made until the end of April, both the awarding and budgeting for the scholarships occurs late in the spring.

Most freshmen have been awarded a tuition scholarship for the fall semester but basically no money for the spring semester unless they qualify for the lottery scholarship and the majority of the students do not qualify. This means that students that chose Highlands received financial help for

the fall, but then they have to pick up the tuition in the spring, this is probably a retention problem. A solution to this problem is being proposed.

The following changes are being proposed:

- Decouple scholarship awards from tuition rates and establish flat dollar amounts that would be reviewed annually and are not automatically raised.
- Spread freshmen awards at least partially into the spring semester.
- Increase the requirement for scholarship students to 15 credits per semester as the lottery scholarship is doing.
- Renaming several of the current scholarships to put more emphasis on academic success or a particular goal of the scholarship.

A draft of the scholarship proposals was provided (**Attachment W**).

Regent Marchi moved to approve the Scholarship Policies subject to funding review. Regent Martinez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Chairman Sanchez, Regent Marchi, and Regent Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

President Fries reported on the following:

- **Administrative Searches/Appointments**

Over 50 applicants were received for the Athletic Director position. Dr. Trujillo is chairing the search.

On April 8th, three candidates for the Vice President for Advancement position will be on campus for interviews and interview forums. This is a critical position for the university to move forward academically and athletically.

- **Hydrazine Technology Recognition**

The technology has been recommended for publication in the NASA ASA Tech Brief publication. The technology was nominated by the Johnson Space Center for the 2014 space technology hall of fame.

- **NMHU Research Day April 4th**. A number of students and faculty will be presenting papers on the research they have been doing. 1/3 of the research papers presented at the recent EPSCoR conference were from people at NMHU.

- **Commencement Speakers: Dr. Sylvester Perez in Las Vegas and Ms. Monica Armenta in Rio Rancho**

Las Vegas Moving Forward

The City has a \$30 million project to rebuild the Bradner Dam. The will increase the storage capacity of water to more than a year's worth of water. The project is critical to expanding housing developments, economic development, etc... As soon as Highlands is sure that dam project will take place, Highlands' needs to move forward as an institution and investigate a public/private partnership to develop the golf course property.

An experienced/knowledgeable buyer is looking to buy the Castañeda and Plaza Hotels. Symbolically that will have a huge impact on the attitudes toward the future of Las Vegas.

Meetings with the West Las Vegas Schools leadership and the administrative team from HU have been productive. The group is working together to reduce the number of WLVS students from having to take remedial courses when they enroll at Highlands.

Invitations to WLVS and Mora Independent Schools seniors to have the graduates wear their regalia and sit in a designated seating area during the NMHU commencement ceremony. An invitation to Las Vegas City School will be extended in the near future. The high school graduates will be given a stole to wear that reads NMHU class of 2018.

- **Goals**

He chose Highlands because of what he knew about Highlands. He wants everyone at the university to make Highlands their university of choice. He wants all to say they “choose NMHU”.

He is instituting Purple Pride Day on Fridays; where everyone should represent Highlands proudly by wearing purple or attire with an NMHU logo as he will be.

This institution is important to the future of Las Vegas.

- **IPEDS and Peer Group**

See attachment U.

- **Funding Formula**

Higher education is now being funded based on outcomes. It no longer matters how many students are enrolled on census day, it matters how many students are enrolled at the end of the semester; the number of total degrees or certificates awarded; STEM and health degrees awarded (which includes social work); at risk degrees awarded; momentum points of 30 or 60 hours; and a modest amount of funding for research universities based on the number of research grants they are bringing in.

- **FY15 Budget Overview**

- **Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates**

Highlands has the absolute lowest in-state tuition and fees. Should Highlands offer the lowest when in our society quality is consistently equated with cost? There are benefits to being number one on the list (**Attachment X**) but there are also negatives.

Discussions over the next few weeks will be held to determine where NMHU should be positioned on the tuition and fees listing.

- **Operations and Travel Policies**

HU received a \$265,000 appropriation for athletics for athletic equipment and improvements.

\$5 million was included in the general obligation bond package

\$92,000 in Bond B library funding was also included for Highlands

– **Programs**

Advanced Placement received additional funding

The nursing expansion program did not receive additional funding.

\$100,000 appropriation for the oil and gas management program was vetoed

– **Athletics**

Received an increase of recurring funding of \$156,000

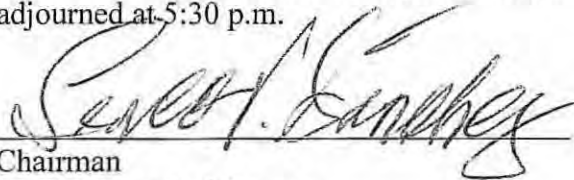
– **Other**

Dr. Aguilar identified over 3,900 people on linkedin who recognized some relationship with Highlands in their profile.

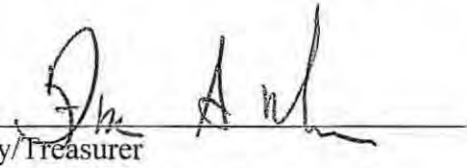
The lottery scholarships will be funded for the spring semester.

Adjournment

Regent Martinez moved to adjourn. Regent Marchi seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents



Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents