I. Call to Order
The first regular meeting for the Spring 2009 semester was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

III. Roll Call
Roll Call was administered by Secretary Quintana senators that were absent were as follows:
Senator Torres and Senator Rojas
Secretary Quintana asked that Senator Ndem, Senator Roseby, and Senator Tresor be removed from their seats at this time until their time of appeal.

IV. Approval of Agenda
Senator Means asked to make an addition under new business. He asked if we could discuss not replacing Anthony’s and Rebecca’s seat until the investigation process was complete and until the senate be made aware of the situation at hand. It was mentioned that as per constitution they are not allowed to qualify to serve and can’t make the appeal process because they are removed by constitution because of disciplinary probation in which they have previously been placed on. Judy asks that we go into executive session for this issue at hand because she feels the senate should be informed as to what is going on. The appeals and this issue being discussed are have to be talked about separately because they are concerning two different circumstances. President Parra Perez mentioned that this was totally right but that we need to concentrate on the issues of students first being that they are our priority and not our personal or senate issues. The motion at hand was to make this an item and VP Butts said this could be added under new business under letter H. Senator Fields had the second. Senator Maestas made a motion to that Ilfield production be added under the next highlands events. Senator Martinez had the second. Senator Rael had the approval the second was made by Senator Maestas.

V. Approval of Minutes
Senator Maestas made a motion line 83 be deleted so his name isn’t added twice. Senator Lopez had the second. President Pro Temp Ulibarri made the motion to approve the minutes Senator Martinez had the second.

VI. Presidential Appointments
Senator Rael mentioned that the committee met on Friday as well as this evening. The meeting on Friday was chaired by President Pro Temp Ulibarri because Senator Rael could not attend this meeting. The committee interviewed Juan Silva and Courtney Fergasin. There were some concerns and questions by Senator Maestas for President Parra Perez about the appointments and other issues that could later be discussed as addressed in the agenda. Senator Maestas made a motion to table the Presidential Appointment process to be tabled until the next meeting because of some concerns regarding other people who had been interviewed in the past. Senator Maestas feels that the other seven who had been interviewed should be included on the vote. Senator Rael made a comment that it had never been noted that the other
seven individuals who had been interviewed weren’t recommended as Senator Masestas had mentioned. The seven individuals did meet in front of the committee but only two were recommended to the senate at this time. President Parra Perez stated that she felt these two were the best qualified to fill a position that needed to be filled and that is why she forwarded their names to presidential appointments after reviewing their applications. She also stated that the committee is the one who recognized the ones that were discussed and recommended at their meetings. Senator Siben made a motion to table the presidential appointments until the next meeting. Senator Martinez had the second. There was asked if there was a discussion on the floor. Senator Rael feels that it’s not fair to table the motion because these two individuals were forwarded because President Parra Perez felt they would be a great asset to the senate. They were recommended by the way they presented themselves to the committee in their interview. Whether or not it’s something that was tabled he feels that these two individuals were here regardless if there was seven people last semester nor were they approved by the senate. It’s not right that they took the time out of their day to make it to this meeting and expect to be interviewed and we not give them the chance. He feels that the senate should at least hear them out and what they have to present to the senate. President Parra Perez mentioned that nowhere in our constitution does it say that we go back to our seven people in which were appointed previously. Yes their names do stay in a file and she sorts through all the applications every time that there are seats available and the people she feels are most qualified are the ones who get their names forwarded to this committee. It’s the same process that is followed each time and she refuses to change that unless otherwise stated in the constitution. Senator Siben said that he does feel we have to be fair to everyone and we should be fair to the seven who we are talking about. He also mentioned that has a problem that they text him with such short notice about meetings. He said there was a scheduled meeting for five o’clock that day and he got the text message at two o’clock telling him about this meeting. He needs prior notice and feels that everyone should have adequate time to do their job properly. Senator Bernard agrees with everyone and everything that Senator Rael mentioned but also disagrees with a couple of key points. He is not aware of people who are removed from their seat, people who are being recommended, and so forth. Senator Rael mentioned that since it’s a presidential appointment and being that it was the first week of being back at school and a seat needs to be filled that there was going to be short notice. Senator Rael did say that he was finding it hard and time consuming to be checking his e-mail to communicate with Senator Siben and that a lot of the time Senator Siben wouldn’t reply to his e-mails. VP Butts called order and mentioned that we needed to take care of the business that was on the table and that they could take care of their personal communication problems on their own time. It was stated that the Presidential Appointments Committee were not able to meet quorum so therefore he didn’t have a vote at this time. Senator Maestas mentioned that with the motion on the floor and that needed to be taken care he thinks it’s good and since the president did take her time and read the letters submitted to her that those other seven who didn’t get in at that time should be given the opportunity along with these two individuals to be interviewed.
For: 8
Against: 6

Since the senator for this to be tabled overruled the others this meeting was to be tabled until the next meeting.

The chair recognized Senator Burns to his seat at 7:54 p.m.

VII. Executive Reports

A. President Parra-Perez

President Parra-Perez welcomed everyone back. Thanked everyone for did attend the Vida Encantada and we received a lot of praise for it. It was a great way to give back to the community and was greatly appreciated and looks good for the senate to do something good of that matter. He encouraged anyone who had any ideas or suggestions to reach out to the community to let her know so maybe we can get something together soon and have another successful event. She then stood for questions.

B. Vice President Butts

VP Butts apologized for being in shorts she just flew in from San Diego and also those who have her cell phone number do not call her because it is currently out of commission and everyone needs to e-mail to be able to correspond with her for the next 48 hours or until further notice. On the 28th she will be getting surgery done so do not call her. She is currently on medication and apologized for anything she might say one don’t like.

We need to start this semester off with a bang. As student officials and leaders we need to get out there and show face and get things done and get involved because this is our campus. There are athletic updates: individual girls did qualify in track for nationals, the wrestlers are doing good this year, the guys basketball team are doing really good, and the girls are doing.

C. Secretary Quintana

Secretary Quintana did thank everyone for being at the meeting and welcomed everyone back. She wished everyone a great semester and encouraged everyone to get involved as much as possible this semester. Also she apologized for all the miscommunications, inconveniences, and discrepancies with the stipends and attendance. As far as the senate stipends go there was some confusion but those immediately got taken care of. She also mentioned to the senate that she was going to be ordering business cards for new senators or individuals who needed more being that it was getting closer to lobbying at the legislature and for other events that are going to be going no. Along with attendance and as to Senator Bernard’s previous comment about not knowing what’s going on with the attendance she had some concerns. She did mention that as senators they are expected to be at meetings as it is stated in the constitution and by laws everyone is required to attend meetings if not they are counted against them. Committee meetings do count against individuals so please everyone should be aware of all this by this time of the year. If anyone is to be absent from a committee meeting or regular meeting they need to contact her and let he know. This nonsense of hear-say that one is going to be absent needs to stop. No on can be excused without documented excuses such as doctors notes for illnesses or obituary’s for deaths. Having to go out of town or just saying you are sick without proof and documentation does not count. As far as committee reports go if senators say they have to be excused some form of documentation of proof along with the report have to be turned in to her. The only excuse that does not need documentation is having class because class schedules are proof of that other than that nothing else counts.

Also a problem that is going on in the meetings is that people are showing up late. As
senators in meetings everyone has the chance to set the time and dates of meetings. If you can’t make it at a certain time or always going to be late you need to speak up and change the time of the meetings. Everyone is voting to have meetings at a certain time and it makes it hard for her to keep up with attendance during the meetings because she is constantly trying to keep up with the minutes that need to be taken. Although these attendance and recognitions to being seated in the meetings in recorded in the minutes she mentioned she might have forgotten a couple of times to go back through the minutes to fix the attendance and apologizes for that. Senator Bernard had a comment and stated that he wants to know if everyone could get notice of their absences earlier in the semester instead of later in the semester so they know where they stand and what not. He also mentioned that it should be her responsibility to make sure that the attendance is taken properly for each meeting. VP Butts did mention that she’s served in that position and it does get hard to keep up with everyone who comes in late or doesn’t show up or what not when trying to take minutes and we are all human and make mistakes. She also mentioned that Secretary Quintana was just doing her job and that was all. Secretary Quintana did apologize for the errors and hopes to make this semester a better semester. Also anyone who is needed new business cards or who have changed any of their contact information need to e-mail her the detail and make sure everything is correct because she goes off merely everything everyone submits to her so if there are any mistakes or errors it is their own faults. She can’t be ordering new business cards every time there are minor errors. So please make sure to check the information and confirm everything is good before submitting everything. She then stood for any further questions.

D. Pro-Tempore Ulibarri

Welcome everyone back and encourages everyone to participate and get more involved and be better individuals. And be excellent role models on our campus. VP Butts and she met and decided that it’s a new semester and that people in committee’s will be changed and moved around. Senator Bernard asked if it says anything in the constitution about moving people around. VP Butts mentioned that she has the right to move senators around or make any changes she best sees fit as per the constitution. Senator Lopez asked why it’s being changed. President Para Perez mentioned that we have to change due to issues with disciplinary actions and because of issues taken on last semester that things need to be changed. VP Butts also mentioned that it wasn’t personal and really isn’t that big of a deal. Not everyone will be changed but some people will be moved to different committee’s.

E. Vice President Cordova-Romero

One of the things she consistently hears is that it’s hard to get a hold of each other and that people didn’t know what meetings are not going on. Some senators don’t use their student e-mails and that’s the only way that we can communicate with everyone. If you chose to not use your e-mail then you will not know what’s going on. There are a lot of activities going on around the campus. We are in the process of acquiring the College of Santa it’s a private four year institution in Santa Fe. It’s in financial woes that is going to make it impossible for them to continue what they have been doing with their program. Our board of regents and their board of regents they are going into an MOU or letter of intent which lets us negotiate with the College of Santa Fe for the next 120 days and not with any other college. They have a lot of financial issues that need to be clarified and need to find out what’s going on. We are in a good position for bonding power. It won’t
affect the students here but will affect the students in the College of Santa Fe. Their tuition is ten times more what we are paying for here. This will be a great benefit for those students as to what they are paying now. Half of them are in Albuquerque and the others are in Santa Fe. They have a strong and media arts program that has gotten national recognition. There are about 900 New Mexican’s who are currently taking courses in Alb. and Santa Fe and have a lot of support from the city of Santa Fe. There are a lot of things up in the air as far as things that are going to be offered and what course completion programs that will be offered. There are lots of things that we can only imagine that we can figure out but lots of people are working hard and that’s where the Presidents time will be taken at this time. Legislation lobbying will begin on Tuesday for 60 days. There are not new monies yet. What are the highlands priorities, separate priorities and etc will be talked about at this time. We have been told legislatively that we may have to do a 2-4% cut on our budget that we might have to look at. The spring enrollment is very strong 7-9% if we can maintain that until census state. We can move our funding formula and will move us to the next band which will increase our funding formula and won’t happen for two years. We need do anything we currently can to maintain our current program and the last day to register is Tuesday. The new residence hall is coming along very quickly and got to see a suit that was 90% complete. The rooms are smaller than she envisioned on a floor plan but it’s different. It’s exciting and beautiful facility and wants to get people to walk through it. The architect for the student center is going to be moving forward the negotiation has come to an end and everyone has agreed to each other’s terms. We will see Mortimer hall come down this semester if this process goes well. The social work program will move to the old science building. The president is moving forward with his strategic progress strategy and VP butts will serve on this.

F. Dr. Linder

VIII. Old Business

A. Student Regent:

We had five applicants for this position. The top three names were forwarded to the president we are waiting for the governor’s word on this.

IX. New Business

A. Bryan Cokeley Memorial - Action Item

He was a media arts student who passed away this last semester. The memorial has been scheduled for next Saturday January 31 at 5:00 it’s important for the senate to be there. VP Cordova Romero would like to request that the senate provide the flower arrangements and drinks for this memorial. His parents are from California so that’s why we are waiting until this day. It will be in Kennedy. Senator Rael made a motion to contribute to the memorial services purchasing the flowers and refreshments and anything else the family might need. Senator Siben had the second. Senator Maestas, Senator Rael, and Senator Lopez (might not be there) did mention that they might not be able to be there. Senator means asked who was responsible for this memorial. VP Cordova Romero stated that it was his significant other that asked VP Cordova Romero to help with this memorial.

B. H.U.Day at the Legislature

February 10, 2008 is highlands day at the legislature and we all go in our bus and we show highlands pride here. Everyone is required to be there on this day. The band and mariachi
recruitment and ambassadors do go. Everyone will be excused from class if it’s a school
day. We do need two senators if no one else is found to be a mascot. If anyone has any
ideas of things they want to do but we do have to show up. President Pro Temp Ulibarri
asked if we were going to get jackets. President Para Perez said she would further discuss
this and look into the matter. Senator Martinez asked if the most important bills can be
submitted to him because his auntie works there and he has an appointment to meet with
someone there. VP Cordova Romero mentioned that we had not yet received those either
and that they would automatically be forwarded to the people intended when received.

C. May Concert

Everyone voted on giving some money to this event. It’s March 27th here in Las Vegas,
they are going to be advertising and marketing. Pitbull, Melissa Lujan, and Chingy might
be coming Juan and Nick are putting it together. They would like for everyone to help
out. If everyone could spread the word, it’s $15 for Luna and Highlands students. That’s
only until the day of the concert the price will raise on the day of the concert. It’s first
come first serve. The concert will be held at the Wilson Complex. VP Butts suggested
that the media arts club for advertising and marketing and get them involved. Juan asked
if maybe the senate could buy some tickets to give out to a few students just promoting the
concert. VP Butts asked if we could wait a little later into the semester to get something
like this going. President Parra Perez did mention that we did put some money up and we
will be getting every single cent back. Maybe we could do something that gives back to
the community to give out free tickets like a food drive or sponsorship to use it to our
benefit. Senator Maestas mentioned that we are going to be making all the money back if
we could promote this more and give an idea of letting all students in and cover something
up for the students since it is their fee’s and it’s promoting highlands and more student
participation. This is an alcohol free event. There are going to be 25 armed police forces.
There is going to be additional certified security.

D. Club H.U.

We will be having club hu this week. At least once a month a big event will be going on.
Something like the Viva Las Vegas event. It had a good turn out and would be nice to see
something like this again. An e-mail will be sent out on behalf of this. Senator Martinez
asked if we could move club hu to Friday nights because some students have class and
they have approached him with this. Days are subject to change depending on different
things that are going on around the campus and what not. The reason why it’s been like
this is because of traditional issues and students fees are being put into this.
Tresor who was sitting in the gala said that we should take students reasons into concerns
and that we should put the education first. VP Butts stated that traditionally college night
has been done on a Thursday for years passed and it’s been proven that more students are
more likely to show up on a Thursday because it’s during the week and there is nothing to
do vs. a Friday when a lot of students use that day to travel back home and different things
like that.

E. Next Highlands Event

Last semester we did a lot of little things that had pretty good turn outs. But we haven’t
really done something big that serves the students. President Para Perez is putting it into
our hands and coming up with something creative and something that we could take
ownership of. If we can do that it can help us come together and we can see different
reviews of our students. But we needs to get a committee together and we need to do
something. The sooner we do this the better. VP Cordova Romero mentioned that she is
asking Activities Board to do something along with the Obama event that’s coming up
and if we could get with Margaret and have something during the day so that students can
come and watch it.

F. Ilfield Events

On the 28th they are having the Peeking Acrobats the tickets are $12 for highlands
students and she is guessing that the reason it was brought up was to purchase tickets for
students or just have students go. Senator Mateast thinks that senate should be involved
with doing something to promote the senate.

G. H.A.C.U.

There were five people chosen from the senate: Langster and Rodrigo were supposed to
go to Denver but that trip didn’t manifest so therefore their names were automatically put
on the list. President Parra Perez, Crystal Rae and Genevieve will also be going. The
housing office agreed to sponsor Desiree to go. Judy Cordova is going to send Stephanie
out of her office at the end of February beginning of March. Judy needs to talk to them
after the meeting. She will be purchasing the airline tickets. President Parra Perez
mentioned that she wrote a letter to someone which entails us to present a reef that will be
hung in a very public place and will show that it came from NMHU. This is a very
prestigious thing and will get great recognition to have the reef up with our name. If one
of the senators decided that can’t go on this Washington trip for whatever reason the
alternate person to go will be Kasey.

H. Questions Regarding Presidential Appointments - President Parra-Perez

Senator Bernard asked what the process of appointing people to ASNMHU was and if she
could elaborate on that a little more. No one is losing their seat was mentioned by
President Parra Perez. Senator Torres’ seat was just going to be filled because he did
graduate and at the beginning of the year he did state that he would no longer serve on the
senate after December. Whoever she feels is qualified for this positions their names are
then forwarded to presidential appointment chair and that’s how they go about filling
their seats as recommended by the presidential appointments committee. Senator Lopez
asked if anyone that is appointed if they could be informed as to how many seats are open.
As seats come about all senators should know how many students. She mentioned that if
anyone needs information that they can e-mail President Parra Perez or Secretary
Quintana to obtain this information. Senator Lopez requested for the letters that are sent
to the chair of his committee be sent to the members as well so they can ask them
questions and to get all the information that they may want to know. She puts it in their
hands to interview to the best of their ability. Senator Lopez asked if they can receive all
the information about the people be interviewed and what seats are available and how
many and what not. Senator Martinez asked if those first seven who got interviewed
when he got in he wants to know we haven’t interviewed those seven being that we did
mentioned to them that they are going. Tresor mentioned that if the senate could forward
people they feel they want as far as being applicable for these positions. Every single
person who has a letter on file they are always considered time and time again. Senator
Maeastas is asking if the seven that were recommended and have already gone through the
process can they be submitted again. Senator Rael mentioned that the other seven who
were not selected in the last semester they were not all recommended by approval by the
committee. Senator Maestas made a motion to un-table item six presidential appointments
to be back on the floor and to make a vote. Senator Lopez had the second. Senator Siben doesn’t understand the rule that is being applied here. The motion carried.

Item Six is un-tabled.

Senator Rael mentioned that the committee did recommend Courtney and Juan into the Senate. Another part of it was that they wanted to know what the deal was with the past appointee’s. Since it’s all been clarified and now yields the floor to Courtney.

Courtney Fergason is a sophomore and is one of the twirlers and fundraiser and president of the twirling club. Some ideas she had for senate was called trick o treat so kids could eat and everyone trick o treats for canned foods. Senator Lopez asked what her current GPA is. She mentioned it was a 3.7 and wants to be involved and have a say in the decisions being made and events being made. She thinks that she has really good ideas and wants to be involved in the events that are going on. Butts asked if she can make the time commitments as far as meetings and committee meetings. She really understands and works well with others. Senator Siben asked what the most important issues that students face are right now concerning students. From what she’s heard is that the university has a big retention problem with lack of activities. Senator Bernard asked if we can move on to the next applicant because of the time constraints we have.

Juan Silva he’s a senior and has played football here. He is in his student career. He’s been here for three years and he has been involved in different events on campus. He’s helped put on lots events. He just wants to give back to the university. He sees that things are changing and he wants to help make the difference on campus and he believe that everything starts with the senate. Senator Siben asked to give to examples as to things he’s helped changed. He mentioned that he was an RA and that Connor had some problems and him and other RA’s who have changed the atmosphere where they want to bring in the good people and take out the bad. He’s raised the bars for RA’s and has believed he’s made a difference. He mentioned that every time he had an event that he made sure the big people were there. He was asked if he would have time for the senate and he said that as far as time constraints he doesn’t have a problem at all. Senator Means asked why he decided to join the senate late and not when we had open seats at the beginning. He felt he wasn’t ready at that time. He was building his leadership skills and trying to get more involved. His events that he puts on he’s learned how to work well with others with unity and get the things done. Senator Lopez asked what other new ideas he could bring to help the community along with the university. He would like to bring a firework show for the community and a carnival along with that. He thinks that senate and university would get a lot of respect for that. During the semester he feels that a better relationship needs to be made with everything and invite the community to our events. He feels that the university is in a great position and have a good bonding to reach out to the community. He feels he would be a great asset and is willing to everyone and help bring up the reputation of the senate and bring our name up. Senator Means asked when he planned to graduate and he said this may. So how does he feel to accomplish what he has talked about in four months. And he mentioned that he is going to stay here for a while because he is going to propose in February. Senator Maeastas made a motion to move into executive session and Senator Ulibarri had the second. The senate went into executive session at 9:36 p.m.

Senator Maestas made a motion to get out of executive Senator Apodaca had the second. 9:46 p.m. we came out of executive session.
Senator Matstas made a motion to vote Senator Lopez had the second. The senate voted and has selected Juan Silva to fill the position. Congratulations to this individual.

H. Appeals

X. Committee Reports

XI. Comments

XII. Set Time and Date for Next Regular Meeting
Senator Maestas made a motion to have our next meeting on February 1, 2009 at 7:30 Senator Siben had the second. For: 7 Against: 9

Pres. Pro Temp made a motion to have the next meeting on the 25th of January at 7:30 p.m Senator Durham had the second motion carried.

XIII. Adjourn
Senator Means has one comment to let you know if you know a person Michael Esquibel who played rugby and he’s alumni who just died in a train crash and please show respect. He will let everyone know when the memorial services are when he finds out.

Senator Martinez made a motion to adjourn and Senator Salas had the second. Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.