

New Mexico Highlands University
Special Board of Regents Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, NM 87701
November 18, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Sanchez
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda for November 18, 2014
4. Approval of the October 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Action Item
5. 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) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the University is or may become a participant; and (3) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(7)&(8).
6. Raton Facility Options – Action Item
7. Public Action as Necessary on Closed Session Discussions – Action Item
8. RPSP's Priority Approval – Action Item
9. Foundation Report – Mr. Will Wootton
10. President's Report – Dr. James Fries
11. Strategic Planning Update
12. ACT Requirement – Action Item
13. Presidential Search Process – Action Item
14. Adjournment

**New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
November 18, 2014**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special meeting on November 18, 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 9:15 a.m.

Attendance

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

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

Others Present: Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair; Mr. John F. Kennedy, NMHU Legal Counsel/Cuddy & McCarthy Law; Ms. Carolina Martínez, Executive Administrative Assistant; and numerous other individuals in the audience, including faculty, staff, students, community representatives, and media.

Approval of the November 18, 2014 Meeting Agenda

Regent Marchi moved to approve the November 18, 2014 agenda as presented. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez.

Approval of the Minutes from October 10, 2014

Regent Martinez moved to approve the minutes from October 10, 2014 as presented. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez.

Vice President Aguilar requested a change on the 3rd bullet of page 3 of the minutes, delete “Dr. Virginia Padilla-Vigil” and replace with “Dr. Jean Hill, Director of Institutional Research”.

Regent Martinez moved to amend the minutes with the change requested by Vice President Aguilar. Regent Long seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez.

Executive Session – (1) limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation, or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against an employee; (2) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the University is or may become a participant; and (3) real estate acquisition or disposal. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(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: Regent Long, Regent

López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried. The Board entered into executive session at 9:20 a.m.

Regent Long moved to return to open session. Regent Martinez seconded. Regent Long stated for the record that only those items specified under the executive session were discussed and no action was taken by the Board. Regents present confirmed. Voting in favor of returning to open session were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Martinez, Regent Marchi, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously and the Board returned to open session at 11:05 a.m.

Raton Facility Options – Action Item

Regent Long moved to table the Raton Facility Options-Action Item. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez.

Public Action as Necessary on Closed Session Discussions – Action Item

No action was taken.

RPSP’s Priority Approval – Action Item

Mr. Baca reported that the RPSP’s list was discussed during the last Board meeting and is now being brought before the Board for action.

Regent Long moved to approve the RPSP’s Priority List (**Attachment A**) as presented. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez.

Foundation Report – Mr. William Wootton

Mr. Wootton presented his written report (**Attachment B**).

President’s Report

President Fries reported the following:

- General Obligation (GO) Bonds B and C both passed during this month’s elections. GO Bond B will generate a little over \$110,000 in funding for Donnelly Library. GO Bond C included \$5 million in infrastructure funding for Highlands.
- The Board approved allowing international and out-of-state students who received their undergraduate degrees from Highlands to pay in-state rates. There were 27 alums registered at Highlands. Most of them already had assistantships; ultimately, 11 graduate students were positively impacted by the in-state waiver.
- 43 employers and 305 students participated in fall semesters career fair. At least 20 of the 43 employer representatives were Highlands alumni. Chairman Sanchez requested that the alumni list be provided to the Foundation Office.
- Highlands was ranked #6 of 30 among the “30 Most Attractive Yet Affordable College Campuses” in the United States. The list was developed by *affordableschools.net*.
- Enterprise Rent-a-Car is reconsidering housing rental cars on the NMHU campus.
- The Economic Development Center leaders want to establish an incubator and a commercial kitchen on campus. Discussions are ongoing.

- State revenue forecasts have dropped because oil and gas prices have dropped. Increased funding for higher education will likely be impacted and there may not be a state compensation package.
- The funding formula steering committee's plan is essentially the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) budget recommendation. There are some major considerations within the funding formula to be determined by the Legislature such as how much sanding of current year budgets will be put into the outcomes funding, and how much new money will be coming in for higher education.

Budget

President Fries informed the Board the October budget report (**Attachment C**) was included in their meeting packets.

- Fall tuition revenue is down but summer revenues were up therefore, the combination of the two is near projections but is still down approximately \$14,000.
- The expenditures budget is in good shape with the exception of where enrollment has had an impact for example, housing because occupancy was at 81%.
- The cash report projection shows we are ahead of schedule this year.

Articulations on Record with the Registrar's Office

President Fries reported that Vice President Aguilar developed a list of university signed articulation agreement (**Attachment D**). Many of the agreements are specific to certain programs. The university needs to be more aggressive in ensuring faculty and students here and at the various two-year schools are aware of these articulation agreements to increase the number of transfer students.

President Fries reported that in an effort to increase enrollment the university is researching:

- The impact of the ACT requirement
- The timing of scholarship announcements
- The frequency of communication to prospective students via email
- International plans and targets
- Payment requirements to ensure students know what the requirements are
- Establishing a Native American Advisory Council

President Fries reported that the Sandia National Labs publications highlighted a young man in a Highlands uniform, Mr. Nelson Captain. He is a Highlands alum who is receiving a prestigious public service award for bringing science to Native American children. As the university establishes a Native American Advisory Council and determines how to effectively recruit more Native American students, we should consider Mr. Captain as a council participant.

Strategic Planning Update

Vice President Aguilar informed the Board that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee guidelines (**Attachment E**) were provided. A 15 member steering committee has been formed including faculty, staff and students; she will chair the committee. The steering committee members will serve as lead members for sub-groups. The steering committee will revisit the

university's mission/vision. President Fries thanked Vice President Aguilar for putting together and chairing the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

ACT Requirement – Action Item

President Fries reported that with the Boards approval, the university implemented an ACT admissions requirement for incoming students two years ago. The primary reason for implementing the requirement was an effort to improve retention rates which hasn't happened so far. The ACT scores are only used for student course placement. Dr. Jean Hill, Director of Institutional Research, provided data regarding the ACT requirement (**Attachment F**). The administration is waiting for the faculty's position on the ACT admissions requirement before making a recommendation to the Board for action. Dr. Maureen Romine, Faculty Senate Chair, informed the Board that the issue is under review by the faculty and that a survey of the faculty is in process. The faculty may vote on the requirement at their next faculty meeting.

The Board did not take action on the ACT Requirement.

Presidential Search Process – Action Item

Chairman Sanchez noted that President Fries announced his retirement for the summer of 2015. The Board informed the faculty, staff, and community that they are starting the search procedures for a new university president.

Regent Long moved to authorize Chairman Sanchez to initiate the initial presidential search process and bring recommendations to the full Board for approval at the next meeting. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Long, Regent López, Regent Marchi, Regent Martinez, and Chairman Sanchez

Adjournment

Regent López moved to adjourn. Regent Martinez seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents

Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents

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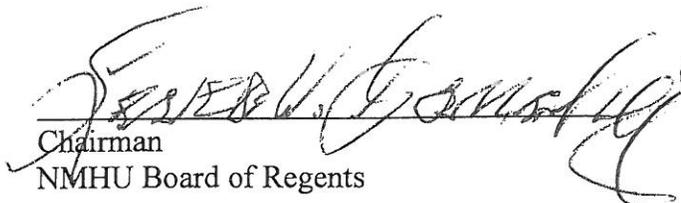
Presidential Search Process – Action Item

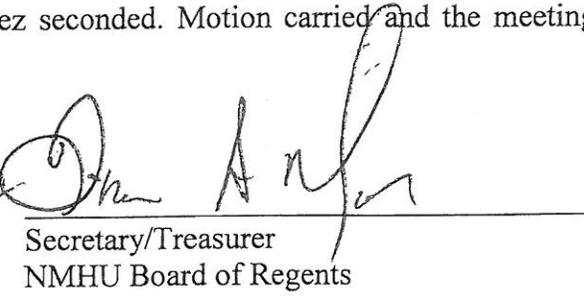
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