

New Mexico Highlands University
Special Board of Regents Meeting
Margaret J. Kennedy Alumni Hall
905 University Avenue
NMHU Main Campus
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
April 21, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Leveo Sanchez
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for April 21, 2017
4. Approval of the Minutes from February 3, 2017
5. Board of Regents – Chairman Sanchez
 - A. Election of Officers – Action Item
 - B. Board Committee Appointments – Chairman Sanchez
6. Preliminary Discussion of the Budget to Include Tuition and Fees – Mr. Max Baca
7. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Action Item
8. NMHU Naming Policy – Action Item
 - A. Renaming/Naming of University Assets – Action Item
9. Executive Session – (1) limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation, of or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual or public employee; (2) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining and ; (3) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the University is or may become a participant. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(5)&(7)
10. Executive Session – (1) limited personnel matters related to Dr. Sam Minner’s presidential goals; Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)
11. Adjournment

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
April 21, 2017

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents met on April 21, 2017, 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 9:08 a.m.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Ms. LouElla Marr-Montoya, Regent Mr. Frank Marchi, Mr. Leveo V. Sanchez, and Mr. John Ramon Vigil

Board Members Absent: Ms. Sandra Turner

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. Sam Minner, President; Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Max Baca, Vice President for Finance & Administration; Dr. Edward Martínez, Int. Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management; Ms. Theresa Law, JD/CFRE, Vice President for Advancement; and Ms. Kimberly Blea, Int. Dean of Students

Others Present: Dr. Brandon Kempner, Faculty Senate Chair; Mr. Laird Thornton, Staff Advisory Senate President; Mr. Julian Padilla, ASNMHU President; Ms. Carolina Martínez, Executive Administrative Assistant; and numerous individuals in the audience, including faculty, staff, students, and community members. The meeting was broadcast over the KEDP Radio Station.

Approval of the April 21, 2017 Meeting Agenda

President Minner requested that we add a moment of silence in honor of the recent loss of one of our students to be led by Ms. Kimberly Blea. Chairman Sanchez recommended that the item be added after the approval of the agenda.

Regent Marchi moved to approve the Board meeting agenda for February 3, 2017 as recommended by President Minner and Chairman Sanchez. Marr-Montoya seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

Moment of Silence for the Loss of Ms. Danielle Cordova, HU Student

Ms. Blea noted that the university recently lost one of its students in a tragic car accident. Ms. Danielle Cordova a freshman from Bernalillo. She was a catcher on the HU Softball Team. She was well liked by everyone on campus and was a well-known softball player throughout the state.

Chairman Sanchez introduced Mr. John Ramon Vigil, newly appointed student regent. Mr. Vigil stated that he is excited to beginning working with the Board, students, faculty, and staff to tackle university challenges.

Chairman Sanchez introduced Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, newly hired Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. He noted that Dr. Gonzales was returning to New Mexico after an extensive career in Colorado and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Gonzales stated that she was grateful for the opportunity to work at Highlands. She indicated that she is welcoming the university's challenges and sees them as opportunities for university growth.

Approval of the Minutes from February 3, 2017

Regent Marchi moved to approve the minutes from February 3, 2017 as presented. Regent Vigil seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

Board of Regent – Chairman Sanchez

Election of Officers – Action Item

Mr. Marchi called on Ms. Carolina Martinez to list the current officers. Ms. Martinez reported that Mr. Leveo Sanchez is the current Chair, Ms. Sandra Turner is the current Vice-Chair, and Mr. Frank Marchi is the current Secretary/Treasurer.

Regent Marchi moved to retain the current officers. Regent Marr-Montoya seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

Board Committee Appointments – Chairman Sanchez

Mr. Frank Marchi called on Mr. Martinez to cite the current committee chairs. Ms. Martinez informed that Regent Marr-Montoya is the current chair of the Academic Affairs Committee; Regent Turner is the current chair of the Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management Committee; and Mr. Frank Marchi is the current chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Regent Marchi moved to retain the current committee chairs. Regent Marr-Montoya seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

Preliminary Discussion of the Budget to Include Tuition and Fees – Mr. Max Baca

Mr. Max Baca provided a PowerPoint presentation on the budget including tuition and fees (**Attachment A**)

Regent Marchi recognized that the Board cannot place the university's financial burden on the students by increasing fees and tuition. He added that the university need to balance the needs of students, faculty, staff and the community. He also stated that the university had the most transparent budget meeting in regards to tuition and fees and has been successful in avoiding implementation of RIFs or furloughs.

Regent Marr-Montoya asked what items could be scaled back and if cuts going to reach academic programs, faculty positions to be filled. She also stated that she wants to hold students harmless in terms of finances.

Regent Vigil indicated that students realize the need for increases but are concerned with the quality of their education improving to match the university's higher tuition rates.

President Minner stated that HU continues to be the most affordable university in New Mexico, the third most affordable in entire in southwest, and the eighth most affordable nationally in terms of out-of-state tuition. Graduates of HU earn on average the 2nd highest salary in New Mexico second only to New Mexico Technical Institute, and they are engineers. There is no correlation between tuition and enrollment.

An in-depth discussion was held on the President's list of FY18 Priorities. President Minner indicated that we have to do more in High Impact Practices (HIPs) and enriching social life on the campus. We need to set-up funding requests similar to the HIPs campaign.

Chairman Sanchez stated we need to continue to identify long term external funding via grants and alumni.

Brandon Kempner stated that faculty are concerned about the lack of state funding. He added that faculty do great work. Tuition rates are not great but if funding continues to be cut, we will have to cut faculty and eliminating classes. Our students would be impacted the most.

Chairman Sanchez suggested starting a recruitment program in Washington similar to the one in California. Terri Law stated that the Foundation matches \$25,000 per each Coachella student.

Dr. Warren Lail, Graduate Dean, informed that the university could capture undergraduate students by double dipping the student's last 12 credit hour and counting them as the first 12 credit hours of graduate coursework.

Mr. Laird Thornton expressed his concerns with the budget cuts, job loss, and what that means for HU. The university needs to work on recruiting more students and offering the kind of programs that capture the student's attention.

Dr. Martinez stated that we are moving towards increasing enrollment another 10% for Fall 2017 semester. We are expanding our recruitment efforts into Texas, Colorado, California, and Arizona.

Mr. Julian Padilla commented that funding cuts are coming from the state and that our influence at the state is almost non-existent. He added that HU needs to put a greater effort into being advocates for higher education at the legislature.

Collective Bargaining Agreement – Action Item

President Minner's stated that the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) (**Attachment B**) received a positive vote from the faculty. The CBA provides a formal way for the university to work together to improve the institution.

Dr. Carol Linder provided a summary of the CBA. She and Mr. Baca thanked the following for their contribution to revise the CBA; Mr. Kenneth Lucero, Dr. Ian Williamson, Dr. Orit Tamir, Dr. Kathy Jenkins, Dr. Mike Petronis, Dr. Jesus Rivas, Dr. Lori Rudolph, Dr. Brandon Kempner, Dr. Tom Ward, and Dr. Warren Lail.

Regent Vigil moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

President Minner clarified that the CBA required his signature of approval. Mr. Baca added that the document would be cleaned up for Chairman Sanchez' signature. Dr. Jenkins requested that Chairman Sanchez sign the document at this time.

NMHU Naming Policy – Action Item

Chairman Sanchez stated that the existing policy has served its purpose for a number of years but has been restrictive in numerous ways. It is not as comprehensive as it should be. The policy not cover individuals who have not provided financial a gift but have provided long years of commitment and dedication to the university.

The policy will be reviewed further and come back to the Board for review and approval.

Chairman Sanchez indicated that there was a great need to repair the university football field.

President Minner stated that Mr. Chris Graham, RMAC Commissioner, contacted him to express concerns about the quality of our football field. The turf is 15 years old, exceeding the normal lifespan by 7 years. A fundraising campaign to raise funds to repair the football fields was initiated. The repair cost is approximately \$500k.

Ms. Law stated that a donor came forward to match a previous \$500k gift offer for the football field repairs. That second donor is our own Chairman Leveo Sanchez. The Foundation Board endorsed the acceptance of Chairman Sanchez' offer.

Ms. Law and Mr. Clifford communicated the need to make the facilities more appealing and modern to capture the attention from students, parents, and community. Their experiences using the athletic facilities impacts our retention, graduation rates, and persistence. Mr. Clifford initiated getting some Stu Clark design concepts, including making the entrance open to the community, which represents the university's mission, quality and attention to our student athletes.

Chairman Sanchez offered another \$100K donation designated for the improvements of the Stu Clark Building with the stipulation that the name of the building remain the same. He added that he would make the \$100K donation to the Foundation for the Stu Clark repairs with the following stipulations; that we not rename the Stu Clark building and that the VATOS Rugby Team and other athletic teams be allowed to use the facility. He asked that the Stu Clark Building signage be upgraded.

Regent Vigil called for a standing ovation to recognize Chairman Sanchez.

Regent Vigil moved to accept charitable contribution from Chairman Leveo Sanchez. Regent Marr-Montoya seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

Regent Marr-Montoya moved to suspend the current NMHU Naming Policy. Regent Marchi seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez.

Renaming/Naming of University Assets – Action Item

Renaming and naming of University Assets was discussed and no action was taken.

Executive Session – (1) limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation of, or the 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 is or may become a participant. Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2)(5)&(7). Also to include Executive Session – (1) limited personnel matters related to Dr. Sam Minner’s presidential goals; Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, §10-15-1(H)(2). Regent Vigil 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 Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried. The Board entered into executive session at 11:48 a.m.

Regent Marr-Montoya moved to return to open session. Regent Vigil seconded. Regent Marr-Montoya stated for the record that only those items specified under the executive session were discussed and no Board action was taken. Regents present confirmed. A roll call was taken, voting in favor of returning to open session were: Regent Marchi, Regent Marr-Montoya, Regent Vigil, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously and the Board returned to open session at 1:05 p.m.

Adjournment

Regent Marchi moved to adjourn. Regent Vigil seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.


Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents


Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents