

**New Mexico Highlands University**  
**Board of Regents Special Virtual Meeting**  
**July 27, 2020**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special virtual meeting on July 27, 2020. The meeting was streamed via ZOOM from the university's main campus in Las Vegas, New Mexico. The university complied with the Governor's Office and the New Mexico Department of Health's social distancing mandate which limits mass gatherings to five (5) therefore, the Board of Regents meeting was held as a virtual meeting. The university made every effort to accommodate members of the public as stated in the July 22, 2020 meeting announcement. The item addressed during the meeting was time sensitive and could not wait. Thus in accordance with the NM Attorney General's Open Government Division Advisory, the meeting was held as a virtual meeting only. Members of the public were able to access the meeting via zoom and/or via phone call:

<https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/122824474>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +13462487799,122824474# or +16699006833,122824474#

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 122 824 474

International numbers available: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/u/ac1IDo7Azz>

Or an H.323/SIP room system: H.323: 162.255.37.11 (US West), 162.255.36.11 (US East)

Chairman Sanchez called upon Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students to read an opening statement: *"Thank you for joining the NMHU Board of Regents for the July 27, 2020 virtual Board meeting. The university is complying with the Governor's Office and the NM Department of Health's social distancing mandate which limits mass gatherings to five (5). The university has made every effort to accommodate members of the public. The item to be addressed at this meeting is time sensitive and cannot wait, thus in accordance with the New Mexico Attorney General's Open Government Division Advisory, the meeting is being held as a virtual meeting only. Board members participating in the meeting remotely are: Bill Garcia, Frank Marchi, Danelle Smith, Christopher Ulibarri, and Chairman Leveo Sanchez."*

*"Also participating in the meeting remotely are Dr. Sam Minner, Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Mr. Max Baca, Dr. Terri Law, Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dr. Orit Tamir, and Ms. Veronica Black"*

*"Should Board members or university lose connectivity and there is no longer have a quorum, the Board meeting will be suspended and no action will be taken until a quorum is reconvened."*

**Call to Order** – Chairman Sanchez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Roll Call** - Board Members Present via ZOOM: Mr. William Garcia. Mr. Frank Marchi, Ms. Danelle Smith, Mr. Leveo V. Sanchez, and Mr. Christopher Ulibarri.

Administrative Personnel Present via ZOOM: Dr. Sam Minner, President; Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Max Baca, Vice President for Finance &

Administration; Dr. Theresa Law, Vice President of Student and Donor Engagement; and Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students

Others Present via ZOOM: Dr. Orit Tamir, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Veronica Black, Staff Advisory Senate President; Ms. Tamlyn Crain, ASNMHU President; Mr. Luke Salganek, University Legal Counsel, and Ms. Carolina Martínez, Executive Administrative Assistant. Numerous faculty, staff, students, community members, and the general public participated in the meeting as it was streamed via ZOOM.

### **Approval of the July 27, 2020 Special Virtual Meeting Agenda**

Regent Marchi moved to approve the Board's special virtual meeting agenda for July 27, 2020 as presented. Regent Ulibarri seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor: Regent Garcia, Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried.

### **Board of Regents Report**

No items were reported.

### **President's Report – Dr. Sam Minner**

#### **A. Potential Postponement of Collegiate Athletics Programs for Fall 2020 Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic – Action Item**

President Minner provided a PowerPoint presentation (**Attachment A**) and read a letter from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (**Attachment B**) to all New Mexico College and University Board or Regents through the university Presidents regarding intercollegiate athletics. President Minner stated that as of today, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) voted that practices for all sports should begin August 24, 2020, and competitions to begin September 18, 2020. President Minner informed the Board that no teams would come to play NMHU due to New Mexico's 14 days quarantine mandate. Also, the university would not be able to compete with any teams due to the limit of mass gatherings to five people. President Minner reported that the RMAC voted to accept the requirements made by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) which include; testing upon arrival, weekly testing, and testing before competitions.

Mr. Andrew Ehling, Athletic Director, stated that he wants to provide our student athletes with a very clear athletic plan.

Mr. Baca, Vice President for Finance & Administration, provided a fiscal impact report as a result of the COVID pandemic (**Attachment C**).

A lengthy discussion regarding student's health and safety; student athlete's safety, loss of revenue, alternative learning courses, the academic plan to continue offering quality education, and student enrollment was held.

Student athletes, Ms. Alesa Darley and Mr. Malik Brown shared their personal experiences and addressed the Board with their concerns regarding sports and student safety.

Regent Smith motioned to adopt sending the letter, drafted by President Minner, to the Governor with the inclusion that the university would follow the RMAC's practice and

competition schedule nevertheless, and foremost HU will follow the Governor's guidelines. The letter is to be signed by the Chairman of the Board on behalf of the New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents. Regent Marchi seconded. A roll call vote was held and voting in favor were: Regent Garcia, Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Chris Ulibarri, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session – (a) limited personnel matters related to the dismissal, resignation, and/or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual or public employee pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(2); (b) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(5); (c) and threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the university is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(7).** Regent Marchi moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the items listed. Regent Smith seconded. A roll call vote was taken; voting in favor: Regent Garcia, Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried and the Board entered into executive session at 5:18 p.m.

Regent Marchi moved to return to open session. Regent Ulibarri seconded. Regent Marchi stated for the record that only the items specified under the executive session were discussed and the Board took no action. Regents present confirmed. A roll call was taken, voting in favor of returning to open session were: Regent Garcia, Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried and the Board returned to open session at 5:55 p.m.

**Public Action as Necessary on Closed Session Discussions – Action Item**

No action was taken.

**Adjournment**

Regent Ulibarri moved to adjourn. Regent Smith seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor: Regent Garcia, Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.



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Chairman  
NMHU Board of Regents



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Secretary/Treasurer  
NMHU Board of Regents