

**New Mexico Highlands University**  
**Special Board of Regents Meeting**  
March 1, 2022

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special open meeting on March 1, 2022. The university made every effort to accommodate members of the public as stated in the February 22, 2022 meeting announcement/agenda. meeting was held in person at the **New Mexico Highlands University Rodgers Hall Building, Room RAB107, 803 National Ave., Las Vegas, New Mexico**, and live-streamed via **Zoom Platform**. Members of the public may access the livestream **through the following link**:

The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom Platform. Members of the public were able to access the livestream through the following link:

<https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/99373471046>

Meeting ID: 993 7347 1046

One tap mobile

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**Call to Order** – Chairman Marchi called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. Sam Minner, President; Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs; Mr. Max Baca, Vice President for Finance, Administration, and Government Relations; and Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students.

Others Present: Dr. Katherine “Kat” Draughon, HLC Peer Reviewer, Dr. Carlos Ferran, HLC Peer Reviewer, Dr. Elisabeth Massaro, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Veronica Black, Staff Advisory Senate Chair, Ms. Patricia Ives, University Legal Counsel, and Ms. Maria Sena, Senior 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 March 01, 2022 Agenda**

Regent Ulibarri moved to approve the Board's virtual special meeting agenda for March 01, 2022 with the request made by President Minner. Regent Smith seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor: Regent Garcia, Regent Smith, Regent Sanchez, Regent Ulibarri, and Chairman Marchi. Motion carried.

### **Higher Learning Commission (HLC) February 2022 Comprehensive Visit**

Chairman Frank Marchi welcomed Dr. Katherine "Kat" Draughon and Dr. Carlos Ferran, Higher Learning Commission Peer Reviewers to New Mexico Highlands University. He also welcomed the Peer Reviewers that were online. He stated that he appreciated their service and commitment to higher education.

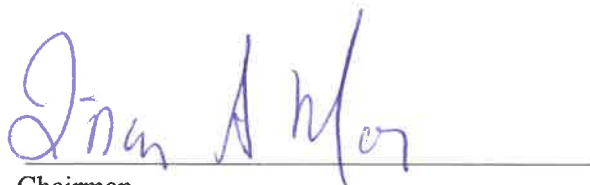
Chairman Marchi provided an opening statement. He stated, *"probation was a wake-up call for Highlands. It had a detrimental effect on us, on our enrollment, on our programs, and on our reputation. However, it did have a positive effect. Through our President's leadership, as well as with Brandon Kemper, who was appointed as our accreditation liaison officer, we were able to exit probation in less than two years. Because of probation, Highlands is a much more effective university through our improvement in financial resources, improvement in facilities, improvement in planning, and dedication to enrollment and retention management. We understand that the Board is ultimately responsible to set policy and that operations of the University is delegated to the President and expect the Faculty to oversee Academic Affairs. However, we still are responsible for the entire institution and take our responsibility serious."*

Dr. Katherine Draughon indicated that she was the Chair for the HLC team. She introduced Dr. Carlos Ferran, Dr. Alan Williams, Dr. Theresa Golden, and Dr. Bruce Spencer. She stated that the team had been reviewing Highland's Assurance Argument for the past three weeks and are finalizing their report.

Dr. Minner stated that his recommendation was to conclude the public meeting and allow the HLC visitors to meeting with the board. He indicated that no more than two Board members would be allowed to meet with the peer reviewers at one time.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.



Chairman  
NMHU Board of Regents



Secretary/Treasurer  
NMHU Board of Regents