

**New Mexico Highlands University  
Board of Regents Virtual Special Meeting  
March 19, 2021**

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a virtual special meeting on March 19, 2021. The meeting was held live at the **Santa Fe Higher Education Center Collaborative Learning Lab, Room HEC103, 1950 Siringo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico**. The university made every effort to accommodate members of the public as stated in the March 15, 2021 meeting announcement. The items addressed during the meeting were time sensitive and could not wait. Thus, in accordance with applicable Orders and mandates from the Governor and the NM Department of Health that limit mass gatherings to ten (10) people, and livestream 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** – Vice-Chairman Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

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

Others Present: Ms. Patricia Ives, university legal counsel and Mr. Leveo Sanchez, guest.

Administrative Personnel Present via ZOOM: Dr. Sam Minner, President; Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students.

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Others Present via ZOOM: Dr. Orit Tamir, Faculty Senate Chair; 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.

**Welcome and introduction of new Regents and Attorney**

Vice-Chairman Garcia introduced the new board regents, Mr. Frank Sanchez and Mr. Christopher Ulibarri. He indicated that both regents were confirmed on March 13, 2021. Regent Sanchez indicated that he is familiar with most of the regents present and is excited to move the university forward. Regent Marchi indicated that Regent Sanchez will be a great asset to the board. He also congratulated Regent Ulibarri for being confirmed. Regent Ulibarri had been on the board for about one year before his confirmation.

Regent Smith welcomed Regent Sanchez and Regent Ulibarri. She indicated that Regent Ulibarri is a full regent not just a student regent representing the students.

Regent Ulibarri stated that he is fortunate to be the student regent. He is looking forward to working with all the regents.

Both Regent Marchi and Regent Garcia welcomed Ms. Patricia Ives. They indicated that are pleased to be working with her as the attorney for the university.

**Recognition of Service by Leveo Sanchez**

Vice-Chairman Garcia recognized Mr. Leveo Sanchez for his service to Highlands. He indicated that Mr. Sanchez knows Highlands better than anyone. Mr. Sanchez has been a beacon for many Hispanics throughout the state and has been instrumental in keeping the university moving forward.

He indicated that a more appropriate recognition for his service to Highlands will be held at a later date.

Regent Marchi also recognized Mr. Sanchez. He stated that Mr. Sanchez has had a national and international career but never forgot Highlands or where he came from. He has been mentor and role model for other regents on the board.

Regent Smith thanked Mr. Sanchez for his knowledge and was grateful that he was at the helm for this last trying year.

Regent Sanchez indicated that it has been a pleasure knowing Mr. Sanchez. He is proud of service and commitment he has brought to the university.

Regent Ulibarri recognized Mr. Sanchez for his service.

Vice-Chairman Garcia indicated that Mr. Sanchez will be participating in the executive session as a consultation for President Minner's evaluation.

**Approval of the March 19, 2021 Virtual Special Meeting Agenda**

Regent Marchi moved to approve the Board's meeting agenda for March 19, 2021 as presented. Regent Ulibarri seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor: Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Sanchez, and Vice-Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes from March 05, 2021**

Regent Ulibarri moved to approve the minutes from the March 05, 2021 as presented. Regent Marchi seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Sanchez, and Vice-Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

**Matters from the Board**

**Board of Regents Officer Elections – Action Item**

Regent Garcia moved to elect Regent Marchi as the new Chairman of the Board. Regent Smith seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor were: Regent Marchi, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Sanchez, and Vice-Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Chairman Marchi indicated that he is pleased and honored to serve as the board chairman. He will be respectful to everyone time and would like everyone's thoughts to make this an effective board of regents.

Regent Smith moved to reelect Regent Garcia as the Vice-Chairman of the Board. Regent Ulibarri seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor were: Regent Garcia, Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Sanchez, and Chairman Marchi. Motion carried.

Regent Sanchez moved to elect Regent Smith as the new Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. Regent Ulibarri seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor were: Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Garcia, Regent Sanchez, and Chairman Marchi. Motion carried.

**Executive Session – (a) limited personnel matters related to the annual performance evaluation and contract of Dr. Sam Minner, NMHU President and contract, pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15- 1(H)(2).**

Regent Ulibarri 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 Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Sanchez, Regent Garcia, and Chairman Marchi. Motion carried. The Board entered into executive session at 10:34 a.m.

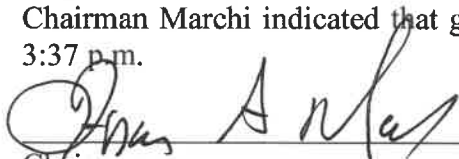
Regent Ulibarri moved to return to open session. Regent Garcia seconded. Regent Ulibarri stated for the record that only those items specified under the executive session were discussed and the Board took no action. Regents present confirmed. A roll call was taken, voting in favor of returning to open session were: Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Sanchez, Regent Garcia, and Chairman Marchi. Motion carried and the Board returned to open session at 3:34 p.m.

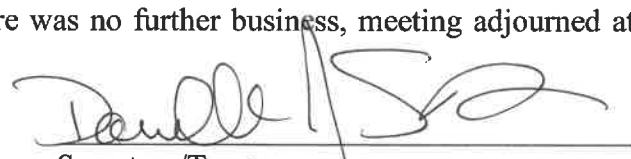
**Public Action as Necessary on Closed Session – Action Item**

Regent Garcia indicated that the board has completed the evaluation of President Sam Minner. Based on this evaluation, Regent Garcia moved to authorize Regent Smith and Regent Marchi to review the evaluation with President Minner, negotiate a salary increase for the upcoming year, and negotiate the extension to his contract. Regent Ulibarri seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor: Regent Smith, Regent Ulibarri, Regent Garcia, and Chairman Marchi; voting against: Regent Sanchez. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Marchi indicated that given that there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

  
Chairman  
NMHU Board of Regents

  
Secretary/Treasurer  
NMHU Board of Regents