

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Meeting
April 29, 2025

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special virtual meeting on April 29, 2025. The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom Platform. The university made every effort to accommodate members of the public as stated in the April 23, 2025, meeting announcement. Members of the public were able to access the livestream through the following link: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/99373471046>

Call to Order – Chairman Frank Sanchez called the meeting to order at 2:34p.m.

Roll Call – Board Members present (via zoom): Robert Lucero, Elaine Luna, Gary Tripp, and Dr. Frank Sanchez

Administrative Personnel Present (via zoom): Dr. Neil Woolf, President; Dr. Brandon Kempner, Acting Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Stephanie Gonzales, CPA/Vice President for Finance & Administration; Dr. Kimberly Blea, VP for Student Affairs; and Mr. David Lepre, VP for Marketing, Communication & Government Relations

Others Present (via zoom): Dr. Jennifer Lindline, Faculty Senate Chair; April Kent, HLC Liaison Officer; Patricia Ives, NMHU Legal Counsel; and Roberta Ortiz, Executive Administrative Assistant. Numerous faculty members, staff, students, community members, and public participated in the meeting as it was streamed via Zoom.

Compliance with Meeting Notice Requirements

Chairman Sanchez stated that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the notice and agenda with the meeting date, time, and place for the April 29, 2025, special virtual meeting was posted in compliance with the NMHU Board of Regents Open Meetings Act Resolution.

Approval of the April 29, 2025, Special Virtual Meeting Agenda

Regent Luna moved to approve the April 29, 2025, special meeting agenda as presented. Regent Tripp seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Luna, Regent Tripp, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried.

Matters of the Board

FY25 Unrestricted & Restricted Budget Adjustment Requests– Action Item

- I. VPFA Stephanie Gonzales presented to the board on the FY25 Unrestricted & Restricted Budget Adjustments (**Attachment A**). Budget components (expenditures such as employee salaries, supplies and expenses, travel and equipment). Transfers of revenue. Components of Instruction and General- General Academic, Academic Support, student services, institutional support, operation and maintenance of plant. Remaining current fund programs.

- II. Projection to end FY 2025 with \$56.6 million and projecting \$59.3 million for FY 26. This is due to increases in state appropriations and also the 8% projected increase for the student fee that the board voted on at the last meeting.
 - i. Regent Tripp requested a clearer picture of the revenues and expenditures in the form of a pie chart. Another update in the Fall was requested. VP Gonzales stated that she would be able to fulfill that request.
- III. Overall summary is that our revenue is greater than our expenditure.
- IV. Recommendation from VP Gonzales
 - i. VP Gonzales emphasized the continued budget audit work that they are trying to do throughout the university, through shared governance, and to continue this work to increase the cash and fund balance reserves.
- V. Chairman Sanchez opened the floor to questions or comments from the Board
 - i. Regent Lucero- commended the staff on their work and transparency. He stated that things are moving in the right direction.
 - ii. Regent Tripp- thanks the administration and VPFA Gonzales. He requested a future budget outlook (Golf Course improvement, plant facility needs, athletic needs) requesting a meeting or workshop to discuss. NMHU needs (financial snapshot).
 - iii. Chairman Sanchez did comment that there will be a summer session to discuss the financials further and strategic plan.
 - iv. Regent Luna- gave appreciation to the VPFA putting this together, as well as thanks to Stephanie and Emily for assisting with questions. Budget alignment.
 - v. Chairman Sanchez made a comment that a meeting was rescheduled from last week to allow for the board to be presented with more information

Regent Tripp moved to approve the FY25 Unrestricted & Restricted Budget Adjustment Requests as presented. Regent Lucero seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Luna, Regent Tripp, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried.

FY26 Operating Budget– Action Item

- I. Projected ending fund balance slightly above 3% required by HED.

Regent Tripp moved to approve the FY26 Operating Budget (**Attachment B**) as presented. Regent Lucero seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Luna, Regent Tripp, and Chairman Sanchez. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25p.m.



Chairman
NMHU Board of Regents



Secretary/Treasurer
NMHU Board of Regents