

**New Mexico Highlands University**  
Board of Regents Special Meeting  
and Executive Closed Session  
July 25, 2025

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special virtual meeting and closed executive session on July 25, 2025. The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom Platform. The university made every effort to accommodate members of the public as stated in the July 22, 2025, meeting announcement. Members of the public were able to access the livestream through the following Zoom link: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/99373471046>.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Frank Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

**Roll Call**

Board Members present: Dr. Frank Sanchez, Mr. Robert Lucero, Ms. Elaine Luna, and Mr. Gary Tripp

**Administrative Personnel Present**

Dr. Neil Woolf, President; Stephanie Gonzales, CPA/Vice President for Finance & Administration; Dave Lepre, Vice President for University Relations

**Others Present**

Carlos Padilla, NMHU Legal Counsel; Jennifer Lindline, Faculty Senate Chair; Amalinda Arguello, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Regents; Cheryl Trujillo, Registrar Analyst & System Administrator. Faculty, staff, students, and community members also participated in the meeting.

**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 July 25, 2025, meeting were posted in a timely fashion and in compliance with the NMHU Board of Regents Open Meetings Act Resolution.

**Executive Closed Session**

**Executive Closed Session: (a) discussion of limited Personnel Matters related to President Neil Woolf's performance evaluation pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(2) (2 hours); (b) discussion of Foundation contributions from the Board of Regents**

Chairman Sanchez called for a motion to enter the executive closed session at 10:03 AM.

Motion: Regent Lucero

Second: Regent Luna

Vote: Unanimous approval – Motion carried

**Reconvene in Open Session**

Chairman Sanchez called for a motion to reenter open session at 1:17 PM. Regent Lucero noted that only matters listed on the meeting agenda for the executive closed session were discussed and no actions were necessary.

Motion: Regent Lucero

Second: Regent Tripp

Vote: Unanimous approval – Motion carried

**Memorial Fund and Campus Master Plan Discussion**

Chairman Sanchez reported that the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 in Memorial Funds during the last session to develop a master plan for NMHU’s main campus in preparation for the upcoming legislative year. He emphasized the need to envision the University’s future, noting aging facilities such as the library, residence halls, and athletic areas, as well as the importance of upgrading classroom technology and improving the overall campus appearance.

Vice Chair Lucero highlighted residence halls as a top priority, citing increased enrollment and limited on-campus housing capacity. He also supported considering improvements to the library, athletic fields, and other facilities.

Regent Tripp agreed on the key focus areas of housing, library, technology, and athletics and proposed forming a blueprint or ad hoc committee – including University leadership and subject matter experts to develop a draft plan by the next Board meeting, potentially.

Regent Luna echoed appreciation for legislative support and emphasized the need for modernization as essential to attracting more students. She also stressed the importance of having the right individuals in place to advance the planning process.

**Post Meeting Lunch Announcement**

Chairman Sanchez stated that following adjournment of the meeting, the Board of Regents will have lunch with some Rio Rancho Center faculty and staff. No public policy will be formulated, no public business will be discussed, and no action will be taken.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting.


Motion: Regent Lucero

Second: Regent Trip

Vote: Unanimous approval – Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:26 PM.

  
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Chairman  
NMHU Board of Regents

  
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Secretary/Treasurer  
NMHU Board of Regents