



New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents

Meeting Notice **August 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.** Corrected

August 7, 2023

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents will hold a regular open meeting on August 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Room-107 of the Rodgers Administration Building on 803 National Ave., Las Vegas, New Mexico. The meeting will be livestream via Zoom Platform. Copies of this notice will be submitted to various media outlets, posted on the University's website at <https://www.nmhu.edu/board-of-regents/board-of-regents-announcements>, and in the Rodgers Administration Building. The livestreamed meeting will be accessible through the following link: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/99373471046>

In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, the agenda will be posted on the NMHU website at <https://www.nmhu.edu/board-of-regents/board-of-regents-announcements/> and in the Rodgers Administration Building no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

For accessibility services call 454-3269 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that any needed equipment can be made available or special arrangements can be made.



New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents

Meeting Agenda August 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Corrected

1. Call to Order – Chairman William Garcia (9:00am)
2. Roll Call
3. Compliance with Meeting Notice Requirements (9:01am)
4. Approval of the August 25, 2023 Agenda (9:02am)
5. Approval of the Minutes from July 21, 2023 (9:03am)
6. Approval of the Minutes from July 11, 2023 (Tabled on July 21, 2023) (9:04am)
7. Consent Calendar – No Action (9:05am)
 - A. Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Report – Dr. Roxanne Gonzales
 - B. Vice President for Finance & Administration Report – Ms. Stephanie Gonzales
 - C. Dean of Student Affairs Report – Dr. Kimberly Blea
 - D. Executive Vice President for Student and Donor Engagement Report – Ms. Terri Law
 - E. Vice President for Marketing & Communications Report – Mr. David Lepre
8. Tour of Housing Facilities & Presentation (9:05-10:35am)(1½ hr)
9. Public Comment * (10:35-10:50am)(15min)
10. Executive Session – (a) limited personnel matters related to President Sam Minner's evaluation and goals and to the dismissal, resignation, and/or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual or public employee; (b) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining; (c) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney- client privilege in which the university is or may become a participant; and (d) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property all pursuant to NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1(H)(2)(5)(7)(8) (10:50am-12:50pm)(2 hours)
11. Public Action and Statements as Necessary on Executive Session Discussion (12:50-1:00pm) (10min)
12. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Rodney Rock (1:00-1:15pm)(15min)

13. Staff Advisory Senate Report – Mr. Robert Anaya (1:15-1:30pm)(15min)
14. Associated Students of NMHU Report – Mr. Kayl Rainer (1:30-1:24pm)(15min)
15. NMHU Foundation Report – Mr. Vince Marchi and Ms. Terri Law (1:45-2:10pm)(25min)
 - A. Student Union Building Naming Gift – Action Item
 - B. Land Donation Naming Gift – Action Item
16. Vice President of Finance & Administration (VPFA) – Ms. Stephanie Gonzales (2:10-2:40pm)(30min)
 - A. FY25 Research Public Service Projects (RPSP) Request Approval – Action Item
 - B. HR/Payroll Update
17. Vacant Land RFP Review and Approval (Tabled on June 15, 2023 and July 21, 2023) -Action Item (2:40-3:00pm) (20 min)
18. President's Report – Dr. Sam Minner (3:00-3:30pm)(30min)
 - A. Track Resolution – Action Item
 - B. Facilities Update
 - C. Other
19. Board of Regents Reports (3:30-3:45pm)(15min)
 - A. Strategic Enrollment Management/Donor Engagement Committee – Regent Sanchez
20. Presidential Selection Update – Dr. Brandon Kempner (3:45-3:55pm)(10min)
21. HLC Update – Dr. Keith Tucker & Ms. April Kent (3:55-4:05pm)(10min)
22. Regents Comments (4:05-4:15pm) (15min)
23. Adjournment – Action Item (4:15pm)

*** PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – The agenda for each regular meeting of the Board of Regents shall include an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on matters of public interest related to the University. Unless otherwise determined by the Chairman of the Board, this public comment period shall last no longer than fifteen (15) minutes and each person addressing the Board shall speak for no more than three (3) minutes. When deemed necessary, persons wishing to address the Board may be required to sign in so that the public comment period may be conducted in an orderly manner. Matters of individual concern, such as employee grievances or student appeals that do not involve a matter of public interest, are not appropriate topics for the public comment period. University policy provides administrative channels to pursue such matters. The Board of Regents may not act on any item raised during the public comment period, but may refer items to be placed on the agenda of a future meeting for action. (NMHU Board of Regents Policy Guide, pages 20-21).

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Meeting
August 25, 2023

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a regular meeting on August 25, 2023. The meeting was held at the Rodgers Administration Building, Room 107, 803 National Avenue, Las Vegas, NM 87701. The university made every effort to accommodate members of the public as stated in the August 7, 2023, meeting announcement. The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom. Members of the public were able to access the livestream through the following link:

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

Call to Order – Chairman Garcia called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call – Board Members present: Mr. William Garcia, Mr. Robert Lucero, Mr. Cody Rivera, Dr. Frank Sanchez, and Ms. Danelle Smith

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. Sam Minner, President (via Zoom); Ms. Stephanie Gonzales, CPA/VP of Finance, Administration; Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Provost/VP of Academic Affairs, Ms. Theresa Law, JD, CFRE/Executive VP of Student and Donor Engagement, Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students; and Mr. David Lepre, VP for Marketing and Communications

Others Present: Mr. Rodney Rock, Faculty Senate Chair (via Zoom); Mr. Robert Anaya, Staff Advisory Senate President; Mr. Kayl Rainer, ASNMHU President; Mr. Vince Marchi, Foundation Board Chair (via Zoom); Dr. Keith Tucker, HLC Director/Accreditation Liaison Officer; Ms. April Kent, HLC Liaison Officer; Ms. Patricia Ives, NMHU Legal Counsel; and Ms. Carolina Martínez, Senior 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 Garcia stated that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the notice and agenda with the meeting date, time, and place for the August 25, 2023, regular meeting were posted timely and in compliance with the NMHU Board of Regents Open Meetings Act Resolution.

Approval of the August 25, 2023 Agenda

Regent Smith moved to approve the August 25, 2023, meeting agenda as presented. Regent Rivera seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes from July 21, 2023

Regent Rivera moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2023, special meeting as presented. Regent Smith seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes from July 11, 2023 (Tabled July 21, 2023)

Regent Rivera moved to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2023, special meeting with one grammatical revision. Regent Sanchez seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor were: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Consent Calendar

- A. Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Report (**Attachment A**) – Dr. Roxanne Gonzales
- B. Vice President for Finance & Administration Report (**Attachment B**) – Ms. Stephanie Gonzales
- C. Dean of Student Affairs Report (**Attachment C**) – Dr. Kimberly Blea
- D. Executive Vice President for Student and Donor Engagement Report (**Attachment D**) – Ms. Terri Law
- E. Vice President for Marketing & Communications Report (**Attachment E**) – Mr. David Lepre

Tour of Housing Facilities & Presentation

At 9:10 a.m. the Board exited the meeting to tour the student housing facilities. The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Dr. Kimberly Blea and Mrs. Stephanie Gonzales provided a presentation on the residence halls (**Attachment F**).

Dr. Blea explained that the university's Facilities Department employs plumbers, electricians, and carpenters who work on the residences halls. The Housing Department pays Facilities for those services because Housing is an auxiliary operation. Housing also pays for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and for the dorm elevator service and repairs.

Regent Rivera requested clarification of auxiliary accounts and asked if Housing monies funded the golf course. VPFA answered no. She further stated that all auxiliary funds are netted together to create one auxiliary fund balance. The Housing fund helps balance out some of the negative accounts.

Regent Rivera commented that, the golf course has always been a talking point when discussing the auxiliary budget. He noted that the Board increased housing rates by 5% in March. He feels that students pay a lot of money to live in the dorms the Board visited today. He stated that students are what drive the university and they should have access to updated housing.

Regent Smith asked if the projected fund balance could be used for dorm renovations. VPFA Gonzales responded no because it is projected revenue not actual revenue until collected.

Dr. Blea reported that the university was unable to explore funding from system revenue bonds due to declining main campus enrollment in prior years. NMHU increased enrollment the past two consecutive years.

VPSEM Law informed the Board that the university has increased of main campus enrollment and that our housing is at capacity. She explained that the main campus population and enrollment grow along with housing.

Chairman Garcia made it known that the golf course is a separate auxiliary account and does not benefit or lose from housing.

President Minner stated that the university must continue to increase enrollment in order to generate revenue and qualify for loans and other funding to repair the dorms.

Regent Rivera stated, for the record, that housing directly impacts students and the golf course does not.

Regent Sanchez asked how much the university owed on the Viles & Crimmin Residence Hall. VPFA Gonzales reported that the outstanding balance is approximately \$11M. Regent Sanchez commented that if the university is determined to increase enrollment it needs to have available housing.

President Minner and Regent Sanchez congratulated Dr. Blea and the Housing Department for successfully preparing the student residence halls. Dr. Blea thanks Mr. Joseph Dominguez, Director of Student Life & Campus Precreation/Interim Director of Housing, and Ms. Jacinda Woodruff, Assistant Director of Residence Life and Housing Operations, for their hard work preparing the dorms for the student's arrival.

Public Comment

No one came forward.

Executive Session – (a) limited personnel matters related to President Sam Minner' evaluation and goals and to the dismissal, resignation, and/or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual or public employee; (b) bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining; (c) threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the university is or may become a participant; and (d) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property all pursuant to NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1(H)(2)(5)(7)(8). Regent Lucero moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the items listed. Regent Rivera seconded. A roll call vote was taken, voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried. The Board entered into executive session at 11:06 a.m.

Regent Lucero moved to return to open session and stated for the record that only those items specified under the executive session motion were discussed and the Board took no action. Regents present confirmed. Regent Rivera seconded the motion. A roll call was taken, voting in favor of returning to open session were Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried and the Board returned to open session at 2:29 p.m.

Public Action and Statements as Necessary on Executive Session Discussion

No action taken.

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Rodney Rock

Dr. Rodney Rock summarized his written report (**Attachment G**).

Dr. Rock stated that the Faculty Senate is concerned about an IPRA request from the fall of 2022; a vote of no confidence in the Board; tenure granting processes; the dysfunction in Human Resources/Payroll; shared governance practices; and Chairman Garcia's response letter.

Chairman Garcia responded by saying that a number of the faculty concerns and possible resolutions were addressed in his response.

Ms. Ives reported that an independent investigation of filed grievances was finalized on August 24, 2023, and a response is forthcoming.

Regents Sanchez and Lucero recognized the faculty for their hard work and dedication to the university and stated that the Board will commit to transparency and look forward to working with the faculty.

Staff Advisory Senate Report – Mr. Robert Anaya

Mr. Robert Anaya summarized his written report (**Attachment H**).

Mr. Anaya informed the Board that SAS is meeting on August 23, 2023. He is hopeful that the request for additional leave proposal will be vetted and ready for review and approval by the Board's at the next meeting.

Mr. Anaya thanked President Minner for the opportunity to speak at the Faculty Development Days opening coffee.

Regents thanked Mr. Anaya for his report and leadership. They recognized the staff for their hard work.

Associated Students of New Mexico Highlands University Report – Mr. Kayl Rainer

Mr. Rainer exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m. He made it known that he looks forward to working with the Board.

NMHU Foundation Board Report – Mr. Vince Marchi

Mr. Marchi summarized his written report (**Attachment I**) which was provided in advance of the meeting. Mr. Marchi and VPSEM Law informed the Board that the Foundation, as part of a six-year \$10M campaign, secured a \$1M gift. The donor's wishes were to have the building named the Joe E. and Nancy Lee Montoya Students Union Building.

Secondly, we were in receipt of a 15-acre parcel of land in the burn scar. We are doing our due diligence to secure this gift. The 15-acre parcel is a donation from Dr. Linda Lagrange, NMHU Faculty Emerita. Naming wording is being finalized for this donor.

Mr. Marchi stated that both gifts fall within our gift acceptance policy. The Foundation is bringing two items to the Board for naming consideration.

VPSEM Law informed the Board the Foundation has a proposed gift agreement that is contingent upon the Board of Regents endorsing the naming with Mr. Montoya. Mr. Montoya requested that the donation not be used for capital. Both of that the two naming requests presented today fall in line with the Board of Regents Naming Policy.

Student Union Building Naming Gift – Action Item

Land Donation Naming Gift – Action Item

Regent Sanchez moved to accept the Student Union Building Naming Gift and the Land Donation Naming Gift and naming as presented. Regent Lucero seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Mr. Marchi encouraged the Board to visit NMHUFoundation.org, the Foundation's new website.

Chairman Garcia thanked President Minner for his hard work securing the gifts.

Vice President of Finance & Administration (VPFA) - Ms. Stephanie Gonzales

FY25 Research & Public Service Projects (RPSP) Request Approval – Action Item

VPFA Gonzales provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Regent Smith moved to approve the FY25 RPSP requests and to allow President Minner to prioritize the requests (**Attachment J**). Regent Sanchez seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

HR/Payroll Update

VPFA Gonzales read her written report (**Attachment K**).

Vacant Land RFP Review and Approval (Tabled on June 15, 2023, and July 25, 2023) – Action Item

Chairman Garcia called on Mr. Aaron Flure, Associate Vice President for Finance & Administration to present. Mr. Flure provided a PowerPoint presentation (**Attachment L**).

Mr. Flure read the proposed motion: The NMHU Board of Regents would approve the Land Development RFP and instruct the Administration to move forward with finalizing and soliciting the RFP if the USDA Grant is fully awarded for \$210,000. If the USDA Grant is not awarded or not awarded in full, NMHU Board of Regents does not approve of the RFP to be solicited but instead, approves for the Administration to move forward with obtaining a Title Commitment for Owner's Policy based on the most recent appraisal.

Regent Smith moved to approve the Vacant Land RFP as proposed. Regent Sanchez seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

President's Report-Dr. Sam Minner

Track Resolution – Action Item

President Minner explained that one of the university's top asks during the comprehensive campaign was for a dome track. He called on Mr. James Deisler and Ms. Shanna Halalilo, Co-Athletic Directors to present the dome track proposal (**Attachment M**). Mr. Deisler reported that an indoor track facility was proposed to President Minner as part of this campaign to address the lack of a facility for the women's track team to host home events. Our current track is not viable, even if refurbished. The dome track would provide an arena for our women's track and field team to compete, host events, and it provides some opportunity for collaboration with the university and community. It would cost approximately \$1.5M-\$2M for surface preparation and construction of the dome. Additional costs would be approximately \$.5M-\$1M for equipment and the surface on the interior of the dome.

Ms. Halalilo informed that the current track is not viable for competition and poses a safety hazard for practice. She further stated that once the dome track is adequately supported and the track team has a facility in which to practice and compete, the inner three lanes of the current track would be removed. Turf would be extended to meet the NCAA regulation soccer field size for the women's soccer team. The women's soccer team does not practice or play matches on campus.

President Minner requested approval from the Board to move forward with the dome track concept. If funding through the campaign is realized, the Board will still have full authority to make final decisions on the dome track.

Regent Sanchez moved to approve President Minner to pursue funding for the dome track proposal. Regent Rivera seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Facilities Update

President Minner reported that human remains were found at the Sininger Building project site. The university immediately surrounded and tarped the area and added appropriate signage to keep people away in an effort to demonstrate the utmost respect and dignity for the remains. Work on Sininger Hall continues.

President-Other

President Minner announced two recent events that have high potential to improve NMHU; they are that the Graduate Deans of the state were in support of our Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) proposal and the Reforestation Proposal.

Board of Regents Reports

Strategic Enrollment Management/Donor Engagement Committee – Regent Sanchez

Regent Sanchez informed that he and Regent Rivera held a Board SEM subcommittee meeting on August 24, 2023. Regent Sanchez thanked Regent Rivera, Dean Blea and her staff, VPSEM Law and her staff, VP Lepre and members of the community for participating in the meeting.

Regent Sanchez reported that the university has a limited number of dorms available, students wanted to enroll at NMHU but because there were no dorm rooms available and there are limited housing options in Las Vegas, they did not enroll. We have to figure out how we can expand the housing facilities so that we can increase our enrollment. Both VPSEM Law and Dean Blea provided reports during the subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Blea recognizes that the Dean of Students Office needs to work in partnership with the Strategic Enrollment Management Division in order to recruit and retain student partnerships to improve our residential facilities and the overall student campus experience. Her office is collaborating up with the Student Success Center, Achieving in Research, Math and Science (ARMAS), Highlands Undergraduate Enrichment (HUE), and Athletics to cross promote campus activities and events. We provide a variety of events and activities like the Silent Disco held on campus. Last Saturday we hosted comedian George Lopez, with 2,125 tickets sold after students picked-up their free tickets, at the Wilson Complex. The show was a draw to the community in addition to our students. We have collaborated the Indigo Theater where our students can go to a movie, show their student ID, and watch at no cost. We have recreation-focused activities such as ski trips, hikes, and trips to the Blue Hole in Santa Rosa. The university's student support services in place help students address their basic needs. We have instituted a food pantry, are establishing wraparound services, providing mental health services, and food security services.

Regent Sanchez called on Mr. Benito Pacheco, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, to share his experiences with neighboring faculty and how it influenced him to further his education. Mr. Pacheco mentioned that the meeting discussion focused on the "live where you work" initiative. He shared how HU faculty, his childhood neighbors, exposed him to diverse culture, train of thought, and perspectives influenced him to further his education. Regent Sanchez reported that approximately 69% of our faculty live outside of the San Miguel, Mora County area and 14% of those live outside of New Mexico.

Regent Sanchez feels that it is critical for the university to address the campus and city housing issue. He commented that NMHU would not be able to grow if students do not have dorms and faculty cannot find housing.

VPSEM Law stated that NMHU is trending towards another enrollment increase. Ms. Caroline Montoya, Assistant Director of the Student Success Center, reported that the current enrollment was 2,804. VPSEM Law shared that if there is an enrollment increase this fall that would be the fifth of the last nine semesters NMHU has an increase. NMHU would be the only New Mexico university to do so. NMHU has led our comprehensive universities, in retention, two

out of the last three academic years. VPSEM Law credits the Recruitment and Retention team for the increased enrollment and thanked them for doing an exemplary job.

VPSEM Law reiterated the need to take more of an institutional approach to our housing situation because it plays a big part in how we can attract and retain students. The university also needs to look at class scheduling, build a greater partnership with Athletics and we need to be ready for success. Ms. Montoya and her staff are using the coaching model to improve recruitment and retention.

Regent Sanchez is concerned about our Native American population on campus dropping below 10. The university currently does not have the opportunity to be considered a Native American Teaching Institution.

Regent Rivera acknowledged everyone for the hard work they have been doing recruiting and retaining students.

Facilities Update (Continued)

Ms. Sylvia Baca, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Planning, Maintenance & Management, presented the Wilson Complex Gym Floor Project proposal (**Attachment N**). She informed that it would cost \$439,569.00 to replace the gym floor.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board will be scheduling a Special Board of Regents meeting for September 6, 2023 to consider the Wilson Complex Gym Floor Replacement.

Presidential Selection Update and Discussion – Dr. Brandon Kempner

Dr. Kempner reported that RH Perry consultants were on campus on August 21 & 22, 2023. They met with the committee, the administration teams, and lead five open forums, two for students, one for faculty, one for staff, and one for community. All of the forums were well attended. Feedback gathered at the forums will be used to recruit and elevate the applicant pool.

HLC Update – Dr. Keith Tucker and Ms. April Kent

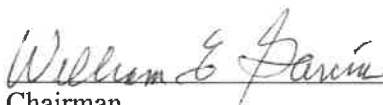
Dr. Keith Tucker, HLC Director/Accreditation Liaison Officer and Ms. April Kent, HLC Liaison Officer provided a PowerPoint presentation (**Attachment O**).

Regents Comments

There were no additional comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


Chairman

NMHU Board of Regents


Secretary/Treasurer

NMHU Board of Regents