



New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents

Special Meeting Notice (virtual meeting)

December 22, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.

(Corrected)

December 19, 2023

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents will hold a special virtual meeting on **Friday**, December 22, 2023, at 10:15 a.m. The meeting will be livestreamed via Zoom. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, copies of this notice and agenda 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 no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting. The livestreamed meeting will be accessible through the following link: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/99373471046>

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

Special Virtual Board of Regents Meeting Agenda

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

Friday, December 22, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.

1. Call to Order – Chairman William Garcia
2. Roll Call
3. Compliance with Meeting Notice Requirements
4. Approval of the December 22, 2023 Special Virtual Meeting Agenda
5. Executive Session - Pursuant to NMSA 1978 section 10-15-1 H(2) and 21-1-16.1B to discuss and take action upon the selection of a candidate for appointment to the position of University President from the following list of finalists:
 - Dr. Roxanne Gonzales-Walker, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM
 - Mr. Gerardo Ochoa, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success, Linfield University, Linfield, OR
 - Dr. Michelle Rogers, Former Vice President for Administration, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA
 - Dr. Adolfo Santos, Assistant Provost, Texas A&M University, McAllen, TX
 - Dr. Neil Woolf, Executive Vice President, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR
6. Possible Action on matters discussed in executive session– Action Item
7. Adjournment

New Mexico Highlands University
Board of Regents Special Virtual Meeting
December 22, 2023

The New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents held a special virtual meeting on December 22, 2023. The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom through the following link: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/99373471046>. The meeting notice and agenda were posted in compliance with the open meetings act on December 19, 2023.

Call to Order – Chairman Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Roll Call - Board Members Present via Zoom: Mr. William Garcia, Mr. Robert Lucero, Mr. Cody Rivera, and Ms. Danelle Smith. Board Member present via cell phone: Dr. Frank Sanchez

Administrative Personnel Present via Zoom – Dr. Sam Minner, President; Ms. Stephanie Gonzales, CPA/VP for Finance & Administration; Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, Provost/VP for Academic Affairs; Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students; and Mr. David Lepre, VP for Marketing, Communications & Government Relations

Others Present via Zoom – Mr. Robert Anaya, Staff Advisory Senate President; Dr. Brandon Kempner, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences/Chair of the Presidential Search Committee; Ms. April Kent, HLC Liaison Officer; Ms. Patricia Ives, NMHU Legal Counsel; and Ms. Carolina Martinez, Senior Executive Administrative Assistant. Numerous faculty members, staff, students, community members, and public participated in the meeting as it was live streamed.

Compliance with Open Meeting Notice Requirements

Chairman Garcia stated that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the December 22, 2023, special virtual meeting notice and agenda with the meeting date, time, and place were posted timely and in compliance with the NMHU Board of Regents Open Meetings Act Resolution.

Approval of the December 22, 2023 Agenda

Regent Lucero moved to approve the December 22, 2023, Special Virtual Meeting Agenda as presented. Regent Rivera seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried.

Executive Session - Pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 21-1-16.1B and Section 10-15-1H(2) to discuss limited personnel matters regarding the hiring of a New Mexico Highlands University President from the following list of finalists:

- Dr. Roxanne Gonzales-Walker, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM
- Mr. Gerardo Ochoa, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success, Linfield University, Linfield, OR
- Dr. Michelle Rogers, Former Vice President for Administration, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA
- Dr. Adolfo Santos, Assistant Provost, Texas A&M University, McAllen, TX
- Dr. Neil Woolf, Executive Vice President, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Regent Lucero moved to enter into executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the item listed. Regent Rivera seconded. Voting in favor: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried and the Board entered into executive session at 10:20 a.m.

Regent Lucero moved to return to open session and stated, for the record, that only the item listed under the executive session action item was discussed and no action was taken. Regent Rivera seconded. Voting in favor were: Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia. Motion carried and the Board went into open session at 10:33 a.m.

The Board thanked Dr. Kempner for an outstanding job leading the search committee effort. The search firm commented that Dr. Kempner was the best search chair they have worked with. The Board thanked the Presidential Search Committee for their devotion and all of the time and effort they put forth during the entire search process.

Possible Action and Statements as Necessary on Executive Session Discussion – Action Item

Regent Smith moved to enter into an employment agreement with Dr. Neil Woolf who was selected as the 23rd President of New Mexico Highlands University by the Board of Regents. Regent Lucero seconded. A roll call vote was taken and voting in favor of hiring Dr. Neil Woolf were Regent Lucero, Regent Rivera, Regent Sanchez, Regent Smith, and Chairman Garcia.

Dr. Neil Woolf thanked Chairman Garcia and the Board for selecting him as the next President of New Mexico Highlands University. Stating he was honored and humbled. He thanked Dr. Kempner and the search committee for their hospitality. He stated that he is looking forward to serving the university and becoming a member of the Las Vegas community.

Regent Smith welcomed Dr. Woolf to New Mexico Highlands University. She remarked that she looks forward to working with him and thinks he will take Highlands to its next level of excellence.

Regent Lucero thanked Dr. Woolf for going through the intense application process. He is excited for all the ways Dr. Woolf's experience, vision, and skill set aligns with the university's mission.

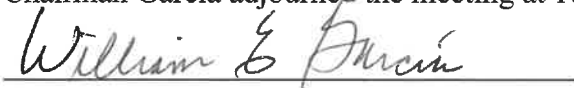
Regent Rivera indicated that he is looking forward to working with Dr. Woolf.

Regent Sanchez welcomed Dr. Woolf to Las Vegas and remarked that this is an exciting time for NMHU. He thanked Dr. Woolf for accepting the position.

Chairman Garcia stated that a start date has not yet been determined. He informed that President Minner and Dr. Woolf will work together to ensure adequate and smooth transition.

Adjournment

Chairman Garcia adjourned the meeting at 10:41 p.m.



Chairman

NMHU Board of Regents



Secretary

NMHU Board of Regents