

**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
MAY 8, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A **special meeting** of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, May 8, 2009 in the Boardroom of the Montoya Administration Building on the Espanola Campus. Regents present: Michael P. Branch, Alfred Herrera, Cecille Martinez, Feliberto Martinez, and Theresa M. Martinez. Board President Michael Branch called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Northern New Mexico College staff present: Dr. Jose Griego, President; Dr. Anthony Sena, Provost; Bernadette Chavira-Merriman, Director of Developmental Studies; and Josephine Aguilar, Assistant to the President and Recording Secretary. Others present: President Emeritus Dr. Sigfredo Maestas and Bob McGeagh, former faculty of NNMCC.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The final agenda was approved as presented.

III. PERSONNEL MATTERS

Board President Michael Branch requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters. He stated that in the future the Board will be more thorough and explicit on why it adjourns into executive session. Regent Branch stated that a portion of a recent article in the Rio Grande Sun was not accurate. The Regents will request retractions if necessary.

Regent Alfred Herrera moved that pursuant to Section 10-15-1 of the Open Meetings Act the Board adjourn into executive session to discuss limited personnel matters. **Regent Feliberto Martinez, Regent Theresa Martinez, Regent Cecille Martinez, Regent Alfred Herrera, and Regent Branch voted in the affirmative to adjourn into executive session at 9:11 a.m.**

Regent Branch stated that personnel matters and a related contract were discussed and no action was taken in executive session. **Regent Feliberto Martinez moved to enter back into open session. The open meeting reconvened at 11:21 a.m.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion: 100th Year Anniversary Historical Publication by President Emeritus Sigfredo Maestas.

Dr. Maestas stated that the 100th year anniversary historical book he is writing has grown to include a wide range of old and modern period photographs. He stated the layout of the book will be ready for publishing in the fall and any proceeds of the book will be bequeathed to NNMCC. The book is a narrative about all the people associated with the College since 1909. It covers major events as follows: 1) the years leading to the establishment of the Spanish American Normal School and the leadership of Venceslao Jaramillo, 2) the first Hispanic President of the school, Feladelfo Baca, who was primarily responsible for establishing the high school which lasted from 1918 to 1969, 3) the operation of the Technical Vocational School from 1969 to 1977,

4) the founding of the community college in 1977, and 5) the establishment of Northern New Mexico College. Not only is Dr. Maestas writing about the founders, faculty and staff but also about the students and how they have profited from this institution through its various stages. It has been a long hard struggle for the school to become what it is today. Dr. Maestas mentioned individuals like Dr. Jose Griego whose great inspiration and knowledge understood the need for a baccalaureate teacher education program in north central New Mexico, along with the knowledge of Carlos Atencio from the Northern New Mexico Network and the vision of the Board of Regents. The achievement in becoming a four-year institution is something that was necessary for 100 years. There are many reasons that this was not accomplished until 2005 and Dr. Maestas outlines this in the book in a diplomatic way. Dr. Maestas stated the last chapter in his book deals with what is taking place currently at NNMC and the current Board's vision for the school five years from now, 25 years from now, etc., and how it could contribute to this society in the future. Highlights of this discussion are as follows:

- The College currently offers 11 baccalaureate degrees with the 12th being considered for approval by the Higher Learning Commission. Twenty-two (22) students will be graduating in 2009 with their baccalaureate degrees. Of the 56 full-time faculty at NNMC, 23 have doctorate degrees. It is important to give recognition to Representative Nick L. Salazar for acquiring funding in the amount of \$3.2M over a period of three years to initiate these baccalaureate degrees.
- The College received the first levels of approval for NCATE accreditation for Teacher Education.
- Anything proposed to the Legislature for future programs will be a difficult uphill battle. The Regents will use forethought and justify the need for these programs in order to achieve all required approvals. In years past the College has been successful in dealing with opposition by some political people and others.
- The Board's goal is to achieve university status by 2015.
- Initial graduate programs being considered are Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis in Solar Energy, Teacher Education, and Business Administration.
- The College has been approved to be a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). In fact, Northern's student athletic handbook is being used at other locations nationally because it was so well done.
- The Higher Learning Commission has commended the College's involvement by faculty and staff in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), Northern's preferred method for re-accreditation as the way it conducts business—from strategic planning to execution of its day-to-day operations. NNMC received its re-accreditation until 2015-2016.
- The College is considering some strong prospects that could boast the future of El Rito. The Cabinet Secretary for the State of NM Department of Veterans' Services has communicated with the President about the possibility of creating a National Retreat Center at El Rito for treating veterans with PTSD using the College's Integrative Health Studies Program.
- New buildings in 2009-2011: Teacher Education Building, SERPA Building, Library Expansion, and Student Housing at the Espanola Campus.
- Expand and strengthen student life at Northern. The College anticipates that the student body will be younger in the future.
- Strong collaboration between UNM and New Mexico Tech in Engineering programs.
- Set up a learning center in Santa Fe. Citizenry in Santa Fe deserve public education that is affordable.
- NNMC has accomplished a great deal. It has received national recognition. There is shared governance involvement from the bottom to the top. The College continues to grow, and there is great enthusiasm among faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Maestas will recognize the following key individuals, among others, in his book: 1) Venceslao Jaramillo, as a young state chairman of the Republican Party, gets the school established in El Rito, 2) Senator Richard Martinez, in his first term of office as Senator, was mainly responsible for establishing Northern New Mexico College and gained legislative approval to authorize Northern to develop and implement a baccalaureate degree program in teacher education, 3) Governor Bill Richardson for calling it the “right thing to do” for education and rural northern New Mexico signed SB 163 on March 5, 2004, 4) and former Governor Jerry Apodoca who was primarily responsible for starting the community college in 1977.

The 100th anniversary celebration kick off event will take place in September, 2009 and activities are scheduled to continue throughout the 2009-2010 academic year.

Dr. Maestas will meet with the Board if there is a need at the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 21, 2009 in El Rito.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Regent Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Josephine Aguilar, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: May 21, 2009

/s/ _____
Michael P. Branch, President

/s/ _____
Cecille Martinez-Wechsler, Secretary-Treasurer