

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

APRIL 10, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, April 10, 2015 in the Boardroom of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola Campus. Regents present: Rosario (Chayo) Garcia, Damian L. Martinez, Kevin F. Powers and Melinda DeHerrera. Board President Rosario (Chayo) Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:30PM.

Northern New Mexico College staff present: President Nancy “Rusty” Barceló, Domingo Sanchez, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Ricky Serna, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Pedro Martinez, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Bernie Padilla, Director of Human Resources; Chris Trujillo, IT; Alex Williams, Senior Financial Analyst; Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jimi Montoya, IT Director; Stephanie Montoya, Staff Reporter/PR Specialist; Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications and Marketing; Evette Abeyta, Budget Analyst; Henrietta Trujillo, Director of Financial Services; David Lindblom, Creative Director of Canal Seis; Terry Mulert, Foundation Director and Amy Pena, Recording Secretary. Northern New Mexico College faculty present: Dr. Ivan Lopez Hurtado. Others present: Annette Rodriguez, Jake Arnold, Ardee Napolitano, Rio Grande Sun, and Ted Boetter, Student Senate Vice President.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regent Martinez moved for approval of the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Powers moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to:

- (1) Limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation, or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against an employee;**
- (2) Bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining;**
- (3) Threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the College may be a participant; and**
- (4) Real estate acquisition or disposal.**

Pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)(5)(7)&(8)

A Roll Call vote was taken and all Regents voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session (Regent DeHerrera – yes, Regent Martinez – yes, Regent Powers – yes, Regent Garcia – yes). President Barceló asked that the President’s Executive Team join the Executive Session. The Board of Regents entered into Executive Session at 1:33PM.

IV. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Powers moved the Board of Regents return from Executive Session. No action was taken and only items identified prior to the Executive Session were discussed. Roll Call Vote was taken – Regent DeHerrera – yes, Regent Powers – yes, Regent Damian Martinez – yes, Regent Garcia – yes. The Board of Regents returned from Executive Session.

IV. ACTION ITEM: FY16 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

Regent Garcia asked Regent Powers how he would like to begin. Regent Powers stated the Board of Regents heard an excellent presentation in the Work Session, in detail, regarding the challenges the College faces as an institution to balance the budget. Regent Powers stated he would like to sum up the Work Session for those who were not in attendance. There are a number of challenges. The first is the fact that the school is in a negative fund balance situation. Second, the College is going to see a reduction in the I&G appropriation from the State in the amount of \$100,000 and the College is facing expiration of \$1M in annual Grant funding. That expiration is not due to any fault of the institution or any individuals, it is the timing of the Grants. Some of the Grants may be renewable and the College may be able to replace some of that funding, but probably not in this fiscal year. It will take some time as some of them having waiting periods to get back into.

Regent Powers stated he believes the staff has done a very good job of going through, reviewing the situation, targeting cost reductions (some of the cost reduction was implemented prior to the April 10, 2015 Board Meeting and has been ongoing during the fiscal year to get the College to a point to fill the holes - 2 significant holes) and based on the presentation for the Work Session, it is apparent to Regent Powers that the College has no choice but to raise tuition and fees. It would be fiscally irresponsible to try to say the College can balance the budget without an increase in tuition and fees. Regent Powers was a real proponent of not raising tuition last year at this same time but stated in looking at the situation today, there is no way for Regent Powers to advocate for it again this year.

Regent Powers stated the Board of Regents has been given a couple of options, a 7.5% increase in tuition and fees that would generate \$263,000 additional dollars based on an enrollment level of this year, less 10%. The College is looking at a reduction of 10% enrollment. The second option is a 10% increase that would generate \$350,000. Regent Powers stated the Board of Regents is not limited to the particular increases; this was given to frame the discussion. Regent Powers stated in his mind, the focus is on how much money those various increases are going to generate and if the Board of Regents was to choose something in the neighborhood of 10%, it would generate \$350,000 extra or at 7.5% which would only generate \$263,000 extra. Regent Powers stated it is about a \$90,000 difference. Regent Powers asked if the Board of Regents was to zero in on the smaller increase that would generate \$263,000 additional dollars, what the College needs to do to make up the difference between the two numbers. Domingo Sanchez, Vice President for Finance & Administration stated, the College would impose a higher vacancy rate on existing salaries rather than on the 10% scenario, imposing only an 8.3% vacancy rate, the College would have to impose a higher vacancy rate. Regent Powers asked if translated into a staff member from the College, if it could mean the difference between one job, one position. Mr. Sanchez stated if the Board of Regents looks at, in terms of just the dollars, because of the dollar difference, it could be anywhere from two to three positions, depending on how much they pay. Mr. Sanchez stated at a minimum two and it could be as many as three positions depending on what area you are looking at. Regent Powers asked with the current budget, if the base recommendation already takes into account the reduction of some positions as well. Mr. Sanchez stated that is correct. Regent Powers stated this would be in addition to those already identified. Mr. Sanchez stated it would.

Regent Martinez stated he too believes that an increase in tuition, although, it is probably going to be unpopular, is actually needed. The Board of Regents cannot go back and say what should have been done in the previous years, the fact of the matter is the College is here right now and the Board of Regents have studied the slides (attached) and proposed budgets for a couple of days. The Administrative Staff at the College has lived with the numbers, looked at the numbers and understands what it takes to run the College and because of that, Regent Martinez believes the Board of Regents has to give the administration what it needs to get the job done and that is educating students. If the Board of Regents does not give them what they need, and Regent Martinez understanding is what they need is 10% and that still doesn't cover it, then the Board of Regents has to give the College 10% and it is just a factor of finances and where the College is today.

Regent Garcia stated if it is raised 10%, it will be \$11.45 per credit hour, multiplied by 12, the increase per semester would be \$137.40 more per student.

Regent DeHerrera asked if last year at this time when Regent Powers stated he voted down the increase, if the College was in the hole from the previous years as well. Regent Garcia stated the College has been in the hole for the last five years. Regent DeHerrera stated the College survived from that point to this point and the College is the same position. Regent Powers stated the budget was balanced last year and a number of things happened. There were additional declines in enrollment beyond what was projected at the time and the College had a couple of other unforeseen factors that came in that hurt the fund balance. The combination of those factors pushed the College back. Regent Martinez stated the College has been able to beat down that hole based on the presentation by Mr. Sanchez two weeks ago, even without the increase, using other factors.

Regent Martinez stated it is important that this increase is not going in to give raises to anybody; it is just to operate the College. It would be one thing if the Administration came in and said they need any percent raise because they believe Administration needs more money in their check. Regent Martinez stated he believes the Board of Regents would say too bad, everyone needs more money and it is not going to be put on the student's backs. This is to run the College, it is not for raises, it is to do what the College needs to do to educate the students. Regent Powers stated if he understands correctly, the positions that are being eliminated to balance the budget avoid, except for one position, the actual instructional side. It is all support and administrative expense. It will not impact negatively on the instructional side. Regent Herrera asked if it is safe to say that if we did not have any unforeseen circumstances, that we would not be in this position. Regent Powers stated the College could have been going into this coming fiscal year with a zero. Mr. Sanchez asked if he could address Regent DeHerrera's question. The College had a \$1M hole in the beginning and it made up almost all of it. What put the College in the hole was the dorm issue and revenues went down. The College was not able to pull out of the hole. That was last year when the College built the operating budget. The College did build originally a 2.5% increase into the budget at that time, but because the Board of Regents put together a group of Board Members and staff to go look at everything again and the interest was in seeing no increase, the College ended up having to cut back on positions. The year before, the College cut close to 20 positions. It was good to go through this exercise, because two Regents that were on the Committee got to see why things could and could not be done. There are so many moving parts of the budget and so many things that can complicate it for different reasons. This year, the College finished writing off all those older expenditures on capital assets. The College knew that that was still an issue that had to be dealt with.

Regent Powers stated what the Board of Regents is seeing is the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to balance the budget as more and more is cut. It gets to the point where you run into that wall that any further cuts are going to impact the ability to deliver services. Regent Martinez stated at some point the road ends and you can't kick the can any further. The closer you get to the end of the road, the harder it is going to be dig out. It is unfortunate, everyone wishes the Legislature would have given the College more funding but the College has to go with what was given and in order to provide the services, the College is going to have to sit on the horns of a predicament and make a decision. Regent Powers stated the discussion held at the Work Session about the single rate tuition, the guarantee so to speak of a set cost structure for a certain period of time as a student goes through the College. These are all positive things, Regent Powers is not sure it can all be implemented in time for this year, but Regent Powers believes all of this is a positive step and believes moving forward, the Board of Regents and the College can track better with the funding formula that the State is making so that the College will not see reduction in funding moving forward and will start to see the turnaround as the College meets the goals and objectives that the State set for higher education statewide.

Regent Garcia asked if the Board of Regents goes ahead and raises the tuition 10% and locks in the tuition and fees for those students that are already here, next year they get the 10% increase, but they are locked in for the 120 hours. President Barceló stated the College is not doing that. Regent Garcia stated it would be a flat rate. The Board of Regents is waiting on a single rate. Regent Garcia asked how this will affect the

students. Mr. Sanchez stated if the Board of Regents had an interest in guaranteeing the tuition rate, that does not, from the College's perspective, present as big of an issue as going to a single rate. All the system and analysis that the College needs to do in such a short period of time, it is going to be difficult. The College could still if the Board's direction or interest in to guarantee for 120 hours the tuition, the College can hold it. Regent Garcia stated 10% is hard and if you break it down, 10% is \$11.50 an hour. Regent Powers stated the more important number is \$137.00 a semester. Regent Garcia stated if the Board of Regents does 8%, it is \$109.00 per semester. Regent Powers stated percentages are one thing, it is really more about the dollars the College is generating and what impact that has on the budget and what would or would not have to be done on the employment side. Regent Powers stated he is trying to figure out if there is more reduction to the increase in tuition, the bigger hole the Board of Regents leaves. Regent Powers stated he does not want this to be that the Board of Regents is just going to arrive at a number and figure out how to cover it all later. Regent Powers does not believe this is the right way to approach it. The Board of Regents has to be realistic about this and if the College needs another \$350,000 to plug the hole legitimately, that is what the College needs to do. Regent Garcia asked if Regent Powers is suggesting to raise the tuition and not lock in. Regent Powers stated he is not, he likes the lock in, he stated it makes a lot of sense and students who have started school at the College a year or two years ago and the tuition has not gone up and now all of the sudden there is going to be a tuition increase, if the College could lock that rate, at least the Board of Regents knows that students who start at the College will have some level of security that their tuition is not going to go up on them in the middle of their career and they will not have to figure out how to cover it. Regent Powers stated he asked the question in the Work Session about what percentage of students actually received aid and how much of this increase might be covered by Pell Grants and other types of assistance. Regent Powers stated the answer was roughly 80%. All of a portion of this increase could be covered by some student aid for roughly as much as 80% of the students in the school. Ricky Serna, Vice President for Institutional Advancement stated that will likely be the case for any students receiving any federal awards.

Regent Garcia stated she does not want the College to be the highest College per credit hour. Regent Garcia asked if it is 10%, if the increase would be above all the other institutions. Regent Martinez stated according to the charts provided by Mr. Sanchez, assuming there are no adjustments to any one university, the College would still be under Highlands by a few dollars. Mr. Serna stated this is assuming a single rate. For an individual rate, the College would go up to \$125.00 and that would still be more affordable than Highlands which is currently \$187.00. Mr. Serna stated \$125.00 would be a 10% increase. Regent Garcia asked if the College would still be lower. Mr. Serna stated this is Highlands's tuition and fees, it is \$133.00. Regent Martinez stated undergraduate/instate fees are \$54.50 per credit hour for Highlands. Regent Martinez stated the College has to look at problems it faces and not worry about Highlands right now. Regent Martinez understands it is painful and the Board of Regents has a duty to the school to make sure that it can accomplish the mission.

Regent DeHerrera asked with the lock in rate, if it would pertain to existing students right now, the current tuition. Regent Garcia stated it would probably be after the increase. Everyone would be increased and they would be locked in from this point forward. Regent Powers stated the revenue generation number is based on all current enrollment, less 10%. Regent DeHerrera asked if it would be raised and then students would have to jump their hours. Regent Garcia stated they would have to lock in. Regent DeHerrera stated the students would want to lock in the rate because they would have to assume that eventually there would be a raise. Regent Garcia stated this is correct, because next year the Board of Regents might have to raise it, in all reality they would not want to, but depending on how many people sign up for it versus next year. If there is a decrease of 18%, it would have to be raised again.

Regent Martinez stated it is not just raising tuition, the College has to focus on retention and bringing in more students. Regent Powers asked in terms of the mandatory vacancy savings, the spread right now is between 4.26 and 3.33%, Regent Powers asked Mr. Sanchez to tell him what, if there was an increase in tuition of 8.9%, what it would mean in terms of revenue generation and what it would mean in terms of the mandatory vacancy savings percentage. Mr. Sanchez stated it would generate \$315,900 if the same ratio is used as in the slides presented. Regent Powers asked if it would be around 4%. Mr. Sanchez stated it would

be 3.4%. Regent Powers stated it is not much worse than the 10%. Mr. Sanchez stated because that 9% is much closer, and he rounded up his number.

Regent Martinez asked for Mr. Sanchez recommendation. Mr. Sanchez stated he is in a tough position also, he absolutely hears what has been raised by Regent Garcia that if you raise the tuition it could lower enrollment. Mr. Sanchez stated this is why each year a small amount is probably what needs to be done instead of what was done. The College dodged a bullet for two years, where if the College would have taken small 2.5% increases, the College would not be looking at as big a chunk. When talking about future years, needing to raise it, if needed, this is why you do it. You never get back the opportunity again for that increase. That being said, the dollars as seen on the Operating Budget would support the need for a higher increase. Mr. Sanchez stated he cringes on telling the Board of Regents this because he knows it is going to affect enrollment. The College did no increases the last two years and the enrollment did what it was going to do. The College at least has a loss of enrollment built into the Operating Budget. Mr. Martinez asked if the numbers proposed 7.5% to 10% are the numbers Mr. Sanchez would like and in a perfect world what increase Mr. Sanchez would like. Mr. Sanchez stated in a perfect world it would need to be 20%. Regent Powers stated the College would need to get rid of that mandatory vacancy number so that at 10%, the College had \$314,000 so you want something that generated \$314,000 more than the 10%. Mr. Sanchez stated that would be in a perfect world if he did not have to worry about the hit to enrollment.

Regent Garcia stated she would like to keep the single rate tuition fees possibility for next year. It would help now. Regent Powers stated he likes that idea and believes that long term, this is the way the College needs to go and he realizes there are still some questions and tweaks and he would not want to do something before it is ready for prime time and have a problem. Regent Powers stated he likes the idea of basically endorsing the concept and instructing staff to work on it have it ready to go.

Regent Garcia asked for the wishes of the Board. Regent Powers stated he would like to say no tuition increase as that would be his wish. Regent Martinez stated the Board should start with locking in the four years at 120 hours. Regent Powers agreed.

Regent Martinez moved to lock in 120 hours at a set tuition for students. Regent Powers seconded the motion with the students keeping the minimum of 12 hours per semester, spring and fall which would equate to 120 total, which would equate to five years of locked in tuition. Roll Call Vote: Regent DeHerrera - yes, Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Garcia - yes, Regent Powers - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Regent Garcia asked the Board of Regents for a motion to raise the tuition to a 10% increase which would mean \$11.45 per credit hour or \$137.00 per semester increase.

Regent Martinez moved to raise tuition 10%. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Regent DeHerrera - no, Regent Powers - no, Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Garcia - yes. Motion failed.

Regent Powers moved to raise tuition by 8.9% which would generate, based on Vice President Sanchez numbers, roughly \$315,900 additional dollars. Motion was seconded by Regent Martinez. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Regent DeHerrera - abstain, Kevin Powers - yes, Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Garcia - yes. Motion passed

Regent Garcia asked why Regent Powers did not make it 9%. Regent Powers stated it is an increase and it is almost 10%. Regent Powers believes it does not look as onerous as 10% and it keeps the mandatory savings number to a more workable number and it will save some positions, it will not save all the positions but Regent Powers is trying to strike a balance between saving positions and saving the College's position. In terms of trying to send a message to students that the Board of Regents is trying to balance things, the Board of Regents needs to generate enough revenue to run the institution properly and to not impact their education but on the other hand, given the fact that many of the students are on some sort of Grants or aid, much of this will be absorbed by that but for the ones that have to pay their own way, just trying to minimize the impact as

much as possible. Regent Garcia stated this is about \$10.15 per credit hour. Regent Powers stated he wishes the Board of Regents could do better. Regent Garcia stated it is \$120.00 per semester total per semester. Regent DeHerrera asked if this is based on the 12 credit hour. Regent Garcia stated it is anywhere from 12-18.

Regent Powers stated no one wanted to do the increase and he appreciates Regent DeHerrera's position. Regent Powers stated it last year and echoed what Regent Martinez stated, the College needs to really work on retention and on getting enrollment back up. The College has cut as much as it can cut and the College is as lean as it could possibly be. There is a lot of room for growth and there are facilities that can handle it. The College has a great staff, a great Provost, a President, some great Deans that are doing great work and that should not go unnoticed. There are a lot of reasons why this institution is an attractive place to attend College. The College needs to get that story out and hopefully it will attract some new students and retain the current ones and the Board of Regents will not have to go through this exercise again. Regent Garcia stated it hurts; she has a son who she has to go home to tell him tuition has gone up. Regent DeHerrera stated she understands why this had to happen but she is a student first.

Mr. Serna stated for a point of clarification, the Motion did not include fees. It only included tuition. Regent Martinez stated the Board of Regents must make a motion whether or not that same tuition increase applies to fees.

Regent Martinez moved to increase fees by 8.9%. Regent Powers seconded the motion and apologized he left this out, it was unintentional. Mr. Sanchez stated the number he gave included the fees. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Regent DeHerrera - no, Regent Powers - yes, Regent Garcia - no, Regent Martinez - yes. Motion failed.

Regent Garcia stated this increase is high. Regent Powers asked Mr. Sanchez what kind of dollar impact this would make. Regent DeHerrera asked if it is the same amount as the tuition. Vice President Serna stated based on the tables, combined revenue for fees at the institution is \$1.8M; the increase would mean roughly \$345,000. Mr. Sanchez gave the Board of Regents \$315,000 but he said he was using the chart. Regent Martinez asked Mr. Sanchez to clarify the numbers voted on for tuition, that was just tuition. Mr. Sanchez stated the numbers he has talked about have always been tuition and fees. Regent Martinez stated if the Board of Regents voted on it, then the Board of Regents did vote to increase fees. Regent Powers stated his intent was, as he was looking at page seven of the budget recommendations which states tuition and fees, the tuition and fees increase of 7.5% would generate \$263,000, the tuition and fees increase of 10% would generate \$351,000. Regent Powers intention was to generate roughly \$315,000 which is 9%. Mr. Sanchez stated this is where he did the math. Regent Powers stated his intention was to create an increase of 8.9% in tuition and fees and he misspoke when he made the motion. His intent was to generate the \$315,000 which would include the fees. Regent Powers stated this is important and the Board of Regents needs to make sure it has the right number. The current tuition and fee number for current semester per hour is \$114.00 and if the tuition and fees are raised by 8.9% it would be \$10.15 on top of the \$114.00. Regent Martinez stated it was done by credit hour. Regent Powers stated it includes the fee piece of it as well. Mr. Sanchez stated it is just the tuition. The tuition and fees are two different items and the fees apply to the number of credit hours so in some instances if you are only taking three hours versus 12 hours, your fees will be less. The number Mr. Serna has been throwing out in these discussions on average a student pays 46% fees, 46% of whatever the tuition amount is. That is an average. Regent Garcia stated the problem she would have in raising the 9% on fees is that would raise all the nursing fees, they already pay a lot, the Engineering, the lab work, all those others already pay a lot. They are already paying above and beyond and if you add another 9%, this is why Regent Garcia voted against it because she does not feel like the Board of Regents should be increasing their fees. The College breaks even with the nursing fees. Regent Powers concern is with an 8.9% increase in tuition alone, how much money is that going to generate additional. Mr. Sanchez stated tuition is about \$2M of that tuition and fees. Regent Powers stated then the College is far shorter of \$315,000, in fact, the College is far short of even the \$236,000 that the College would need to get to the mandatory vacancy. Regent Martinez stated he thought the number was going to cover the \$315,000 but it is not going to even cover a 7.5%. There has to be an increase over both areas.

Regent Powers moved the increase noncourse specific fees by 8.9%. Regent Martinez seconded the Motion.

Regent Powers stated he believes some of the course specific fees are more defined by actual costs. Regent Garcia stated that is correct. Regent Powers stated some of those fees are approved by the Board of Regents from time to time when they increase the cost on the other side. Regent Garcia stated the College is not making money or losing money, it is just an exchange of money. Mr. Sanchez stated he would have to run it because there are so many moving parts. Regent Martinez asked Mr. Sanchez if he could review fees and the increase it if the Board of Regents took a break. Mr. Sanchez stated it could be done. Regent Powers asked if Public Comment could be done while Mr. Sanchez runs the numbers and then the Board would come back to this subject.

The Board of Regents took a break for Mr. Sanchez to reviewed fees and increases at 3:08PM. The Board of Regents reconvened at 3:18PM.

Regent Martinez repeated his motion to increase tuition 8.9% and fees that are not specific to a major - general fees 8.9%. Motion was seconded by Regent Powers. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Regent Powers - yes, Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Garcia Yes, Regent DeHerrera - abstained.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Regent Garcia called Jake Arnold and instructed Mr. Arnold he would have two minutes to address the Board of Regents. Mr. Arnold stated he believed he had three minutes. Regent Garcia stated Mr. Arnold would have three minutes. Regent Martinez stated before Mr. Arnold would address the Board of Regents, action needed to be taken on fees.

Mr. Arnold stated he is a citizen of El Rito. He is not exactly sure what is in the budget because he doesn't think that is a document, even when it was a working document, that was necessarily available to the public but he is aware of what occurred in the discussion during the Work Session. It would appear that the Board of Regents is effectively closing down all operations in El Rito and just continuing electricity and security. Perhaps Mr. Arnold misunderstood this but this is his understanding of what is in the budget that was just passed.

Mr. Arnold referred the Board of Regents to the New Mexico Constitution, Article 12, Section 11 which establishes that the seat of the College remains El Rito, New Mexico. There is no question about it. Even the Commission on Higher Learning which has been at issue in the name change controversy still lists that at their website as the seat of the College. It would seem that there is really a charade going on. El Rito is going to cease to exist; it will be simply a site. The College will have no operations there. Mr. Arnold believes the College will have a real legal problem given the Constitution. Also, there are some issues in the statutes. Mr. Arnold referred the Board of Regents to 21.4.3 which is the purpose of the instruction, academic courses and so on. It says the course of instruction at Northern New Mexico College shall and lists a number of things. It is not just may, it is shall and Mr. Arnold doesn't think the Board of Regents has any of that in the budget. A lot of things that are mandated by that statute are not there.

Mr. Arnold suggested that if the fiasco over the name change and some other matters including the dorm project have not totally destroyed the Board of Regent's credibility with the Legislature, is that the Board of Regents seek a constitutional amendment and move the seat of the College, without question, to Espanola and then have all the assets in El Rito transferred to another one of the nine state institutions, could be New Mexico State, could be UNM and so on. Let them see if they can utilize that campus up there, can utilize those facilities or an alternative, perhaps NMSU would be happy to take on El Rito as a secondary archeological research center. It could be just summer programs, it could seasonal programs. Mr. Arnold thinks there is still absolutely a value to that campus, a value to the assets there and that would be a way to get around this charade. Mr. Arnold stated right now it is a charade and it has been going on since UNM


closed down their Santa Cruz operations and this institution which is still Northern New Mexico College or Northern New Mexico State School, depending on which way you want to use it, official name or common convenience name took over the VoTech operation some years ago. At that time of course there was the famous story of in the middle of the night the trucks coming up and taking all the office furniture and moving all the staff down to Espanola. There are a lot of historical reasons to that but Mr. Arnold stated in the two minutes he has he did not want to try to get into it.

Mr. Arnold stated it has been a charade for some time. Mr. Arnold stated he was one of the four co-chairs of the El Rito Campus Committee which was established by the Board of Regents some years ago. No at the table was on the Board of Regents or employed by the College but they came up with a number of plans of how the El Rito Campus could be utilized, how it could be revitalized and it has never come to fruition. It is an asset that should not just be left there with only electricity and security. Mr. Arnold believes the long ago agreement about the State Park is the least of the Board of Regents worries. A document about this could not be found in the State Archives showing the transfer about the park. That is not the real issue. The real issue is what is going to happen to that asset. Right now the Board of Regents is simply abandoning it and Mr. Arnold believes it is extremely unfortunate but since this is the handwriting on the wall, let's go ahead and get a Constitutional Amendment. Sever El Rito and take those assets and put them to some other good use.

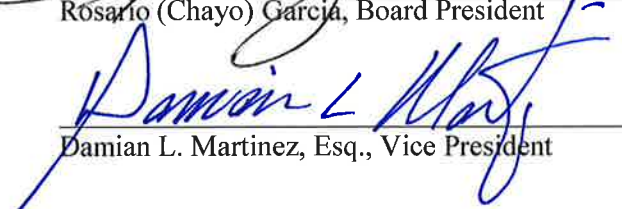
VII. ADJOURNMENT

Regent Powers moved to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. The Board of Regents Meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.

APPROVED:



Rosario (Chayo) Garcia, Board President



Damian L. Martinez, Esq., Vice President