

**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE**

**SPECIAL BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

**DECEMBER 21, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2015 in the Boardroom of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola Campus. Regents present: Rosario (Chayo) Garcia, Damian L. Martinez, Esq., Kevin F. Powers and Melinda DeHerrera. Board President Rosario (Chayo) Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m.

Northern New Mexico College staff present: Domingo Sanchez, Interim President; Chris Trujillo, IT; Amy Pena, Recording Secretary; David Lindblom, Creative Director of Canal Seis; and Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications and Marketing. Faculty Present: David Barton. Others present: Dr. Hugh Prather, Presidential Search Consultant (Via Skype); Felipe Martinez; Juan Garcia; Tim Crone; Annette Rodriguez; Ariel Carmona, Rio Grande Sun; Jake Arnold; John Ussery; and Henry Ochoa.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**III. COMMENTS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

Regent Garcia stated there are two people present to address the Board of Regents, Felipe Martinez and Juan Garcia.

Juan Garcia, Vice Chair of the Sociedad Venceslao Jaramillo stated Venceslao Jaramillo's home and legacy is the El Rito Campus. Mr. Jaramillo was a merchant, landowner, stockman, New Mexico Representative, New Mexico Senator, Rio Arriba County official and the person who donated the property for the El Rito Campus. Mr. Garcia stated through his honor and appreciation for his vision and the educational efforts that La Sociedad Venceslao Jaramillo was founded as an advocacy organization championing the needs of our communities. La Sociedad's membership is made up of livestock man, merchants, businessmen, educators, fireman, loggers, medical personnel, forest service technicians, water systems, acequias, college graduates, high school graduates, alumni, etc. The membership comes from throughout the state and adjoining states.

Mr. Garcia stated the message today is very short and simple, we stand ready and able to help our College prosper and are willing to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Regents in the selection process of a new President. Regent Garcia thanked Mr. Garcia for his comments.

Felipe Martinez, resident of El Rito stated like Juan Garcia, Jake Arnold and others that have come to the Board of Regents Meeting, they are members of the Sociedad Venceslao Jaramillo. Mr. Martinez stated he appreciates the Board of Regents having them and have come in the spirit of good will. Mr. Martinez read his prepared statement as follows:

My name is Maximiliano Felipe Martinez. I am a rancher living in El Rito and I also work part-time as a school bus driver for the Mesa Vista Schools. I am formerly a two-term Rio Arriba County Commissioner serving El Rito and other communities in the northern part of the county. My county commission district

geographically covers 90% of the county. I am the chair of the El Rito Citizens' Caucus and was a member of the now-defunct El Rito Campus Committee, which operated under the authority of Northern's Board of Regents in 2009-2011. I am an official of our regional *acequia* in El Rito and a member of one of our local stockmen's associations.

Many of my neighbors and constituents are currently or formerly students or employees of NNMC. I am directly related to the school's founder, Venceslao Jaramillo, and his wife, Cleofas Martinez Jaramillo. I am one of the founding members of la **Sociedad Venceslao Jaramillo**.

My father attended what is now NNMC back in the days when the institution was a normal school. He received an eighth-grade education but was then able to go on and teach in elementary schools of the North based on his training at the Spanish-American Normal School in El Rito.

My family has been in these parts since Spanish Colonial Times.

I speak to you as someone who knows a bit about Northern's history and the educational needs of the North.

Please be reminded that El Rito is the legal seat of the college according to the state constitution.

In establishing the qualifications criteria for a new president—and I assume that any applicant for the job needs to be aware of what goals you will be mandating for the new president—please consider the following goals as elements of the “call” for qualified applicants.

1. That the new president work diligently to resurrect the campus in El Rito as a core facility of the college;
2. That the new president work closely with local high schools to operate meaningful dual-credit programs—as required by state law. As one example of Northern's failure in this area, I draw your attention to the fact that the Mesa Vista High School must bus its dual-credit students all the way to Taos to attend those classes at a UNM facility. I drive those students to UNM-Taos every other Friday.

The Northern administration, in place until the recent departures of top administrators, has refused to offer dual-credit courses to Mesa Vista students or to work with the Mesa Vista School Board on proposals regarding the use of Northern's home campus in El Rito. Mr. Martinez stated every other Friday he personally drives a busload of kids from Mesa Vista to UNM Taos. Mr. Martinez knows this first hand.

3. That the new president develop a program to restore Northern's historic mission as a community college and to offer a curriculum that truly serves the vocational and other educational needs of community residents. You could use, as a benchmark for fulfillment of this goal, that point in time some 10 years ago when Northern dropped the “community” from its name and began the process of not only destroying the campus and programs in El Rito—then vital elements of the school—as well as eliminating those programs that did serve the needs of vocational and continuing-education students who were not necessarily intending yet to participate in advanced degree programs.

When I drive in here today I noticed that over at the Fine Arts Building, where the large sign reading “Northern New Mexico College” is on the wall, the “Community” that was once part of that sign, lies in the dirt at the bottom of the wall.

4. That the new president explore the possibility of Northern being absorbed into another state institution of higher learning—New Mexico State University for example—that would be capable of using its resources

and expertise to salvage the remnants of this college. NMSU, as a reminder, already operates two programs in Rio Arriba and has expertise in operating a community college—as a subsidiary entity—in Dona Ana County.

Mr. Martinez stated they are attending the Board of Regents meeting as Mr. Garcia stated to offer whatever help it is they can to help the Board of Regents in the process and they would like to participate. Regent Garcia asked Mr. Martinez to email her his list. Mr. Martinez stated he would do so.

Regent Garcia called Mr. Jake Arnold and informed him he would have three minutes to address the Board of Regents. Mr. Arnold stated he was the Co-Chair of the El Rito Campus Committee that operated for three years some years ago. Mr. Arnold is also with El Rito Citizens Caucus, has worked as a political consultant and private investigator, law enforcement agencies and law firms in the area. Mr. Arnold stated he does have some expertise in that. Mr. Arnold stated he is not seeking to be a member of any Presidential Search Committee or group. Mr. Arnold stated there are some people from their organization - John Ussery, Henry Ochoa, Tim Crone and Annette Rodriguez are also in attendance. Mr. Arnold suggested to the Board of Regents as Dr. Prather pointed out in his appearance before the Board of Regents the need for transparency and Mr. Arnold would hope that whatever people that are chosen to participate in the process be with the proposed teams, advisory teams or search committee, whichever the Board of Regents happens to go with, that those people be named and identified by resolution in open meeting of the Board of Regents. Mr. Arnold stated that he noticed in the November 3, 2016 meeting minutes, a Search Committee was actually established with two chairs, members of the Board of Regents and Mr. Arnold stated that he is hopeful that there can be some resolution about any disparity between a search committee with two members on it or the advisory teams that Dr. Prather has.

Regent Martinez stated regarding the Search Committee of two members of the board, the purpose of that was to assist in finding somebody to set up the search. Mr. Arnold stated whatever; he was just going back to the minutes. Regent Martinez stated there might have been some confusion but that is what it is for. It was not to have a two-person search committee. Mr. Arnold stated he was impressed by Dr. Prather's proposal and also by his document that he has submitted to the Board of Regents. Mr. Arnold stated he noticed under the community team there are an undetermined number of members. Mr. Arnold suggested that there could be a number of people on that community team. Mr. Arnold stated he believes there are seven and seven and seven in the internal teams from the College. Mr. Arnold also suggested maybe it is time to think out of the box a little bit and somebody that has a specific academic background is not necessarily somebody who should be President. Mr. Arnold stated the Board of Regents might look elsewhere, David Boren, Former Governor and Senator of Oklahoma is President of the University of Oklahoma, Dwight D. Eisenhower, General was President of Columbia University as an example. Mr. Arnold stated the Board of Regents might want to look towards the legal community especially given, Mr. Arnold knows the College has adequate legal counsel but all the pending lawsuits, six in question, to someone who understands that, or perhaps a CPA who would also have a qualification in financial forensics and be a certified examiner, someone who has had that kind of experience. Mr. Arnold stated the Board of Regents might also want to look at senior top administrators in State Government; people that have had experience really administering well governmental entities, the Board of Regents might also want to take a look at some of the senior qualified elected officials. Perhaps be proactive in inviting them to submit applications from the area here, members of the legislature, also of the State Public Regulation Commission one of whom is a graduate of this College and is very active. Mr. Arnold also stated in advertising outside of the academic journals, Mr. Arnold would also hope that the Board of Regents would get that advertising in perhaps in several daily second class permit newspapers, three for sure, Las Cruces, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Mr. Arnold also stated the Board of Regents might want to look at those journals which reach state employees.

Mr. Arnold stated those members of the Board of Regents who have the Governors ear; he would hope they would implore her to fill the vacancy of the Board of Regents before the Board of Regents gets too far down the process. It is beneficial for the Board of Regents and the community to have a full compliment of five members. Regent Garcia stated they are on the same page; they have wanted it for a while. Regent Garcia stated the Board of Regents needs help and they know that. Regent Garcia thanked Mr. Arnold.

Mr. Arnold stated this is what he wanted to say and again he is not looking to be a member of any of the Presidential Search Committees. Regent Garcia stated it an advisory committee. Mr. Arnold stated there are a number of people from El Rito and surrounding communities. Regent Garcia stated she spoke with Mr. Andy Lopez and he said yes. Mr. Arnold stated Andy Lopez is a member of their group. Mr. Arnold stated there are also a number of other qualified people and people in the room that might also be a part of that community team which does has an indefinite number of members. Mr. Arnold thanked the Board of Regents for their time.

#### **IV. PRATHER CONSULTING PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION**

Regent Garcia introduced Dr. Prather for the consulting plan development and adoption. Mr. Prather presented the Presidential Search Plan (attached). Dr. Prather stated he heard the comment made and he can't say anything except spot on. These are some very helpful observations and in fact since the last meeting and since Dr. Prather submitted the draft for the Board of Regents review another thought has occurred to him that he will advance because there was not a determinate number set when developing the concept of the Community Advisory Team selected by the Board of Regents. Dr. Prather stated he is particularly interested in trying to make sure that the media that is scrutinizing this process so carefully and so thoughtfully gets a change to clearly understand the process the Board of Regents is trying to use. Dr. Prather stated one of his bullets on the presentation a week and a half ago was transparency and Dr. Prather does not want this to be viewed in any way as a prepackaged process. If everyone continues to work together collaboratively and as the process works along, high prospects, very strong prospects it will end up with exactly the right person that we will be looking for in this President.

Dr. Prather stated he has given the Board of Regents a Draft Proposal (attached) that has been revised one time (Revision 1). Dr. Prather stated the first point would be to consider the idea; there are right now eight people on the list on the Community Advisory Team, the draft that is being provided for the Board of Regents review and approval. Regent Garcia stated there are seven. Dr. Prather stated given the fact that a functional group can be larger than seven for the purposes of the community perspectives. Dr. Prather stated one thought he would like to layout and it may be the timing is not that good given the Holiday, the Board of Regents could, Dr. Prather would be happy to draft for the President to review and then authorize for submission, a letter from the President to the community inviting applications for four additional positions. Regent Garcia stated no. Dr. Prather stated a cutoff could be given for the mid-first week of January and this would give the Board of Regents an opportunity to see what kinds of letters of interest come in from arenas of the area from aspects from the community that have not been identified here. Dr. Prather stated it is important to him that those serve as the Board of Regents advisory teams are ultimately approved by the Board of Regents and the Board of Regents can review the list of applicants and if the Board of Regents wishes to add four those it has.

Regent Martinez asked if the Board of Regents could agree on two more people today because there is a group of individuals in attendance who want to be involved in the Advisory Committee and there are people who took time out of their day because they think it is important to come on a day that school is closed to be here. Dr. Prather stated this would serve the same purpose that he outlined for the Board of Regents in terms of that and if the Board of Regents would like to invite people in attendance today who have demonstrated the interest in this process, then we could maintain the same time table currently

exists. If there are people that are willing to step up today. Regent Garcia stated she would like to have this done today, this way it is done and the Board of Regents is ready to roll. Regent Martinez asked if the Board of Regents could take a short recess and there are at least six people in attendance who could discuss among themselves and they could chose who they think best fit among the group to be part of the Advisory Committee. Regent Garcia stated she did receive an email from the Acequia Association from Chimayo also; one could be picked from here and the gentleman who emailed. Dr. Prather stated there is interest from people who are present and people who have taken the time to write letters of interest. Regent Martinez asked if the Board of Regents could get two from the audience today and the individual from the Acequia Association. Dr. Prather stated even number of committees if fine and if the Board of Regents would like to ask the group to meet, it would be fine. Regent Garcia stated it would then be closed off today, as she would like to get this going. Dr. Prather stated this would be fine.

Mr. Arnold stated the draft Proposal that Amy provided did not have names of people for the community. Regent Garcia stated the Board of Regents was still tweaking this until today. Mr. Arnold stated the group would be glad to go outside to discuss this. Regent Martinez stated Mr. Arnold could take the copy of the Community list. Dr. Prather stated while they are doing this, he could address any other concerns about the process itself. Regent Garcia asked Regent Martinez to give Mr. Arnold only the Community list at this time. Dr. Prather stated this is a wonderful suggestion and prays that this makes it go quickly and get a wrap on it this evening. Regent Garcia stated this is why the meeting is today to get it done. Regent DeHerrera stated this was a great call by Dr. Prather.

Dr. Prather stated he question is while they are working at identifying the two individuals, there will be also be an individual from Chimayo and then the question becomes if there are any issues or concerns that the Board of Regents have in the document itself. That would then require no changes of anything in the document. Regent DeHerrera asked regarding the advertising process, if the newspaper with statewide circulation, is there a particular, or is it as it comes. Regent Martinez stated it is probably going to be Albuquerque Journal, New Mexican and Las Cruces Sun News. Dr. Prather stated Las Cruces Sun News, Albuquerque Journal and Santa Fe New Mexican. Dr. Prather will make this thorough.

Regent Garcia stated the additions to the Community Advisory Team, Felipe Martinez and Juan Garcia. Regent Garcia asked for contact information. Mr. Arnold stated he would get the contact information.

Dr. Prather stated there is a minor typographical change on 3.3 of the document that now reads "in newspapers with statewide circulations." Dr. Prather asked if there is are any points or process steps that are of question or concern. Regent Garcia stated all the dates were changed to reflect the Board of Regents on Thursdays. Dr. Prather stated everything has been addressed. Everything reflects regular Regent meetings on Thursdays. Dr. Prather pointed out the modification for 5.0 is if there needs to be an adjustment it can be done. It won't be changed otherwise. Dr. Prather recommended approval of the plan as revised and asked the Board of Regents to approve the names of the four advisory teams as constituted with the evenings work. This would be two different action items.

**Regent Powers stated based upon the recommendations of the Board of Regents Search Consultant, he moved to approve the First Revision Plan with one typo change that was indicated. Motion passed unanimously.**

Regent DeHerrera asked who Felipe Martinez and Juan Garcia represent. Regent Garcia stated Felipe Martinez used to be a County Commissioner and Mr. Garcia is also from El Rito. Regent Garcia stated there are three members from El Rito. Regent DeHerrera stated partial union is also represented as well and

asked if this is going to be a concern that the Board of Regents will have. Regent Garcia stated Tim Crone is not on there. Regent DeHerrera asked if this was a concern. Regent Garcia stated it is not.

Dr. Prather stated the names of the committees have not been released because the names had come from the three constituencies; internal constituencies and the students were worked with to identify theirs. They have a student leadership who represent the student advisory team, the faculty provided their own list from a November memo that they had already anticipated this and the administrative and staff team was developed, very nicely, with President Sanchez' help and Amy Pena's support to identify people who had volunteered in an earlier survey that was done of the faculty and staff. These are three very representative groups right now that the Regents have had no direct role in selecting. The Board of Regents has allowed the staff, faculty and students to pick the people they would like to have participated in this process. With this, Dr. Prather requested Board of Regents approval of this list and it will constitute the four advisory teams in preparation for a meeting on the 14th.

Regent DeHerrera asked if there is someone from the Acequia Association as well. Regent Garcia stated Mr. Trujillo and she would get that information for the committee list. Regent Garcia will answer them and tell them. Regent Powers stated the Board of Regents has the list it has so far plus the two just added plus the one from the Acequia Association.

**Regent Powers moved to approve the list for the Administrative and Staff Team, the Faculty Team, the Student Team and the Community Team as the Board of Regents has in front of them. It will be provided to the public the list of names without contact information for immediate release. Motion passed.**

Dr. Prather stated this concludes his work with the Board of Regents for this meeting.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Regent Garcia stated the Board of Regents could wait on Executive Session. The Board does not have legal and wanted to talk about the contract on the next President. This way when it goes to advertisement and start, the Board of Regents has it at least started on what the Board of Regents wants to do. Regent Powers stated the Board of Regents should go in and at least get some bullets and maybe get a running start on it.

Regent Martinez moved to enter into Executive moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to provisions of NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(2)(5)(7) & (8). Roll call vote was taken. Regent Martinez - yes, Regent Powers - yes, Regent DeHerrera - yes, Regent Garcia - yes. The Board of Regents entered into Executive Session. The Board of Regents entered into Executive Session at 3:06p.m.

#### **VI. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Regent Garcia moved that the Board return from Executive Session. A Roll Call vote was taken – Regent DeHerrera – yes, Regent Powers – yes, Regent Martinez – yes, Regent Garcia – yes. The Board of Regents returned from Executive Session at 4:04PM.


Regent Martinez stated in closed session the Board of Regents discussed and agreed to provide Mr. Domingo Sanchez a stipend of \$1,666.67 per month. This stipend is due to Mr. Sanchez being appointed as interim President and he has taken on additional responsibility above those already tasked to him as Vice President of Finance & Administration. The stipend will continue until such time that a new President is hired. Regent Garcia asked for a vote. Regent Garcia - yes, Regent DeHerrera - yes, Regent Powers - yes, Regent Martinez - yes.

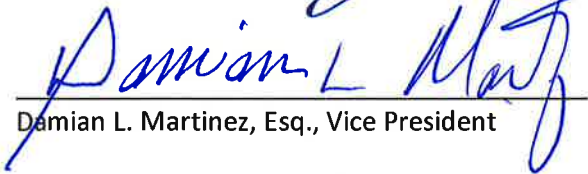


VII. ADJOURNMENT

Regent Powers moved to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. The Board of Regents Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

APPROVED:

  
Rosario (Chayo) Garcia, Board President

  
Damian L. Martinez, Esq., Vice President