

**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Via Zoom in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Espanola Campus. Regents Present: Michael A. Martin (Via Conference Call), Erica Velarde (Via Zoom), Porter Swentzell (Via Zoom), Damian Martinez (Via Zoom). Regent Tomas Rodriguez was not in attendance. Regent Martinez suggested a Roll Call be taken to ensure everyone's microphones are working. President Bailey stated this would be done at the beginning of the meeting. Board President Bailey called the meeting to order at 9:05AM and Roll Call was taken.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Richard J. Bailey, Jr., Ph.D.; Ricky Bejarano, Vice President for Finance & Administration (Via Zoom); Vince Lithgow, Comptroller, Ivan Lopez Hurtado, Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs (Via Zoom); Vince Lithgow, Comptroller; Evette Abeyta, Budget Director; Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs (Via Zoom); John Ussery, El Rito Campus Director (Via Zoom), Don Apparius, Assistant Provost (Via zoom, Sandy Krolick, Director, Communications and Marketing (Via Zoom); David Lindblom, Assistant Professor, FDMA/Creative Director of Canal Seis(Via Zoom); Carmella Sanchez (Via Zoom); Jennifer Garcia (was in and out of meeting and did not respond to Roll Call); Stephanie Montoya, Staff Writer/Reporter (Via Zoom); Carmella Sanchez, Director, Institutional Research; and Amy Pena, Executive Office Director.

Faculty Present: Joan Hodge, Nursing & Health Sciences, Ellen Trabka, Nursing & Health Sciences.

Others Present: Rio Grande Sun Reporter.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Agenda.

Regent Martinez moved to approve the Agenda. Regent Velarde – Second. A Roll Call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Martinez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ACADEMIC CALENDAR TEMPORARY DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

President Bailey asked President Martin to make a quick comment about this item on the Agenda. President Bailey stated he would like to thank Regent Martinez as they discussed this earlier. This is not unlike a war powers resolution, this is basically a temporary delegation of authority over the academic calendar to the President for the purpose of responding to the pandemic crisis. The first order of business with this approval would be to extend spring break until Sunday, April 5th and classes resuming on April 6. This aligns the College up with the public education partners so that students, faculty and staff have public school children at home now, are able to care for them. It also lines us up nicely for upward bound, dual credit and every other way the College is partnering with public education. It also gives faculty and staff the time to make the transition to an online or virtual classroom format. The College did get approval from Higher Learning

Commission to move into online format. President Bailey would like to give credit to Dr. Lopez and others who prepared this document to HLC, they gave the College this authority. This authority would be until July 31, 2020. If extended, HLC would need to give an additional extension from HLC. Regent Velarde asked the date - June 1st or July 1st. President Bailey stated July 31, 2020. HLC has given the College approval to go online through July 31st. Anything beyond that, the College would need an HLC extension. The temporary delegation to the President for the Academic Calendar would be until January of 2021. The President and Administration still have the requirement to notify the Board of Regents any academic calendar changes. The authority would then revert back to the Board of Regents. President Bailey opened it up to questions. Regent Martinez asked if it allows President Bailey to move graduation, pinning ceremonies, etc., put those online like the Air Force did for their basic graduation. Will this allow enough room for this. President Bailey stated it does. Currently, the College had scheduled Commencement for May 16th and this was graduation week so the Nurses Pinning Ceremony, High School Equivalency, etc. was going to be that week. This would allow the President to maneuver and modify this schedule. With the Board of Regents approval, the first order of business would be to extend spring break to April 5. This would push the semester until the end of May. That means Commencement and everything else would have to move. This was discussed with the unions and the union would not oppose that move. They understand this is a crisis situation and have been behind the College every step of the way.

Regent Martinez stated he knows President Bailey commented about extended the semester and now a days many colleges have mini-semesters and if there is any way to convert any of these classes to this format so we would not necessarily have to extend the semester. President Bailey stated the short answer is no. President Bailey asked if classes could make this up, could they start to meet more often in order not to extend the semester. The challenge is, if individual classes start to do this there is a potential to interfere with regular classes. A lot of the classes will be a Zoom format and they will meet at the regularly scheduled time with a virtual classroom presence. If schedules are changed, they would interfere with other scheduled classes. Dr. Lopez stated President Bailey is correct. Where the College may consider shorter classes is for the summer schedule. By pushing two weeks, the spring semester, the College may need to do something similar with the summer which is already a short-term schedule. This may get even shorter. For the summer there may be a mini-summer. This would give more time to plan the schedule better and the faculty would be trained with the technologies. Right now, to know the magnitude of this effort, we are moving to the online environment, 295 courses to the online format. The summer there is less classes so they may see that for the summer and hopefully this crisis does not extend to the fall. If this is the case, this may be the case, what Regent Martinez is suggesting that might be the case, we go with mini-semesters. The College was trying to do this. One of the Complete College America strategies is to have many more courses in an eight-week schedule. We were already planning implementing this but not for the spring, it would be way more disruptive than what we are experiencing.

Regent Martinez asked if there is any way in the current setup that we can maintain the semester ending the semester when it is going to end. The public schools are not extending their school years. Is there any way to end the semester when it is supposed to end? President Bailey stated he thinks it is difficult to be honest, he doesn't know. The College looked at it and is there a way to make up the two weeks by jamming things. With 295 courses and there are courses because of common course numbering and everything else done with the state, we can't cut parts of the course and still call it complete. Right now, it looks like this is going to extend the academic calendar for two weeks and we are going to have to roll with it. There may be case by case exceptions. He does not want to pledge a move everything and still finish by May 16th, it is hard to see. Regent Martinez asked if any of our friends at HED are looking into that issue. Regent Swentzell stated on another

viewpoint of this issue, within the catalog there is a certain number of contact hours that must be maintained. If you don't meet those contact hours, you can't say you gave a student credit hours or a lab, also for the out of class hours that must be fulfilled. IAIA is dealing with the same thing. A lot of it comes down to the contact hours, making sure there are enough so it counts towards a 3-credit class while not interfering with another class. This is why it is different from a K-12 system in terms of contact hours with a 3-credit class.

Regent Martinez thanked Regent Swentzell it does explain it absent some intervention from HLC or one of the people who certify the various colleges. We are probably stuck with a two-week longer semester. President Bailey stated and he told this to Regent Martinez, Northern's staff and faculty have been nothing short of spectacular and the way the chairs, faculty, IT, Distance Ed, Business Office, every person at this school has bent over backwards and gone beyond the call of duty to make this work. We do not have all the answers yet and handling this thing as it happens in real time. We are ahead of the game in talking to other institutions and we got started on this earlier and credit to people who got together earlier to form a task force to deal with this. With all the brainstorming done, there are still going to be things that need to be addressed in the moment and we will be ready for this. Faculty and Staff have been remarkable as we have endured this crisis response so far.

Regent Martin asked if there were any other questions and entertained a motion to approve.

Regent Swentzell Moved to approve the Resolution. Second - Regent Martinez. A Roll Call Vote was taken. Board President Martin - yes, Regent Velarde - yes, Regent Swentzell - yes, Regent Martinez - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Regent Martinez thanked President Bailey and everybody at the College for the hard work they have done. They never cease to amaze him.

President Bailey thanked the Board of Regents and stated we will be doing the same format for the Monday regularly scheduled Board of Regents Meeting. The College will give the Board of Regents an updated crisis response at that time.

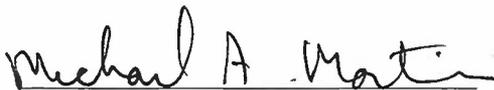
IV. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Regent Velarde moved to adjourn. Second - Regent Swentzell. A Roll Call Vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Martinez – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 9:22AM.

APPROVED:



Michael A. Martin, Board President

Erica Velarde, Vice President

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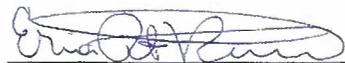
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