

*Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the December 4-5, 2024, meeting.*

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its  
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Western Nevada College  
Aspen Building, Carson Nugget Hall  
2201 West College Parkway, Carson City  
Thursday, September 5, 2024

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:  
System Administration, Las Vegas  
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room  
and  
Great Basin College, Elko  
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Chair  
Ms. Laura E. Perkins, Vice Chair  
Ms. Heather Brown  
Dr. Michele Cruz-Crawford  
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Other Regents Present: Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Board Chair  
Mrs. Susan Brager

Others Present: Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor  
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents  
Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Ms. Terina Caserto, Director of Policy  
Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic &  
Student Affairs  
Ms. Carrie L. Parker, Deputy General Counsel  
Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director of Government Relations  
Dr. William Kibler, Acting CSN President  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President  
Dr. Amber Donnelly, Interim GBC President  
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, NSU President  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President  
Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President

Faculty senate chairs in attendance: Ms. Valerie Conner, CSN; Mr. David Sexton, GBC; Dr. David Cooper, NSU; and Dr. Deborah Arteaga, UNLV. Student body presidents in attendance: Ms. Janeth Vences-Balvas, CSN; Ms. Lisha Allison, TMCC; Mr. Allister Dias, UNLV-CSUN; Ms. Teresa Marie, UNLV-GPSA; Ms. Tania Akter, UNR-GSA; and Ms. Catalina Wilson, WNC.

Chair Carol Del Carlo called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

2. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the following consent items:
  - (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2024, meeting. *(Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office)*
  - (2b.) Approved-UNR – Program Elimination, M.A. Economics – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics due to low enrollment. UNR will retain the Master of Science (M.S.) in Economics and phase out the M.A. in Economics. Any remaining students in the M.A. program will be shifted to the M.S. program. *(Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office)*
  - (2c.) Approved-WNC – Program Elimination, A.A.S. Technology, Automated Systems – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Technology, Automated Systems, which has been replaced by the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Mechatronics and Electronics Technology. Students who declared the eliminated degree will be moved to the A.A.S. Mechatronics and Electronics Technology, where all coursework will be applicable. *(Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office)*
  - (2d.) Approved-WNC – Program Elimination, A.A.S. Technology, Mechatronics – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Technology, Mechatronics, which has been replaced by the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Mechatronics and Electronics Technology. Students who declared the eliminated degree will be moved to the A.A.S. Mechatronics and Electronics Technology. *(Ref. ARSA-2d on file in the Board Office)*
  - (2e.) Approved-WNC – Program Elimination, A.A.S. Paramedicine – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Paramedicine due to resigned faculty, transitioned students, and discussions with the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (COAEMSP) on regional demand for continuation of the program. WNC has withdrawn its existing letter of review with COAEMSP, which requires that the program will not be offered for a minimum of three years. There is currently no plan to reinstate the program upon expiration of the waiting period. *(Ref. ARSA-2e on file in the Board Office)*

2. Approved-Consent Items – (continued)

Vice Chair Perkins moved approval of the consent items. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-UNLV – Program Change, Interdisciplinary Studies – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Interdisciplinary Studies, a name and structural change of various B.A. majors within the Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies. The B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies consolidates, under one umbrella with separate tracks for underlying majors, the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) majors of African American and African Diaspora Studies; Asian and Asian American Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Latinx and Latin American Studies; Multidisciplinary Studies; and Social Science Studies. The current individual degrees would then be eliminated. This consolidation will eliminate low-yield program concerns while strengthening the existing majors in a sense of solidarity, purpose and outcomes. (Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Executive Vice President and Provost, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Perkins asked how many students would be affected. Dr. Heavey answered there are currently 299 majors in the department and there is a teach-out plan which provides those students the option to finish the degree they are studying under up through 2028, or they can change to the new Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

Regent Brown stated that she believes the Board of Regents needs a workforce gap analysis conducted as it would assist the Regents with making better strategic decisions when changes such as this are brought to the Board for consideration. Dr. Heavey agreed and mentioned the upcoming UNLV items will cover workforce elements of the proposed programs. The current proposal is a no-cost issue that will not lead to any staffing changes or consume any additional resources. Additionally, Dr. Heavey said that the multidisciplinary studies program is a unique program that students use to combine several different disciplines and tailor their skills for particular workforce areas.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Interdisciplinary Studies, a name and structural change of various B.A. majors within the UNLV Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried.

4. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, B.S. Cybersecurity – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Cybersecurity. The B.S. Cybersecurity is an interdisciplinary degree offered jointly by the Lee Business School and the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. This program would train students to enter into the cybersecurity field as well as serve as a feeder program for the recently launched M.S. Cybersecurity program. This program meets the local, state, regional and national demand for individuals to be trained in the knowledge of computers, networks, and risk and security management. *(Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown expressed her support and excitement for the program, especially considering the infrastructure that the Federal Government has been investing in. Dr. Heavey added that UNLV has secured the designation as a “National Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Training.”

Chair Del Carlo and Dr. Heavey discussed how the program is fully articulated with CSN’s Associate Degree in Computer Science and Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity.

Vice Chair Perkins moved approval of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Cybersecurity at UNLV. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, B.A. Engineering Technology – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Engineering Technology. The program is designed to serve as an alternative pathway for students who may not meet the conventional admission requirements for UNLV’s Bachelor of Science program in Engineering and Computer Science. The program is dedicated to delivering accessible and applied engineering education. The B.A. in Engineering Technology provides a comprehensive skill set and knowledge base to ensure readiness for careers in the field of engineering technology. *(Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Dr. Heavey confirmed for Vice Chair Perkins that the Associate of Science degree at the community college level will feed well into the proposed program.

Regent Brown commended Dean Rama Venkat on his leadership and work in the Engineering Department at UNLV. Dr. Venkat thanked the Board for its support.

Board Chair Carvalho and Dr. Venkat discussed the focus of the degree in terms of drawing in interested students and how there are different pathways to gainful employment within engineering without having to take the traditional track to earn an engineering degree, and similar degrees offered at CSN.

5. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, B.A. Engineering Technology – (continued)

Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, UNR Executive Vice President and Provost, confirmed for Chair Del Carlo there is not a similar degree at UNR at this time; however, discussions to create a program have been taking place.

Vice Chair Perkins moved approval of a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Engineering Technology at UNLV. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried.

6. Approved-UNR – Organizational Unit Proposal, Center for Constitutional Law –  
The Committee recommended approval of establishing a Center for Constitutional Law at UNR. The Center will strengthen and promote research into Constitutional Law, the law more broadly, and foundational social and political thought throughout UNR’s departments, schools and centers. Additionally, the Center will serve the entire state of Nevada through research, instruction, and community outreach. (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*)

Dr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown asked why the proposal is being presented as a center and not as a degree program. Dr. Thompson answered that an academic, research or education center to UNR is a way of identity for interdisciplinary programs across departments, along with attracting graduate students and visibility for the faculty’s work. Dr. Thompson said additional faculty will be added if the program is successful. Regent Brown said she likes that the program is a potential pipeline to the UNLV Law School; however, shared her concerns about using the term “center” as it provides the impression that it is something separate from the Law School.

Chair Del Carlo asked if the Center ties into the National Judicial College on campus. Dr. Thompson confirmed there is synergy between the two and the College is an affiliate of the Center.

Regent Cruz-Crawford moved approval of establishing a Center for Constitutional Law at UNR. Vice Chair Perkins seconded. Motion carried. Regent Brown voted no.

7. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Human Development and Family Science –  
The Committee recommended approval of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Human Development and Family Science. Currently being offered as an emphasis within the Ph.D. in Education, it is not well aligned with the goals and training necessary for doctoral candidates interested in training in social science. The Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Science will focus on family processes, relational factors, and psychosocial development across the lifespan, which is distinct from the psychology program’s emphasis on clinical

7. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Human Development and Family Science – (continued)  
and cognitive psychology and the School of Social Work’s emphasis on preparing clinicians. *(Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the proposal.

In response to an inquiry from Board Chair Carvalho, Dr. Thompson said there are existing bachelor’s and master’s degrees within the program. The proposed Ph.D. program is geared toward students with degrees in psychology, social work and education.

Chair Del Carlo and Dr. Thompson discussed how the addition of the proposed Ph.D. program would strengthen the University’s R-1 designation and would also attract Ph.D. students outside of UNR.

Vice Chair Perkins moved approval of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Human Development and Family Science at UNR. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried.

8. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, M.S. Robotics – The Committee recommended approval of a Master of Science (M.S.) in Robotics. The multidisciplinary degree will prepare students from a wide range of disciplines for successful research and industrial careers by teaching students to understand kinematics and dynamics of the physical systems, component design, sensing/actuation and computation for state-of-the-art robotic systems. Additionally, the M.S. Robotics will prepare students for advanced Ph.D. research or careers outside of academia. *(Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown thanked Dr. Thompson and said that advanced manufacturing is a big economic development pipeline for Nevada.

Dr. Thompson confirmed for Regent McMichael that UNR’s student clubs and organizations are now competing in nationwide robotics competitions.

Chair Del Carlo shared her support for the program and commented on a recent visit of hers to the K-12 Robotics Center within the UNR Innevation Center.

Regent Cruz-Crawford asked if there is any collaboration with DRI on robotics. Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President, confirmed that UNR and DRI faculty collaborate often on many projects and robotics is included in that.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Master of Science (M.S.) in Robotics at UNR. Vice Chair Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

9. Approved-TMCC – Program Proposal, B.A.S. Applied Business Management – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in Applied Business Management. The program will provide access to the student who already has skills in a technical or specialized subject area, has earned an associate degree and wishes to advance to higher level supervisory and management positions. The program will broaden the student’s knowledge in applied business and management practices. (Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Jeffrey Alexander, TMCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown stated that entrepreneurs are job creators. The proposed program not only assists entrepreneurs with their personal future/careers, it will also provide an economic boost within Nevada. She asked if there are plans for community involvement in the program. Dr. Alexander confirmed there is a skills certificate in entrepreneurship that was approved at the previous quarterly meeting. Regent Brown said she will assist with establishing a partnership between TMCC and EDawn.

Chair Del Carlo commended Regent Brown on her passion for entrepreneurship and how it benefits the students of NSHE.

Board Chair Carvalho shared support for the program. Chair Del Carlo added that small businesses are the backbone of the country and often get overshadowed by large corporations, so it is encouraging to have TMCC establish the proposed program.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in Applied Business Management at TMCC. Vice Chair Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

10. Approved-Handbook Revision, Residency – The Committee recommended approval of a proposed revision to Board policy concerning regulations for determining residency and tuition charges (Title 4, Chapter 15, Sections 2 and 4). The proposal is being brought forward to remain in compliance with federal regulations, specifically Public Law 118-42, which requires in-state tuition rates for citizens of the Freely Associated States (Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and Public Law 117-20, which expands the requirement for in-state tuition to include eligible members of the Foreign Service. (Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board Office)

Ms. Terina Caserto, Director of Policy, provided a brief review of the policy proposal.

Regent Brown asked if the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee is the correct committee to make a New Business request to change residency to encompass the families of the businesses who receive GOED abatements. Ms.

10. Approved-Handbook Revision, Residency – (continued)

Caserto confirmed Regent Brown could make that request through this Committee. Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor, added there is some existing language in the residency section that pertains to individuals who move to Nevada for business purposes and perhaps that language needs to be strengthened. Ms. Caserto said under the residency section in the *Handbook*, there is a lengthy list of exemptions which can apply to an individual relocating to Nevada for employment purposes.

Chair Del Carlo said she is very pleased with the proposed policy revision and shared that in her role with ACCT, she has the privilege of connecting with colleagues from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, all which have very active community college systems.

Regent Brown moved approval of the policy revision as presented. Vice Chair Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

11. Information Only-Dual Credit Policy Advisory Group, Align and Shine Nevada – Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Daniel Archer provided information on a joint effort between NSHE and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to convene a policy advisory group. Align and Shine Nevada will develop a proposed policy-based NSHE concurrent enrollment framework that provides a clear structure; enhances process clarity; and promotes access, student success, and program completion. The advisory group will be co-chaired by leaders from NSHE and NDE and will have broad representation from the NSHE system and K-12, including NDE and the school districts. (Ref. ARSA-11 on file in the Board Office)

Vice Chancellor Archer provided a brief overview of Align and Shine Nevada which included: the background; charge; focus areas; and timeline.

Regent Brown said she would like to have a better understanding of how dual enrollment is operated at each institution. She requested that the data and fundamentals be shared with the Board.

Vice Chancellor Archer confirmed for Chair Del Carlo that he will be co-chairing the taskforce with Felicia Gonzales of the Nevada Department of Education, and there will be monthly meetings. Interim Chancellor Charlton said there will also be representatives from each of the NSHE institutions, school districts and rural communities.

Chair Del Carlo said she is looking forward to seeing what the taskforce accomplishes and that every student should have an opportunity to access education.



12. Information Only-New Business – Regent Brown requested that the policy on residency reflect that family members of companies who receive GOED abatements are also eligible to receive in-state tuition at NSHE institutions.

Vice Chair Perkins requested an update on the Align and Shine Nevada Taskforce at the December 2024 meeting.

13. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Kent Ervin offered public comment relating to the Align and Shine Nevada Taskforce: 1) Encouraged the taskforce to holistically discuss both dual and concurrent enrollment; 2) Ensure there are faculty representatives who directly support dual and concurrent enrollment on the Taskforce; and 3) For course assessments, comparisons and analysis for courses that are offered in different modalities are necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson  
Special Assistant and Coordinator to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by: Keri D. Nikolajewski  
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents