

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the March 6-7, 2025, meeting.

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

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Ballroom A
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas
Wednesday, December 4, 2024

- Members Present: Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Chair
Ms. Heather Brown
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
- Members Absent: Ms. Laura E. Perkins, Vice Chair
- Other Regents Present: Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Board Chair
- Others Present: 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. Marcie Jackson, Director of Nevada System Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR
Ms. Lynda P. King, Senior Associate General Counsel
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
Mr. David Singleton, Academic & Transfer Policy Analyst
Mr. Tillery Williams, Director of Community Engagement, Equity and Inclusion

Faculty senate chairs in attendance: Dr. David Cooper, NSU; and Dr. Aaron Hill, UNR.

Chair Carol Del Carlo called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with all members present except for Vice Chair Perkins.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Doug Unger, UNLV, expressed his enthusiastic support for the Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture at UNLV (Agenda Item 3).

John Sande, Las Vegas Sands Corporation, submitted public comment in support of the creation of the Sands Institute for Chinese Culture and Language at UNLV (Agenda Item 3).

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 September 5, 2024, meeting. (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*)

2. Approved-Consent Items – (continued)

- (2b.) Approved-NSU – Program Elimination B.A.S Visual Media – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in Visual Media due to low enrollment. A teach-out plan is provided for the current student. (Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office)

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

3. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture – The Committee recommended approval to establish the Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture as a site for teaching, research, and community engagement and a vital resource for the Las Vegas community, state of Nevada, and beyond. This institute is intended to foster understanding between the people of the United States and those of the People’s Republic of China by bolstering Chinese language instruction and cultural programming at UNLV, and educational exchanges between students and faculty of UNLV and Chinese partner institutions. (Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Executive Vice President and Provost, and John Sande, Las Vegas Sands Corporation provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown and Regent McMichael shared their strong support for the Institute, and thanked UNLV and the Las Vegas Sands Corporation for their collaboration and work.

Chair Del Carlo stated the Institute is a wonderful opportunity for global outreach. She commended UNLV and the Las Vegas Sands Corporation for fostering what will be a long-standing relationship with China.

Regent McMichael moved approval of establishing the Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture at UNLV. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chair Perkins was absent.

4. Approved-NSU – Program Change, M.S. Speech Language Pathology – The Committee recommended approval of a change of degree type in its master’s degree in Speech Language Pathology from a Master’s of Education (M.Ed.) to a Master’s of Science (M.S.). An M.Ed. degree type in Speech Language Pathology is unfamiliar to most and creates a recruitment issue as the degree is not a teaching field but an allied health field with training in medical, community and school settings. There will be no change to the program faculty, courses, or degree plan; however, for the purpose of improving recruitment of both students and faculty,

4. Approved-NSU – Program Change, M.S. Speech Language Pathology – (continued) and marketability, a change to the degree type will clarify the intended field. (Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Sarah Frey, NSU Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown moved approval of a change of degree type in the master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from a Master's of Education (M.Ed.) to a Master's of Science (M.S.) at NSU. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chair Perkins was absent.

5. Approved-TMCC – Program Proposal, A.S. Geology – The Committee recommended approval of an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Geology, a two-year transferable program that includes a core of courses in math, science, and general education that will prepare students for transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Geology at UNR. It will also meet various course requirements for these Bachelor of Science degrees at UNR: Geological Engineering, Geophysics, and Hydrogeology. This is a degree designed for transfer and the start of an educational path that will prepare students for a career in a high-demand industry, particularly locally. (Ref. ARSA-5 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 she would like to see the System conduct a workforce gap analysis for institutions to utilize when creating programs. In response to an inquiry from Regent Brown, Dr. Alexander said the TMCC team has done the work to ensure the program is articulated and fully transferrable.

Chair Del Carlo shared her excitement for the program and was assured by Dr. Alexander that the program has the faculty to run it.

Regent Brown moved approval of an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Geology at TMCC. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chair Perkins was absent.

6. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/ Academic Master Plan – The Committee recommended approval of the *2025-2029 Planning Report* that highlights the institutional plans for the next four years of each NSHE institution, including plans for new academic programs, student services and research initiatives. This report satisfies the requirements of *Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.505*. (Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office)

6. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/ Academic Master Plan – (continued)

Ms. Caserto provided an overview of the *NSHE 2025-2029 Planning Report*.

Regent Brown shared her appreciation for the report and complimented the persistence and continuity from report to report.

Regent McMichael thanked Ms. Caserto for the report and commented that he hoped there is consideration of potential funding shortages during the planning for academic programs, should the incoming presidential administration defund the Department of Education.

Board Chair Carvalho shared her concerns about the report not accurately conveying what needs to be communicated to the Legislature. She provided some suggestions on how the report could be better organized with regard to unfunded programs that remain on the report and are carried over from year to year. The Board Chair also mentioned that it is a little confusing to include programs from previous years as she understands the report should be looking at future programs.

Chair Del Carlo and Ms. Caserto discussed the report submission process to the Legislature. Ms. Caserto said the report is sent to the director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) on February 1 of each year. After the report is submitted, the LCB will ensure the published report is available for public consumption per statute.

Chair Del Carlo wants to ensure the effort put into the report is recognized and utilized.

Regent McMichael moved approval of the *NSHE 2025-2029 Planning Report*. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chair Perkins was absent.

7. Information Only-New Program Review – Academic and Transfer Policy Analyst Dave Singleton presented the new program review as required by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 6*). The report included reviews from the doctoral-granting universities, state university, and community colleges comparing originally projected program enrollments and expenses to actual first-, third-, and fifth-year figures. (*Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office*)

Mr. Singleton presented the New Program Review which compares the enrollment (full-time equivalent [FTE] and headcount) and expenditures projected in the original program proposals to actual figures in the first-, third- and fifth- year of the program.

Regent Brown asked in relation to FTE, how comparing the first-, third-, and fifth-years inform decisions for the programs and requested more information on the cultural breakdown of the reviews. Mr. Singleton said the question would best be

7. Information Only-New Program Review – *(continued)*

directed to individual institutions and specific programs because those decisions are made internally at the institutions.

Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, UNR Executive Vice President and Provost, answered at UNR when program projections are created, information used from student demands/needs are factored into the decision process. Programs are monitored and by the third and fifth years, there are discussions with faculty and students regarding performance and cost. The process is not linear; however, the administrators do engage and interact with the programs to see what the student demand is from year to year. For TMCC, Dr. Alexander said they rely on the existing assets and would not implement a new program unless the necessary resources were already available. Recruitment efforts are made by faculty to students in 100-level courses to see if they would pursue a major in the field. The faculty reviews the one-, three- and five- year reports annually to analyze which programs are meeting or not meeting targets and how to address shortfalls. For NSU, Dr. Frey shared a couple of tools NSU utilizes when creating and reviewing programs such as Lightcast, the BCG Growth Share Matrix and piloting direct marketing campaigns for particular majors.

8. Information Only-Existing Program Review – Director of Policy Terina Caserto presented the report on institutional reviews of existing programs as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 6*). In addition, representatives of UNLV and TMCC presented the reviews conducted for at least one program at their respective institutions. (*Refs. ARSA-8a, ARSA-8b and ARSA-8c on file in the Board Office*)

Ms. Caserto provided an overview of the 2023-24 Existing Program Review.

Dr. Heavey and Dr. Kate Hausbeck Korgan, UNLV Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, presented UNLV's existing program review for its B.S. in Biochemistry which included: the program review – NWCCU and NSHE mandate; reflections and evolution; program review timeline; curating a data-driven culture: Academic Innovation Meetings (AIM): student success data, exit surveys/employment outcomes, feedback on assessment reports, and curriculum assessment; AIM for continuous improvement between 10-year reviews; the typical timelines for the 10-year program review; B.S. Biochemistry at a glance: enrollment, STEM graduates in the workforce, and graduates progressing to medical school, dental school, and other advanced degrees; 2019-2024 fall program headcount; fall-to-fall retention: cohort average, 2019-2023; 2018-2024 degrees conferred by academic year; 4-year graduation rates FTFT cohort: 5 year average; 2013-2018 first-time, full-time 6-year graduations rates; 5-year average for cohort graduation rates by minority status; program alignment with UNLV Top Tier 2.0 Goals; and external reviewer findings and student reviews: strengths and areas for growth.

Regent Brown asked when the official AIM program was rolled out. Dr. Korgan answered last year, and Dr. Heavey added that the AIM program is a labor-intensive process and UNLV had to ensure experienced staff were hired to support it.

8. Information Only-Existing Program Review – (continued)

Regent McMichael shared his concerns about the possibility of the state having to fully fund higher education after the new administration takes office. Special Counsel Nielsen cautioned Regent McMichael on the discussion topic as it deviates from the agenda item.

Chair Del Carlo complimented Dr. Heavey and Dr. Korgan on the AIM program review and thanked them for the presentation.

Dr. Alexander presented TMCC's existing program review for its A.A. in Psychology which included: the purpose and overview of TMCC's Program/Unit Review (PUR); Academic Standards and Assessment (ASA) Committee review; the PUR Self-Study Report; PUR data utilized; A.A. Psychology: student demographics disaggregated by ethnicity and gender; course completion: Hispanic male and all students in the program; data for transfers to 4-year university; PLO assessment results; PUR findings: program strengths, opportunities for improvement, and recommendations; and the fulfilled PUR resource requests.

Regent Brown and Dr. Alexander discussed the communication that takes place between TMCC and community employers in an effort to have academic programs meet workforce demands. She commended TMCC's program assessment process.

In response to an inquiry from Chair Del Carlo, Dr. Alexander answered in the aggregate there are more female than male students in general education programs which aligns with the national trend.

9. Information Only-New Business – Regent Brown requested adding an aggregated dataset for existing program reports to include the one-, three- and five- year reports to clearly display the trajectory.

Regent McMichael requested the formation of an ad hoc committee to address future issues should the Department of Education be disbanded by the incoming executive administration.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – Mr. Donald McMichael Sr. expressed concerns about the incoming presidential administration and how that may negatively impact the Department of Education and he believes NSHE should prepare a response plan should the Department of Education be eliminated.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson
Manager of Board Operations

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