

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

Nevada State University
Rogers Student Center, Ballroom
1300 Nevada State Drive, Henderson
Thursday, March 6, 2025

Video Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Vice Chair
Mr. Aaron Bautista
Ms. Heather Brown
Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez

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

Others Present: Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
Mr. James Martines, Vice Chancellor & Chief General Counsel
Ms. Terina Caserto, Director of Policy
Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic &
Student Affairs
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, WNC President

Faculty senate chairs in attendance: Dr. Maureen McCarthy, DRI; David Sexton, GBC; Dr. David Cooper, NSU; Dr. Jinger Doe, TMCC; Dr. Deborah Arteaga, UNLV; Dr. Aaron Hill, UNR; and Martin Schmidt, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance: Janeth Vences-Balvas, CSN; Jennifer Rodriguez-Serrano, GBC; Dawson Deal, UNR-ASUN; and Tania Akter, UNR-GSA. NSHE Classified Council member in attendance: Stacy Wallace, Sergeant at Arms.

Chair Carol Del Carlo called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Ryan Abrahamian offered public comment in support of Agenda Items 5 (UNR – Program Proposal, B.S. Aerospace Engineering), 6 (UNR – Program Proposal, M.S. Aerospace Engineering), and 7 (UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Aerospace Engineering). Dawson Deal offered public comment in

1. Information Only-Public Comment – *(continued)*

support of Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 8 (UNR – Program Proposal, Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)), and 9 (UNR – Program Proposal, M.A. Strategic Public Relations and Advertising).

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 December 4, 2024, meeting. *(Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office)*
- (2b.) Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Elimination, Cannon Survey Center – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Cannon Survey Center. All existing projects have been completed or transferred to other units for completion. All internal campus-wide surveys will be run through the Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs using existing resources. *(Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office)*
- (2c.) Approved-GBC – Program Deactivation, A.A.S. Computer Technologies – The Committee recommended approval of the deactivation of the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Computer Technologies. The program has had low enrollment for several years. If during the next five years sufficient evidence of market demand or support from industry partners is present, GBC would propose to reactivate the program, likely with an adjusted curriculum emphasis. *(Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office)*
- (2d.) Approved-GBC – Program Deactivation, B.A.S. Digital Information Technology – The Committee recommended approval of the deactivation of the Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in Digital Information Technology. The program has had low enrollment for several years. If during the next five years sufficient evidence of market demand or support from industry partners is present, GBC would bring the program back for reactivation, likely with an adjusted curriculum emphasis. *(Ref. ARSA-2d on file in the Board Office)*
- (2e.) Approved-TMCC – Program Elimination, A.S. Mathematics – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Science (A.S.) in Mathematics. The program has had low enrollment. Students currently enrolled in the program will remain in the program with no changes to their course load. The department will continue to offer the courses indefinitely. *(Ref. ARSA-2e on file in the Board Office)*

Regent Brown moved approval of the consent items.
Regent Bautista seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-2025 Regents' Awards – The Committee recommended approval of the following nominations for the 2025 Regents' Awards: *(Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office)*
 - a. Nevada Regents' Scholar Award (Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship)
 - Olufemi Erinoso, UNR – Graduate
 - Riley Gillis, UNR – Undergraduate
 - Giovanni Jones, CSN
 - Dru MacKay, WNC
 - Sophia Roman, TMCC
 - Karissa Sena-Fadenrecht, GBC
 - Nicole Thomas, UNLV – Graduate
 - Celeste Velazquez, NSU – Undergraduate
 - Eden Wolde, UNLV – Undergraduate
 - b. Board of Regents' Outstanding Classified Staff Award
 - Lisa (Scottie) Lockrem, TMCC
 - c. Nevada Regents' Creative Activities Award
 - Andrzej (Andrew) Lenard, CSN (Community College)
 - Dr. Jennifer Bellor, UNLV (University/DRI)
 - d. Nevada Regents' Teaching Award
 - Dr. Megan Lahti, TMCC – Tenured/Tenure Track (Community College)
 - Dr. Brandon Eddy, UNLV – Tenured/Tenured Track (University/DRI)
 - Dr. Melissa Morris, UNLV – Non-Tenured (University/DRI)
 - e. Nevada Regents' Academic Advisor Award
 - Tara Connolly, TMCC (Community College)
 - Dr. Han-Fen Hu, UNLV (Graduate – University/DRI)
 - Malia Mitooka-Ferranto, UNR (Undergraduate - University/DRI)
 - f. Nevada Regents' Researcher Award
 - Dr. Zhaohuan Zhu, UNLV (Mid-Career)
 - Dr. Vladimir Pravosudov, UNR (Distinguished)
 - Dr. Monica K. Miller, UNR (Humanities and Social Sciences)
 - g. Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award (Jason Geddes Rising Researcher Award)
 - Dr. Kavita Batra, UNLV
 - Dr. Joanna Blaszcak, UNR
 - Dr. Youngae Choi, NSU
 - Dr. Pengbo Chu, UNR
 - Dr. Thessa Hilgenkamp, UNLV
 - Dr. Li Ke, UNR
 - Dr. André Lindsey, NSU
 - Dr. Jamie L. Palmer-Asemota, NSU

3. Approved-2025 Regents' Awards – (continued)

Dr. Nicole A. Short, UNLV

Dr. Kristin VanderMolen, DRI

Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, read the names of the nominees into the record.

Chair Del Carlo provided a brief background on the nomination process and fiscal impact for the Regents' Awards.

Regent Fernandez congratulated all the Regents' Awards nominees and specifically recognized Nicole Thomas for being nominated for the Regents' Scholar Award.

Regent Brown moved approval of the Regents' Awards nominees. Regent Fernandez seconded. Motion carried.

4. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, UNLV PRACTICE™ – The Committee recommended approval of establishing the UNLV PRACTICE™ Institute of Mental and Behavioral Health (Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education). The UNLV PRACTICE™ will strategically unite and coordinate UNLV's mental and behavioral training programs to help solve Nevada's mental health crisis and reach the highest capacity in interprofessional mental health training, service, research, workforce development, and policy. UNLV PRACTICE™ is an existing community-facing mental health clinic developed through a partnership between the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts. (Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Kate Hausbeck Korgan, UNLV Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown shared her support for establishing the UNLV PRACTICE™ as an institute and stated that it is not only community-facing but also academic. Dr. Korgan confirmed for Regent Brown that the PRACTICE™ is also a part of the Academic Health Center.

Chair Del Carlo commended UNLV on collaborating with different departments and creating multidisciplinary paths for students. She requested an update on the PRACTICE™ in a year.

Regent Brown moved approval of establishing the UNLV PRACTICE™ Institute of Mental and Behavioral Health (Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education). Vice Chair Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Items 5, 6 and 7 were taken together.

5. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, B.S. Aerospace Engineering – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Aerospace Engineering aimed to address the growing demand for aerospace professionals in Nevada, filling a critical gap in workforce development that has arisen due to the diversification of Nevada’s economy. Students will learn about materials used to create lightweight structures, propulsion systems that launch vehicles and sustain flight, aerodynamics of aircraft, and control systems that must respond to unpredictable outside forces. The program will leverage the Gillemot Gift to enhance research capabilities, foster industry partnerships, and provide high-quality education. *(Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board Office)*
6. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, M.S. Aerospace Engineering – The Committee recommended approval of a Master of Science (M.S.) in Aerospace Engineering. This program focuses on the designing and constructing of vehicles and devices that travel through the atmosphere and in space and has a major impact on commercial aviation, defense, wind turbine, automotive, medical and other industries. Graduates will be versatile problem solvers who learn to communicate effectively and find creative answers to real-world problems. The program will leverage the Gillemot Gift to enhance research capabilities, foster industry partnerships, and provide high-quality education. *(Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office)*
7. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Aerospace Engineering – The Committee recommended approval of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Aerospace Engineering. The Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering is designed to serve a diverse student population from both within Nevada and neighboring states. The program will provide an opportunity for Nevada’s top students to pursue their studies in a field that is in high demand by industry without having to leave the state. The program will leverage the Gillemot Gift to enhance research capabilities, foster industry partnerships, and provide high-quality education. *(Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, UNR Executive Vice President and Provost, provided a brief overview of the proposals.

Regent Brown shared that NSHE is currently conducting a workforce gap analysis and the purpose of that is when program proposals are brought before the Board, it is crucial there is a dataset to refer to which would help guide decisions when creating academic programs. Dr. Thompson confirmed that UNR reached out to local companies and utilized Lightcast (a service that provides comprehensive labor market data) when the program proposals were created.

Regent Fernandez commented that aerospace engineering is a profession that less than 12 percent of women are a part of, and the program is highly needed. In today’s environment it is important to focus on the different needs where campuses must close the gap. He shared his excitement in supporting the success of the programs.

7. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Aerospace Engineering – (continued)

Vice Chair Arrascada complimented the curriculum. He and Dr. Thompson discussed the projected headcount for the first fall semester and how the program is the top request at UNR recruiting events. UNR faculty have no concerns with filling seats in the program.

Regent Del Carlo stated the program has been in demand for at least ten years. She shared her appreciation for the community donors for their contributions and the UNR team for their work on developing the program.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.), a Master of Science (M.S.), and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Aerospace Engineering at UNR. Vice Chair Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

8. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) – The Committee recommended approval of a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) designed to prepare graduates to become licensed physical therapists capable of providing high-quality care in various healthcare settings. The program will emphasize evidence-based practice, clinical reasoning, and patient-centered care. The D.P.T. program focuses on meeting the growing need for physical therapists in Nevada, particularly in rural and underserved areas. (Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Arrascada and Dr. Thompson discussed the projected FTE headcount and how it is based on the accreditation standards for the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; and the possibility of differential fees. Dr. Thompson confirmed that the program will not be based on the fee structure and will be a self-supporting program.

Vice Chair Arrascada moved approval of a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) at UNR. Regent Bautista seconded. Motion carried.

9. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, M.A. Strategic Public Relations and Advertising – The Committee recommended approval of a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Strategic Public Relations and Advertising designed to cater to the needs of working professionals with an asynchronous online mode of study. The program's focus is on emerging approaches in earned and paid media with a focus on developing future leaders of the industry with classes in leadership, law, ethics, and measurement. (Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board Office)

Dr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Chair Del Carlo complimented Dr. Thompson on the M.A. program being fully online as it will assist those who already have a career in the field by helping them better manage their schedule. Dr. Thompson added that in the process of designing the program, based

9. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, M.A. Strategic Public Relations and Advertising – (continued)

on conversations with students and those working in the industry, they discovered that it was best for the program to be an asynchronous online program as it would better serve the students and add to its success.

Vice Chair Arrascada moved approval of a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Strategic Public Relations and Advertising. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried.

10. Approved-WNC – Program Proposal, A.A.S. CTE Teacher Training for Business and Industry Professionals – The Committee recommended approval of an Associate of Applied Science in CTE Teacher Training for Business & Industry (B&I) Professionals designed to provide a degree pathway for pre-service or new high school CTE teachers licensed as Business & Industry. The program is developed in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning and Education Options. The purpose of the program is to support CTE teacher development and retention; contribute to quality of teaching; and, ultimately, improve student learning outcomes. *(Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe offered introductory remarks. Dr. Dana Ryan, WNC Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, provided an overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown shared her support for expanding the program and encompassing more of the training. She thought it is a good model to adopt across the System.

Regent Fernandez commented it is a great program to expand the pipeline for teachers and the program is very forward-thinking. He stated that having the knowledge is critical; however, being able to convey the knowledge through teaching is a whole different skill-set.

Chair Del Carlo said there are so many aspects to being a teacher that are not considered. She commended WNC for using some of the findings of the recent report from the Nevada Advisory Committee on U.S. Civil Rights to guide the design of the program, specifically regarding teacher shortages.

Regent Brown moved approval of an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S) in CTE Teacher Training for Business & Industry (B&I) Professionals. Vice Chair Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

11. Information Only-2023-24 Financial Aid Report – Director of Student Affairs Ashley Salisbury presented highlights from the 2023-24 NSHE Financial Aid Report, including data on financial aid programs, recipient attributes, and awards distributed across the System as well as NSHE total financial aid disbursed by category, source, and type. In addition, the presentation included general information on financial aid concepts and the variety of programs available to support students. (*Refs. ARSA-11a and ARSA-11b on file in the Board Office*)

The report included: the purpose for reporting on financial aid; 2019-2024 NSHE total financial aid disbursed (in millions); NSHE total aid disbursed by institution, 2019-20 to 2023-24 (in millions); NSHE financial aid recipients by race/ethnicity and institution, 2023-24; NSHE financial aid recipients by Disability Resource Center registration status, 2023-24; NSHE average annual Pell Grant disbursements (by student); NSHE total loan disbursements – all sources (in millions); NSHE state-supported programs disbursements, 2023-24 (in millions); Categories of financial aid: grants, scholarships, loan, work study; NSHE financial aid by category, 2023-24; Sources of financial aid: federal, state, institutional, private; NSHE financial aid by source, 2023-24; Types of financial aid: need and non-need; NSHE total financial aid disbursed by type, 2014-15 to 2023-24; Cost of Attendance (COA); 2024-25 NSHE COA, off campus; 2024-25 NSHE COA with parent(s); 2024-25 NSHE COA on campus; Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and determining need; sample financial aid offers; and Better FAFSA.

Regent Brown and Ms. Salisbury discussed the following regarding Better FAFSA: acknowledging some of the issues when the program was first rolled out; the beta testing process for the FAFSA program that launched on October 1, 2024, which included the Federal Student Aid department to examine applications submitted during the testing period; the three phases of testing and how the Federal team used feedback to ensure that the application was ready for the full launch on November 21; the FAFSA experience thus far and how there has been a minimum of user barriers for the 2025-26 applicants; and how the rapid changes in Federal legislation are causing uncertainties going forward.

Chair Del Carlo spoke of her recent visit to Washington, D.C. for the ACCT National Legislative Summit and how the U.S. Secretary of Education is in favor of financial aid supporting workforce development in education and their support for the improved FAFSA application.

Regent Brown and Ms. Salisbury discussed the Nevada FAFSA Challenge which is a competition among high schools to sign up to be a participant in the FAFSA Completion Initiative. The high school with the highest percentage FAFSA completion rate will be awarded a cash prize.

12. Information Only-Credit for Prior Learning – Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Daniel Archer presented information on credit for prior learning (CPL). The presentation included the current state of CPL across the System, the strategy to begin addressing CPL in the next year, and the types of CPL being examined. (*Ref. ARSA-12 on file in the Board Office*)

12. Information Only-Credit for Prior Learning – *(continued)*

The report included: the Common Course Numbering (CCN) system within the NSHE institutions; CCN numbering and CPL (a term for various methods that colleges, universities, and other education or training providers use to evaluate learning that has occurred outside of the traditional academic environment); an overview of Advanced Placements (AP), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), military training, and Career Technical Education (CTE) high school courses and college credit; and the four-step CPL Action Plan starting in spring 2025 through spring 2026.

Regent Brown discussed the work behind the CPL Action Plan and emphasized the importance of consistency for the System within the context of CPL. By streamlining the CPL program, it not only makes it easier for students, but it will also cut down on the number of staff hours and eliminate entrance barriers to the institutions and Nevada's workforce.

Regent Fernandez shared his appreciation for the presentation and stated how CPL programs are a vital component of the workforce pipeline between the System and the State.

13. Information Only-New Business – None.

14. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

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

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