

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the September 11-12, 2025, meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ad hoc TMCC PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Truckee Meadows Community College
Red Mountain Building, Rooms 255/256
7000 Dandini Boulevard, Reno

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Members Present:

Regents Committee

Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Vice Chair
Mr. Byron Brooks
Ms. Heather Brown
Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez

Members Present:

Advisory Committee

Mr. Taylor Adams, President & CEO, EDAWN
Ms. YeVonne Allen, Administrative Faculty, TMCC
Ms. Clara Andriola, Commissioner, Washoe County
Ms. Emarie Bettere, SGA Senator, TMCC
Dr. Jinger Doe, Faculty Senate Chair, TMCC
Ms. Mendy Elliott, SVP, Flynn Giudici Governmental Affairs
Dr. Julie Ellsworth-Baker, Dean, TMCC
Mr. Edward Estipona, President & CEO, Estipona Group
Mr. Andy Hughes, Administrative Faculty, TMCC
Ms. Estela LeVario-Gutierrez, Vice President, TMCC
Mr. David Misner, Classified Staff, TMCC
Mr. Jim New, Academic Faculty, TMCC
Ms. Haley Orthel-Clark, Academic Faculty, TMCC
Ms. Juana Reynoza-Gomez, Chief Diversity Officer, TMCC
Dr. Tina Ruff, Development Officer, Renown Health
Ms. Kim Studebaker, Affirmative Action Officer, TMCC (*ex officio*)

Other Regents Present:

Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Board Chair
Mrs. Susan Brager
Ms. Stephanie Goodman
Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

Others Present:

Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor
Ms. Lynda P. King, Senior Associate General Counsel
Mr. Christopher G. Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents

Land Acknowledgment

Before beginning, we take a moment to recognize that here in Nevada we stand on the land of the Wa She Shu – Washoe; Numu – Northern Paiute; Nuwe – Western Shoshone; and Nuwu – Southern Paiute. We take a moment to recognize and honor their stewardship that continues into today. With this recognition, we state an intention to rightfully include their voice and respect them as the 27 sovereign tribal nations of Nevada.

Chair Del Carlo called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. with all members present except Regent Brooks. Regent Fernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chair Del Carlo read the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

The following individual provided written public comment in support of the two local candidates with NSHE and northern Nevada experience:

- Brian Addington (*Ref. Addington.Brian05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individuals provided written public comment in support of Jeffrey W. Alexander, Ph.D., as the next TMCC President:

- Amber Anaya (*Ref. Anaya.Amber05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Michael Hix (*Ref. Hix.Michael05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Paul Kaplan (*Ref. Kaplan.Paul05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Stephanie Mead (*Ref. Mead.Stephanie05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Sharif Rumjahn (*Ref. Rumjahn.Sharif05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individuals provided written or telephonic public comment in support of Clarissa M. Cota J.D., as the next TMCC President:

- Janeth Vences-Balvas (*Ref. VencesBalvas.Janeth05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Mikhaelle Pablico (*Ref. Pablico.Mikhaelle05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Mary Beth Sewald (*Ref. Sewald.MaryBeth05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Frank Woodbeck

The following individuals provided written public comment in support of J. Kye Dalpe, Ph.D., as the next TMCC President:

- Cliff Sorensen (*Ref. Sorensen.Cliff05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Jeff Sutich (*Ref. Sutich.Jeff05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

2. Approved – Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the February 5, 2025, meeting. (*Ref. TMCC PSC-2 on file in the Board Office.*)

Regent Brown moved approval of the minutes from the February 5, 2025, meeting. Regent Fernandez seconded. Motion carried. Regent Brooks was absent.

3. Information Only – Chair’s Report – Chair Carol Del Carlo provided a brief review of the search process to date and announced the finalists for President of Truckee Meadows Community College.

- Jeffrey W. Alexander, Ph.D. (*Ref. TMCC PSC-3a on file in the Board Office.*)
- Clarissa M. Cota, J.D. (*Ref. TMCC PSC-3b on file in the Board Office.*)
- J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D. (*Ref. TMCC PSC-3c on file in the Board Office.*)
- Albert Lewis, Jr., Ed.D. (*Ref. TMCC PSC-3d on file in the Board Office.*)
- Deborah Kish Stephan, Ed.D. (*Ref. TMCC PSC-3e on file in the Board Office.*)

4. Information Only – Open Forum Reports and Finalist Interviews (Agenda Item 5) – Debbie DiThomas and Julie Golder of ACCT Searches provided a report on the open forums held with finalists on May 5-6, 2025, including a summary of the feedback received through surveys completed by forum participants and observers. Prior to each interview, ACCT Searches presented an overview of the candidate, including their background, qualifications, and reference feedback. The Committee interviewed the finalists for President of Truckee Meadows Community College.

Search Consultant Golder reviewed the feedback gathered from surveys completed by forum participants, along with an overview of the background and qualifications, including reference feedback, for Jeffrey W. Alexander, Ph.D.

5. Information Only – Interview Process and Questions (Agenda Item 4) – Chair Carol Del Carlo noted that interview questions to be asked of each finalist had been handed out and assigned to Advisory Committee and/or Regents’ Committee members. She added that a copy of the questions will be placed in front of each candidate. (*Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office.*)

4. Information Only – Open Forum Reports and Finalist Interviews (Agenda Item 5) – (*Continued*)

Chair Del Carlo welcomed Dr. Alexander. Dr. Alexander responded to the interview questions. The Committee responded to questions from Dr. Alexander.

The meeting recessed at 10:38 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m. with all members present except Regent Brooks.

Search Consultant Golder reviewed the feedback gathered from surveys completed by forum participants, along with an overview of the background and qualifications, including reference feedback, for Albert Lewis, Jr., Ed.D.

Chair Del Carlo welcomed Dr. Lewis. Dr. Lewis responded to the interview questions and follow-up questions. The Committee responded to questions from Dr. Lewis.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m. with all members present.

4. Information Only – Open Forum Reports and Finalist Interviews (Agenda Item 5) – (Continued)

Search Consultant Golder reviewed the feedback gathered from surveys completed by forum participants, along with an overview of the background and qualifications, including reference feedback, for Clarissa M. Cota, J.D.

Chair Del Carlo welcomed Dr. Cota. Dr. Cota responded to the interview questions. The Committee responded to questions from Dr. Cota.

The meeting recessed at 1:59 p.m. and reconvened at 2:08 p.m. with all members present.

Search Consultant Golder reviewed the feedback gathered from surveys completed by forum participants, along with an overview of the background and qualifications, including reference feedback, for J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D.

Chair Del Carlo welcomed Dr. Dalpe. Dr. Dalpe responded to the interview questions. The Committee responded to questions from Dr. Dalpe.

The meeting recessed at 3:31 p.m. and reconvened at 3:37 p.m. with all members present except Vice Chair Arrascada and Regent Brown.

Search Consultant Golder reviewed the feedback gathered from surveys completed by forum participants, along with an overview of the background and qualifications, including reference feedback, for Deborah Kish Stephan, Ed.D.

Vice Chair Arrascada and Regent Brown entered the meeting.

Chair Del Carlo welcomed Dr. Stephan. Dr. Stephan responded to the interview questions. The Committee responded to questions from Dr. Stephan.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened at 5:15 p.m. with all members present.

6. Information Only – Advisory Committee Discussion and Assessment of Finalists – Advisory members discussed the finalists for President of Truckee Meadows Community College and provided the Regents' Committee with their assessment and top two candidates.

7. Action Taken – Regents' Committee Discussion and Recommendation – The Regents Committee recommended Jeffrey W. Alexander, Ph.D., for consideration of appointment as President of Truckee Meadows Community College by the Board of Regents at a special meeting to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

The Regents' Committee and other Regents in attendance discussed and assessed the finalists for President of Truckee Meadows Community College.

7. Action Taken – Regents’ Committee Discussion and Recommendation – (Continued)

Regent Brown recommended that Clarissa M. Cota, J.D., be moved forward to the Board of Regents for consideration of appointment as President of Truckee Meadows Community College at a special meeting to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Regent Fernandez seconded.

Motion carried via a roll call vote. Chair Del Carlo, Vice Chair Arrascada, and Regents Brown and Fernandez voted yes. Regent Brooks voted no.

Vice Chair Arrascada asked for clarification on whether the Committee had just voted for Clarissa M. Cota, J.D. and J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D., with Chair Del Carlo responding that the motion was to advance Clarissa M. Cota, J.D.

Vice Chair Arrascada again asked for clarification on whether the Committee was moving forward one or two names, with Chair Del Carlo responding that Regent Brown’s motion was to forward Clarissa M. Cota, J.D., to the full Board of Regents.

Vice Chair Arrascada apologized and said he did not hear the motion as stated. He asked for another motion to advance J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D.

Special Counsel Nielsen requested a recess.

The meeting recessed at 6:11 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m. with all members present.

Special Counsel Nielsen stated that despite a motion passing to advance one candidate, there is an option under Robert’s Rules of Order that would allow a Regent who voted on the prevailing side to make a motion for reconsideration of the prior action.

Vice Chair Arrascada moved to reconsider the prior action. Regent Brooks seconded.

Chair Del Carlo asked for clarification on whether Regent Brooks’ second was allowed since he voted against the motion, with Special Counsel Nielsen responding Vice Chair Arrascada made the motion, and it is permissible for Regent Brooks to make the second.

Regent Brooks stated with a decision that could change the course of the institution, he wanted the Committee to be cognizant of whether a misstep was made and whether it could be corrected. Because the agenda item reads nominee or nominees, he asked whether a second motion could be made to bring another candidate forward rather than both names having to be in one motion. Special Counsel Nielsen stated given the way the item is agendized, he believed the Committee could make a second motion to advance another nominee.

7. Action Taken – Regents’ Committee Discussion and Recommendation – *(Continued)*

Special Counsel Nielsen stated that a motion and second to reconsider the prior action is on the floor. If that is not the pleasure of the Committee, then the motion would need to be withdrawn. It would then be permissible to make another motion for an additional nominee if that is how the Committee would like to move forward.

Vice Chair Arrascada asked for clarification, with Special Counsel Nielsen restating the options on how the Committee could move forward.

Vice Chair Arrascada and Regent Brooks withdrew the motion and second to reconsider the prior action.

Regent Brown stated that her understanding is that an agenda item is closed when it has been fully discussed, debated, and a vote is taken resulting in a decision.

Regent Goodman agreed, believing that the Committee must withdraw the motion or vote on the motion, and then it can move forward with an additional motion.

Special Counsel Nielsen, in consultation with the legal team, stated the scope of the agenda item provides two ways to move forward, which are a motion to reconsider, or, as Regent Brooks mentioned, a motion to recommend an additional nominee.

Regent Brooks recommended that J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D., be moved forward to the Board of Regents for consideration of appointment as President of Truckee Meadows Community College at a special meeting to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Vice Chair Arrascada seconded.

Regent Fernandez stated that from his point of view, Jeffrey W. Alexander, Ph.D. and Clarissa M. Cota, J.D. were the two clear candidates based on feedback from the advisory members. He stated he respects his colleagues’ opinions and wanted to explain why he would be voting no on the motion.

Vice Chair Arrascada felt it was prudent to have the input of the full Board of Regents on this leadership decision.

Motion carried via a roll call vote. Chair Del Carlo, Vice Chair Arrascada, and Regent Brooks voted yes. Regents Brown and Fernandez voted no.

Regent Brooks left the meeting.

Special Counsel Nielsen stated that consistent with his previous advice, if another Regent wants to make an additional motion, it would be permissible.

7. Approved – Regents’ Committee Discussion and Recommendation – *(Continued)*

Regent Brown recommended that Jeffrey W. Alexander, Ph.D., be moved forward to the Board of Regents for consideration of appointment as President of Truckee Meadows Community College at a special meeting to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Regent Fernandez seconded.

Motion carried via a roll call vote. Chair Del Carlo, Vice Chair Arrascada, and Regents Brown and Fernandez voted yes. Regent Brooks was absent.

8. New Business – None.

9. Information Only – Public Comment

The following individual provided written public comment in support of Clarissa M. Cota J.D., as the next TMCC President:

- Kenneth Evans *(Ref. Evans.Kenneth05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.)*

The following individual provided written public comment in support of J. Kye Dalpe, Ph.D., as the next TMCC President:

- Kurt Mische *(Ref. Mische.Kurt05.07.25 on file in the Board Office.)*

Mendy Elliot provided in-person public comment stating that the top two candidates the advisory members identified are who the institution wants to see move forward.

Susan Brager provided in-person public comment stating this is why a committee should never do tallies because it makes the advisory members feel like they were not heard.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Prepared by:

Angela R. Palmer
Special Assistant and Coordinator

Submitted for approval by:

Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents