

*Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the December 4-5, 2025, meeting.*

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

Great Basin College  
Fitness Center  
1500 College Parkway, Elko  
Thursday, September 11, 2025

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:  
System Administration, Las Vegas  
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room  
and  
System Administration, Reno  
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room

Members Present:

Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Chair  
Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs, Vice Chair  
Mr. Aaron Bautista  
Ms. Heather Brown  
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo

Other Regents Present:

Mr. Byron Brooks, Board Chair  
Ms. Stephanie Goodman, Board Vice Chair  
Mrs. Susan Brager  
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho  
Mr. Pete Goicoechea  
Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

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  
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents  
Ms. Carrie Parker, Deputy General Counsel  
Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director of Government Relations  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President  
Dr. Amber Donnelly, Great Basin College Interim President  
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, WNC President

Faculty senate chair in attendance: Dr. Vera Samburova, DRI. Student body presidents in attendance: Brianna Malasaga, TMCC; and Karla Salas, WNC.

NSHE Classified Council Executive Board member in attendance: Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora-Muniosguren, Scheduling Officer.

Chair Arrascada called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all members present except for Regent Bautista. Chair Arrascada provided the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only - Public Comment – The following individuals submitted public comment via the NSHE online form in support of UNLV's program proposal for a Ph.D. in Multilingual Education (Agenda Item 6): Dan Monroe, Maria Ventura, Tracey West, Alyssa Kantzabedian and Randy Weatherholt.

Alexia Carver submitted public comment via the NSHE online form regarding UNR's Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering requesting an allowance of more qualified and dedicated adjunct lecturing faculty, or Letter of Appointments from industry while hard funding is appropriated during the next Legislative session.

2. Approved - Consent Items - The Committee recommended approval of the following consent items:

(2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).

(2b.) Approved-Program Elimination, A.S. Dental Hygiene, CSN – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Science (A.S.) in Dental Hygiene as this degree was transitioned to an entry-level Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene in Fall 2024. The last cohort of A.S. Dental Hygiene students graduated in May 2024 (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).

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

3. Approved-Organizational Unit Eliminations, UNLV – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the following organizational units:

- Applied Geophysics Center – The Applied Geophysics Center has no current or pending activity and a lack of faculty for continuing the Center. The Center does not offer courses (*Ref. ARSA-3a on file in the Board Office*).
- Center for Gaming Research – The core activities of the Center for Gaming Research more closely align with Special Collections and Archives. The Center does not conduct research but focuses on collection development (*Ref. ARSA-3b on file in the Board Office*).

3. Approved-Organizational Unit Eliminations, UNLV – *(continued)*

- Center for Mechanical and Environmental Systems Technology – The Center for Mechanical and Environmental Systems Technology has no current or pending activity and a lack of faculty for continuing the Center. The Center does not offer courses (*Ref. ARSA-3c on file in the Board Office*).
- Energy Materials Interaction Technology of Nevada/Pulsed Power Labs – The Energy Materials Interaction Technology of Nevada/Pulsed Power Labs has no current or pending activity and a lack of faculty for continuing the Center. The Center does not offer courses (*Ref. ARSA-3d on file in the Board Office*).
- High Pressure Science and Engineering Center – The High Pressure Science and Engineering Center has no current or pending activity and a lack of faculty for continuing the Center. The Center does not offer courses (*Ref. ARSA-3e on file in the Board Office*).

Ms. Barb Roberts, UNLV Acting Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of the unit eliminations.

Chair Arrascada and Ms. Roberts discussed the following: potential financial savings through program eliminations; and enrollment and faculty staffing among the centers including confirmation from Ms. Roberts that faculty had either retired, passed away, or returned to teaching courses.

Regent Del Carlo moved approval of the UNLV unit eliminations. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried. Regent Bautista was absent.

Regent Bautista entered the meeting.

4. Approved-Organizational Unit Proposal, Center for Water Intelligence and Community Health, UNLV – The Committee recommended approval to establish a Center for Water Intelligence and Community Health within the College of Sciences. The goals of the Center include implementing advanced detection systems for chemicals and microbes in water and pioneering Las Vegas's first wastewater-to-drinking water system. The Center will also provide students opportunities to advance their knowledge in microbial analysis, mass spectrometry and membrane technology, preparing them for high-value roles in water, energy, and health sectors (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Ms. Roberts provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown recognized the proactive approach in creating such a center.

4. Approved-Organizational Unit Proposal, Center for Water Intelligence and Community Health, UNLV – (continued)

Chair Arrascada and Dr. Edwin Oh, UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, discussed and addressed the following: the Center's implementation timeline and the resources being already in place for deployment; the ability to provide the university community with state-of-the-art technology and competitive rates; conducting studies for public health, the private sector, and academics, within the Center, would be competitive with those across the nation; the program's goals in researching water to detect drugs and pathogens; other states' recent testing initiatives and Nevada's need to be ready; funding pipelines including university sources, federal grants, and private investors; and the projection estimating at least ten times the return on investment.

Regent Del Carlo recognized the Center as a wonderful new way to engage students. Additionally, she and Dr. Oh discussed testing regional storm water.

Regent Brown moved approval of establishing a Center for Water Intelligence and Community Health within the College of Sciences at UNLV. Regent Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approved-Program Change, Ph.D. Education Policy, Organizational Leadership and Higher Education, UNLV – The Committee recommended approval of a program change to expand the current Ph.D. in Higher Education to a Ph.D. in Education Policy, Organizational Leadership and Higher Education. This expansion includes PreK through 12 education policy and an organizational leadership emphasis. Curricular changes will include reorganization of existing courses and the addition of new courses (*Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board Office*).

Ms. Roberts provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Chair Arrascada recognized the thoughtful pathway to the Ph.D. program and inquired about fiscal impact of the change. Ms. Roberts indicated she will provide additional information to the Committee at a future date.

Regent Brown moved approval of expanding the current Ph.D. in Higher Education to a Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Organizational Leadership and Higher Education at UNLV. Regent Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried.

6. Approved-Program Proposal, Ph.D. Multilingual Education, UNLV – The Committee recommended approval of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Multilingual Education designed with an emphasis on developing and extending knowledge around theories and equitable practices that support preschool through 12th grade language and literacy development for multilingual learners. Program graduates will be prepared for research

6. Approved-Program Proposal, Ph.D. Multilingual Education, UNLV – *(continued)*  
and teaching careers in higher education, as policy leaders in school district and state leadership positions, and language specialists in various settings *(Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office)*.

Ms. Roberts provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Del Carlo noted the amount of support through public comment from the UNLV community reflecting the current diversity in Clark County.

Chair Arrascada and Dr. Joe Morgan, UNLV Associate Professor of Special Education, discussed the uniqueness of the program as a standalone, unlike other subprograms available throughout the U.S. Additionally, they discussed the potential for program growth over time and Dr. Morgan's anticipation of having predictive enrollment data by year three or four. Further, they clarified admissions standards, specifically noting a minimum 3.0 GPA upon entry.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Multilingual Education at UNLV with the caveat that the admission requirements be edited to clearly reflect a 3.0 GPA standard. Regent Bautista seconded. Motion carried.

7. Approved-Program Proposal, B.M. Composition, UNR – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Music (B.M.) in Composition designed to prepare students to be well-equipped to enter the music industry or pursue advanced degrees in music composition, performance, music production, or education. The curriculum's emphasis on practical composition, performance, and professional development ensures that students are prepared for a wide range of career opportunities in the music industry *(Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office)*.

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

Chair Arrascada and Dr. Thompson discussed conservative enrollment projections and possible resource requirements associated with program growth. Additionally, Dr. Thompson confirmed there are no fee differentials within the proposed curriculum.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Bachelor of Music (B.M.) in Composition at UNR. Regent Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried.

8. Approved-Program Proposal, B.S. Political Science, UNR – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Political Science that will provide students with advanced training in political analysis and quantitative methods. The program will combine coursework in statistics, calculus, and research design with a comprehensive study

8. Approved-Program Proposal, B.S. Political Science, UNR – (continued)  
of political institutions and behavior. The program prepares graduates for professional positions in policy research, program evaluation, campaign analytics, and political consulting (*Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Downs and Dr. Thompson discussed statistics and calculus within the curriculum.

Regent Brown and Dr. Thompson discussed opportunities for Professors of Practice to lend expertise in teaching courses.

Regent Brown moved approval of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Political Science at UNR. Regent Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried.

9. Approved-Program Proposal, A.A. Secondary Education, GBC – The Committee recommended approval of an Associate of Arts (A.A.) in Secondary Education designed to streamline the transition from an associate-level degree to a four-year education program. The proposed degree will provide students with a well-defined route to secondary education teaching, whether at GBC or another NSHE institution. Additionally, the degree allows the dual enrollment student who completes the Certificate of Achievement in General Studies to easily transition to the A.A. (*Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Sarah Negrete, GBC Associate Vice President for Faculty Success, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Brown moved approval of an Associate of Arts (A.A.) in Secondary Education at GBC. Regent Bautista seconded. Motion carried.

10. Information Only-Foster Youth Fee Waiver and Program Report – Fostering Success Initiative Manager Laura Obrist provided a presentation on the NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver adopted by the Board of Regents in 2018. The fee waiver policy permits qualifying NSHE undergraduate students to register for eligible courses without being charged registration or certain laboratory fees. The report provided an overview of the fee waiver, information on the requirements of the fee waiver, number of recipients and total fees waived, recipient demographics, and student success metrics. Additionally, a high-level review of the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative grant-funded activities and accomplishments for the last year was provided (*Refs. ARSA-10a and ARSA-10b*).

The report included: the fee waiver update involving the background on implementation and national context, and the Board of Regents policy; data from 2018-19 to 2024-25 including the total number of fee waiver recipients and total fees waived; fee waiver recipient demographics – race/ethnicity and income for 2023-24; fee waiver recipient

10. Information Only-Foster Youth Fee Waiver and Program Report – *(continued)*

metrics for persistence, graduation and credentials earned 2018 to 2023-24; NSHE fostering success initiative including System-level grant support and institutional-level grant support; and the progress highlights June 2023 to August 2025 initiative outcomes – student voice/leadership, statewide collaboration/professional development, System-level outreach and resource development/provision, and institutional capacity-building.

Regent Del Carlo and Ms. Obrist discussed program costs and possible funding needs. Further, Regent Del Carlo recognized the merits and successes of the program, which Chair Arrascada and Regent Brown echoed.

11. Information Only-New Business – Regent Del Carlo requested the following items: an update on the NSHE and MGM Partnership (College Opportunity Program); a testimonial presentation by a Foster Youth Fee Waiver recipient at a future Committee meeting; and for staff to present a plan for a coordinated outreach effort, prior to the 2027 Legislative session, to discuss the impact of the Foster Youth Fee Waiver and Program on students, and its implications as an unfunded mandate.

12. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Prepared by: Klaas H. Van Der Wey  
Special Assistant & Coordinator to the Board of Regents

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