

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at its March 5-6, 2026, meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room

Friday, October 17, 2025

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, McMullen Hall Room 102

Members Present:

- Mr. Byron Brooks, Chair
- Ms. Stephanie Goodman, Vice Chair
- Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
- Mr. Aaron Bautista
- Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
- Mrs. Susan Brager
- Ms. Heather Brown
- Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho
- Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
- Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs
- Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez
- Mr. Pete Goicoechea
- Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

Others Present:

- Mr. Matt McNair, Chancellor
- Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
- Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
- Mr. James Martines, Vice Chancellor & Chief General Counsel
- Mr. Chris Viton, Vice Chancellor of Budget & Finance/
Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
- Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director of Government Relations
- Mr. Michael B. Wixom, Special Real Property Counsel
- Dr. Stacy S. Klippenstein, CSN President
- Dr. Amber Donnelly, GBC President
- Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, NSU Officer in Charge
- Dr. Jeffrey W. Alexander, TMCC President
- Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Interim President
- Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President

Faculty senate chairs in attendance: Tracy Sherman, CSN; Dr. Jinger Doe, TMCC; and Dr. Jennifer McClendon, UNR. Student body presidents in attendance: Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan, UNR-GSA, and Devan Glensor, UNR-ASUNSOM.

Chair Byron Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with all members present. Regent Boylan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan provided comment regarding Agenda Item 5 (Graduate, Faculty and Staff Housing Project, UNR). While he shared his support for UNR's effort to expand housing availability for graduates, he also has concerns about affordability, as the proposed rental costs are pricey.

The following individuals provided public comment in support of Agenda Item 6 (*Handbook* Revision, Professional Staff Collective Bargaining Regulations): Dr. Jinger Doe, Andrew Lavengood, Dr. Pete Martini, Dr. David Cooper, and Rachelle Bassen.

Dr. Jennifer McClendon shared concerns regarding Agenda Item 8 (*Handbook* Revision, NSHE Councils) as it appears to shift oversight of several important System councils from the Board of Regents to NSHE administration. Dr. McClendon believes that oversight of the councils must remain in public view, continue to be overseen by the Board of Regents to ensure transparency, and give those who are most affected by council decisions a voice.

The following individuals provided public comment in support of appointing Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater as Acting President of NSU and conducting a national search for the next permanent President of NSU: Dr. Corey Fernandez, Dr. Pete Martini, Dr. David Cooper, Dr. Molly Appel, and Dr. Laura Naumann.

Dr. Ariel Santos provided public comment regarding a recent policy change for the Part Time Instructor (PTI) workload which now has PTIs going from teaching four to three courses a semester, resulting in a 25 percent pay cut. She requested the Board repeal the current policy and allow PTIs to teach to their full capacity and to have an agenda item concerning PTI contract negotiations at a future meeting.

Giselle Gradilla thanked her Regent representative Aaron Bautisa, and shared that she opposes decodifying the IDEA Council.

Dr. Marcela Rodriguez Campo provided public comment in opposition to decodifying the IDEA Council.

The following written public comment was submitted:

Pamela Call and Christine Beaudry in support of appointing Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater as Acting President of NSU and conducting a national search for the permanent President.

Parker Tobin and Karina Arriaga in opposition to decodifying the IDEA Council.

Jon Carpineta requested immediate posting of Board of Regents meeting videos.

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

Rachel Huff shared concerns about Agenda Item 8 (*Handbook* Revision, NSHE Councils) and believes oversight of the councils should remain with the Board of Regents.

Staci Walters shared support for Agenda Item 6 (*Handbook* Revision, Professional Staff Collective Bargaining Regulations).

Chelsea Herrington thanked Chair Brooks for removing the flag of Israel from his place on the dais.

2. Approved-Appointment of Acting President, NSU – The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater as Acting President of Nevada State University, effective October 18, 2025, and the proposed Employment Agreement (*Refs. BOR-2a and BOR-2b on file in the Board Office*).

Chancellor Matt McNair, in consultation with Chair Brooks and Vice Chair Goodman, recommended the appointment of Officer in Charge Amber Lopez Lasater as Acting President of NSU.

Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, NSU Officer in Charge, responded to an interview question asked by Regent Del Carlo.

Regent Brager moved approval of appointing Officer in Charge Amber Lopez Lasater as Acting President of NSU. Regent Brown seconded.

Regent Boylan shared his concerns about the ongoing issues among NSU leadership and expressed his desire to abstain from voting on the matter. Mr. James Martines, Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel, and Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents, advised that Regents have a legal duty to vote on every item unless there is an ethical conflict that is disclosed by the Regent.

Vice Chair Goodman spoke on the importance of conducting listening sessions on the campuses and believes communication between NSHE leadership and the institutional constituencies should be done on a regular basis.

Regent Del Carlo stated she is aware of issues among NSU leadership. She shared her support to appoint Dr. Lopez Lasater as the NSU Acting President.

Regent Fernandez thanked the Chancellor for his recommendation and shared his support for the appointment.

Chair Brooks noted the public comment received at the meeting today was indicative of what Board leadership and the Chancellor heard from the campus during the listening sessions. He offered clarification as to why the listening sessions are only attended by Board leadership and the Chancellor. If the full Board were to be present for those, it would

2. Approved-Appointment of Acting President, NSU – *(continued)*

need to be noticed as a public meeting which could have a chilling effect on the openness of campus constituents and stakeholders when sharing their thoughts and opinions.

Regent Brager asked if there could be multiple listening sessions so additional Regents can engage in the preliminary activities of a president search. Special Counsel Nielsen stated it is possible.

Regent Brager noted the Board appoints a Chancellor to make recommendations regarding important leadership decisions for NSHE and its institutions. She believes the Regents should support the decisions made by the Chancellor and then hold him accountable for them.

Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents, clarified the Board's policy with respect to constituent meetings for a president vacancy identifies the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chancellor as those responsible for visiting the campus and gathering constituent input. General listening sessions would be a different matter.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Chair Brooks, Vice Chair Goodman, and Regents Arrascada, Bautista, Brager, Brown, Carvalho, Del Carlo, Downs, Fernandez, Goicoechea, and McGrath voted yes. Regent Boylan abstained.

Regent Brager moved approval of the proposed Employment Agreement for Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater. Regent Brown seconded.

Regent Arrascada stated that although he understands the proposed salary aligns with policy and the minimum of the range, he is concerned about offering such an elevated salary to an individual who does not have the experience of being a president. Additionally, he is concerned about how this may impact the morale of the other NSHE presidents.

Vice Chair Goodman said it is the Board's responsibility to assess the salary range for NSU. She further stated the Chancellor's recommendation to appoint Dr. Lopez Lasater as the Acting President at the minimum of the salary range, pursuant to policy, is a responsible choice and the Board should support it.

Regent Brown agreed with Vice Chair Goodman and added that potential candidates may look at the current meeting and conversation regarding how the Board values the NSU President's position.

Regent Goicoechea said the bottom line is the Board must commit to examining the pay scales for all NSHE positions.

2. Approved-Appointment of Acting President, NSU – *(continued)*

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Chair Brooks, Vice Chair Goodman, and Regents Bautista, Brager, Brown, Carvalho, Del Carlo, Downs, Fernandez, Goicoechea, and McGrath voted yes. Regent Arrascada voted no. Regent Boylan abstained.

The meeting recessed at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 11:09 a.m. with all members present.

3. Approved-Commencement of Search for Permanent President, NSU – The Board approved the immediate commencement of a national search for the permanent President of NSU and utilizing the services of a search consultant with expertise in higher education to assist the search.

Based on feedback received during the NSU listening sessions, Chancellor McNair recommended the commencement of a national search and engaging the services of a search consultant.

Regent Carvalho moved approval of the immediate commencement of a national search for permanent President of NSU and engaging the services of a search consultant with expertise in higher education to assist the search. Regent Downs seconded. Motion carried.

4. Approved-Honorary Degree, UNLV – The Board approved awarding an honorary doctorate degree from UNLV to Mr. Edward D. Smith (*Ref. BOR-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Interim President, provided background information on Mr. Smith and his contributions to UNLV and the southern Nevada community.

Vice Chair Goodman moved approval of awarding an honorary doctorate degree from UNLV to Mr. Edward D. Smith. Regent Boylan seconded. Motion carried.

5. Information Only-Graduate, Faculty and Staff Housing Project, UNR – University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval presented information on the Graduate, Faculty and Staff Housing Project at 600 University Way, Reno, Nevada (*Refs. BOR-5a and BOR-5b on file in the Board Office*).

Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President, provided an overview of the project, including the financing structure.

Regents McGrath, Boylan, Goicoechea, and Carvalho, along with President Sandoval and Mr. Andrew Clinger, UNR Vice President of Administration and Finance, discussed the

5. Information Only-Graduate, Faculty and Staff Housing Project, UNR – (continued)

following topics: rental costs and the provision within the negotiation that would limit any type of rent increase to 3 percent per year, along with a meaningful component that UNR will have input on the design of the building, which will have a direct relationship with what the rental costs will be; same rental costs will apply regardless of the individual (student, faculty or staff) and certain colleges within UNR have increased graduate student stipends to offset living expenses such as rental costs; the rentals will be offered to UNR faculty, staff and students first, and student housing rules will apply to the students – faculty and staff will not be on the same floors as the students; the Affiliation Agreement limiting the occupants to graduate students, medical students, faculty and staff; however, if the occupancy does not reach 90 percent, the rentals become available to recent graduate students; and target rents being comparable to market rents and how the market study provided in the materials was a snapshot in time as of May 2025.

Regents Del Carlo and Arrascada commended President Sandoval’s relationship with local and national partners to improve and expand housing for the UNR community.

The meeting recessed at 11:34 a.m. and reconvened at 11:58 a.m. with all members present.

6. Information Only-Name, Image, and Likeness and its Evolving Impact on Collegiate Athletics (Agenda Item 7) – Bill Carter, faculty member at both the University of Vermont and Boston College, and founder of Student-Athlete Insights, offered an educational presentation on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) in college sports designed to provide the Board of Regents with knowledge and strategic insights on the current NIL landscape and its implications for NSHE institutions (Ref. BOR-7 on file in the Board Office).

The presentation included an overview of the current state of NIL; trends, key patterns and shifts; regulations and compliance; revenue sharing; donors, boosters and collectives; NIL and the recruiting landscape; Title IX/transfer portal/international athletes; the ecosystem of brand and service providers; and the future of NIL.

Regent Goicoechea and Mr. Carter discussed eligibility issues surrounding the transfer portal.

Chair Brooks asked UNLV Athletics Director Erick Harper and UNR Athletics Director Stephanie Rempe how many collectives there are on their respective campuses. Director Harper answered there is one collective at UNLV. Director Rempe confirmed there are no collectives at UNR, and NIL is with a third-party business that has a direct relationship with the student-athletes.

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, Professional Staff Collective Bargaining Regulations (Agenda Item 6) – The Board approved revisions to the *Board of Regents Handbook (Title 4, Chapter 4, Sections 5-7 and 9-10)* addressing topics including the application, election and balloting process when an employee organization seeks an election to be recognized as an agent for collective bargaining; funding of collective bargaining agreement (CBA) provisions; prohibition of any CBA provision modifying or amending the NSHE Code; citations within the CBA to any provision of Title 4 of the *Handbook* that is modified by

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, Professional Staff Collective Bargaining Regulations (Agenda Item 6) – (continued)

the CBA; and the process and reporting requirements for submitting a CBA to the Board of Regents for ratification (*Ref. BOR-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Pursuant to NRS 281A.420, Regent Downs disclosed he is a WNC faculty member, and former member of the Nevada Faculty Alliance, and is subject to collective bargaining policies. He will abstain from voting on the matter.

Regent Brown left the meeting.

Chancellor McNair provided a brief overview of the proposed policy revisions.

Regent Brager moved approval of the policy revision as presented. Regent Boylan seconded. Motion carried. Regent Downs abstained. Regent Brown was absent.

8. Approved-Handbook Revision, NSHE Councils – The Board approved revisions to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 13; Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 6; and Title 4, Chapter 9(B), Section 4*) to achieve uniformity in the way councils appointed by the Chancellor and/or comprised of System and institutional staff are referenced in the *Handbook* (*Ref. BOR-8 on file in the Board Office*).

Chancellor McNair provided a brief overview of the proposed policy revisions which seek to streamline and establish consistency in the *Handbook* by decodifying the Public Safety Council; Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Council; and Business Officers Council in alignment with other management and operational councils, such as the Academic Affairs Council and Research Affairs Council, which are not codified in the *Handbook* yet provide critical support to NSHE operations and mission fulfillment.

Regent Brown entered the meeting.

Regent Carvalho expressed concerns about the timing of the policy proposal and the sensitivity regarding representation and a sense of belonging for individuals/groups on NSHE campuses. Chancellor McNair said the goal is for everyone to feel welcome on the campuses and for NSHE to embrace and defend diversity. The policy revisions are for uniformity and consistency purposes only.

Regent Carvalho inquired if there is an appetite for this item to be discussed at the meeting where the proposal to restructure the Board's committees comes forward.

Regents Boylan and Carvalho discussed the external political environment and the impacts on diversity, equity, and inclusion at NSHE campuses. Regent Carvalho stated there are various groups who at times did not feel safe in some campus spaces. She has heard concerns that by diminishing the role of the IDEA Council in Board policy, it may also diminish the voices of particular individuals/groups.

8. Approved-Handbook Revision, NSHE Councils – (continued)

Regents Del Carlo and Arrascada shared their support for the proposed policy revisions, noting they can always be revisited. The work and purpose of the councils will be absorbed into all the Board's committees, which will provide a greater voice for underrepresented groups.

Regent Bautista and Chancellor McNair discussed how decodifying the councils is mainly about consistency, as there are other councils that are not formally established in the Code. The Chancellor said the purpose and work of the councils should be in the fabric of NSHE's DNA.

Regent Boylan moved approval of the policy revisions as presented. Regent Del Carlo seconded.

Regent Brown shared her support for the proposed policy revisions and the importance of streamlining.

Chair Brooks said it is important to recognize that student access and inclusion is a driver for the work of the Board and NSHE.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Chair Brooks, Vice Chair Goodman, and Regents Arrascada, Bautista, Boylan, Brager, Brown, Del Carlo, Downs, Fernandez, Goicoechea, and McGrath voted yes. Regent Carvalho voted no.

9. Information Only-New Business – Regent Brown requested the following items: 1) Initiate a comprehensive review of Systemwide safety and security planning, with a particular focus on ensuring that UPD has the resources, staffing, and infrastructure needed to meet the evolving demands of the campuses; 2) Develop a policy requiring all NSHE institutions to create, maintain, and regularly update comprehensive emergency management plans; and 3) Review existing policy for the Nevada National Guard tuition waiver program so the timeline can be clearly defined and evaluated for when the waiver can be passed on to dependents.

Regent Downs requested the following items: 1) Assessment of courses taught by high school personnel to ensure quality and rigor; 2) Review Board policy on registration fees (*Title 4, Chapter 17*) and consider removing the 10-15 percent set aside on fee increases; 3) Review programs, including non-academic programs, created by NSHE institutions to determine if the outreach results (ROI) cover the costs of those programs; and 4) Review Board policy on host accounts for the Chancellor and institutional presidents.

Regent Del Carlo requested a comprehensive review of all NSHE employee pay scales.

Regent Boylan requested a policy be created regarding transgender athletes, allowing only natural-born males or females to participate in their respective sports groups.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. David Cooper thanked the Board of Regents for its decisions regarding Nevada State University and encouraged NSHE leadership to hold more listening sessions on campus.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.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