

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

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
SECURITY COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room
Tuesday, November 18, 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, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mr. Patrick J. Boylan, Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Vice Chair
Ms. Heather Brown
Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs

Members Absent: Mr. Aaron Bautista

Other Regents Present: Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho
Mr. Pete Goicoechea

Others Present: Mr. Matt McNair, Chancellor
Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student
Affairs
Mr. James Martines, Vice Chancellor & Chief General Counsel
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
Mr. Chris Viton, Vice Chancellor of Budget & Finance/
Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
Dr. Stacy S. Klippenstein, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President
Dr. Amber Donnelly, GBC President
Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, NSU Acting President
Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Interim President

Chair Boylan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with all members present except Regent Bautista. Regent Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Information Only – Public Comment – Kimberly Brock submitted written public comment expressing her view on Agenda Item 8, Safety of Female Athletes: Gender-based Participation in Collegiate Athletics.

Gloria Sharlein spoke to the inclusion of transgender women in female sports categories and expressed her views on fairness and safety.

2. Approved – Minutes - The Committee recommended approval of the September 4, 2025, meeting minutes (*Ref. SEC-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Brown moved approval of the minutes. Vice Chair Arrascada seconded. Motion carried. Regent Bautista was absent.

3. Information Only – Safety of Female Athletes: Gender-based Participation in Collegiate Athletics (Agenda Item 8) - Lynda King, Senior Associate General Counsel, presented developments with respect to transgender female student-athlete participation in collegiate athletics. Information presented included background on the NCAA Participation Policy for Transgender Student-Athletes (February 6, 2025), Nevada Constitution protections related to gender identity and expression, and regulatory guidance, as well as an update on the current legal landscape and implications related to the topic.

Chair Boylan emphasized that all individuals are welcome at NSHE institutions, and that the topic was brought forward due to concerns for female athletes' safety, security and fairness.

Counsel King noted there are no current circumstances in Nevada that necessitate policy action regarding transgender athletes. Ms. King highlighted two relevant cases before the U.S. Supreme Court with rulings expected in late spring that may provide guidance on potential policy changes related to Title IX and equal protection; she advised to take no action until the Court decides. Counsel King and Chair Boylan discussed the role of Executive Orders as directives to federal government agencies, while state constitutions take precedent related to NCAA policy compliance; she confirmed NSHE institutions are operating within current NCAA rules related to transgender student-athletes. Additionally, Ms. King noted that Article 24 of the Nevada Constitution provides equal rights, including gender identity and expression, as protected characteristics; she advised against approving policies that conflict with the state constitution.

Regent Brown further noted that Regents are sworn to the Nevada Constitution and that acting outside it would violate their oaths.

Counsel King also suggested that the topic might be best discussed in the Audit, Compliance, and Title IX Committee to allow for broader conversation on safety and protections.

4. Information Only – Crisis and Emergency Plans, UNLV and UNR (Agenda Item 3) - Arnold Vasquez, Chief of Police, Southern Command, introduced Dr. Louise Hardy, Assistant Director of Threat Assessment and Emergency Management, who presented the crisis and emergency plans currently in effect at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

4. Information Only – Crisis and Emergency Plans, UNLV and UNR (Agenda Item 3)
(Continued)

Eric James, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police, Northern Command, introduced Dr. Amanda Windes, Manager of Organizational Resilience, who presented the crisis and emergency plans currently in effect at the University of Nevada, Reno (*Ref. SEC-3 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Windes provided context for comprehensive emergency management, noting its five phases of prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery; she emphasized that mitigation and planning phases are crucial to significantly reducing financial and human impact. Dr. Windes explained that Nevada must plan for a variety of threats including man-made, natural disasters, and technological incidents, and that plans need to be tested for integration with local, state, tribal, and federal entities. Specifically, within Northern Command, such recent efforts include continuity exercises with a local Level One trauma hospital and a full-scale exercise with Reno Tahoe Airport, plus tabletop exercises with senior leadership at UNR, TMCC, DRI, and WNC each semester.

Chair Boylan and Dr. Windes discussed the differences between emergency management and disaster resilience (the ability of an organization to adapt and change to overcome impacts from a crisis). Additionally, they discussed the organizational and reporting structure of the northern Organizational Resilience department, comprised of a manager, coordinator, and a training and exercise coordinator; it is the only multi-person department in the state with 100% accredited emergency managers. Dr. Windes confirmed that the office reports to Andrew Clinger, UNR Vice President of Administration and Finance.

Chair Boylan and Dr. Louise Hardy discussed the organizational and reporting structure of the southern Threat Assessment and Emergency Management department, comprised of an assistant director, two coordinators, and an administrative/grants assistant. Dr. Hardy confirmed that the office reports to Chief Vazquez of Southern Command. She further described the office's recent activities including tabletop exercises assisted by FEMA involving CSN, NSU, and UNLV plus external partners at local hospitals and EM agencies from Clark County and Henderson.

Dr. Hardy described southern elements including incident management teams, emergency response teams and activation, emergency communications systems, crisis communication plans, continuity of operations plans, campus preparedness and public engagement. Additionally, she highlighted updates to emergency response plans at CSN, NSU, and UNLV. Further, she noted future program development including hazard-specific plans.

Chair Boylan requested organizational charts to better understand reporting lines and accountability. Additionally, he requested future clarification from the Chancellor to address differences in chain of command between north and south.

4. Information Only – Crisis and Emergency Plans, UNLV and UNR (Agenda Item 3) – (Continued)

Regent Goicoechea inquired about police coverage for GBC. Dr. Windes confirmed that GBC did not renew its MOU with the Northern Command. Further, GBC President Donnelly explained the decision to hire and manage operations internally as it better suits the campus' specific needs.

Regent Brown noted the lack of emergency management guidelines in the *Handbook* and sought input from Dr. Hardy and Dr. Windes on opportunities to standardize operations among Northern and Southern commands.

Dr. Hardy, Dr. Windes, and Chief Vazquez addressed Chair Boylan's concerns about active shooter and counterterrorism preparedness, communication coordination, shelter-in-place training, and planning for vulnerable populations such as people with disabilities. Chief Vazquez added that multiple full-scale exercises have been conducted.

5. Action Taken – Handbook Revision, NSHE Police and Security Forces (Agenda Item 4) - The Committee took action to postpone consideration of revisions to the Board of Regents Handbook (Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 12, Subsections 16-17) changing the reporting structure for University Police Services, Southern Command, and University Police Services, Northern Command (Ref. SEC-4 on file in the Board Office).

Counsel Martines explained the rationale to change the reporting structure from presidents to the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee to align with recommendations from the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

Chair Boylan reiterated that he does not support the addition of a Chancellor's designee but rather believes the two chiefs should report directly to the Chancellor.

Regent Brown suggested the best course of action is to wait for the updated IACLEA report and return to discussion after its release.

Regent Downs asked if it is possible to remove "Chancellor's designee" from the language, and whether the Chancellor is comfortable adding two direct reports at this time. Counsel Martines clarified that the language could be modified. Chancellor McNair confirmed that campus safety is his primary concern and can thus manage the change.

UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey expressed opposition to the proposed revisions as it would separate spending authority and limit strong working relationships with Chief Vasquez that exist. CSN President Stacy S. Klippenstein echoed concerns raised by Interim President Heavey and welcomes further discussion through the third-party review. NSU Acting President Amber Lopez Lasater agreed that access to the Chief is top priority and she supports conducting a third-party assessment. DRI President Kumud Acharya noted he works with both northern and southern commands and that the current reporting relationship is working well.

5. Action Taken – Handbook Revision, NSHE Police and Security Forces (Agenda Item 4) – (Continued)

Regent Carvalho expressed frustration that the review period defined in Board policy had lapsed and said she looks forward to engaging a third-party assessment; further she noted that IACLEA recommended a Systemwide police consolidation and that there are opportunities to explore standardization among campuses. She encouraged ongoing discussion for the best of the System.

Vice Chair Arrascada moved to postpone consideration of the *Handbook* revision until the IACLEA report is completed. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried upon a roll call vote. Vice Chair Arrascada, Regent Brown and Regent Downs voted yes. Chair Boylan voted no. Regent Bautista was absent.

6. Information Only – Allocation of Legislative Funds for Systemwide Safety Upgrades (Agenda Item 5) - Arnold Vasquez, Chief of Police, Southern Command, and Eric James, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police, Northern Command, provided an update on the allocation of safety funds appropriated by the 83rd Legislature under AB568 (Ref. SEC-5 on file in the Board Office).

Chief Vasquez began by thanking those who helped support the passage of AB568. He reviewed the Public Safety Council's establishment, charge, and membership. Additionally, Chief Financial Officer Chris Viton detailed the funding and allocation formula which combines headcount and full-time equivalents.

Chief Vasquez noted that primary use of funds in both Commands will procure upgrades including ballistic vests, tasers and technologies, and fleet vehicles. He continued to detail the allocations and focus areas for each campus: \$1.8 million to CSN for access controls and surveillance; \$496,154 to NSU for surveillance, access controls, exterior lighting, and traffic control; \$400,000 to DRI for surveillance and fencing upgrades; \$2.6 million to UNLV for communications and exterior lighting.

Chief James added that institutions are working collaboratively with the Public Safety Council in utilizing funds. He continued to detail those allocations including: \$400,000 to GBC for access controls and surveillance; \$724,907 to TMCC for access controls, door upgrades, surveillance and alarms; \$1.9 million to UNR for surveillance, traffic and access controls, and hardware upgrades; \$400,000 to WNC for surveillance, access and traffic controls, hardware upgrades, and notification system.

Chief James confirmed for Chair Boylan that GBC does have stationed officers and patrols but does not have an MOU for organizational resiliency as they handle those operations internally. Regent Goicoechea and Chief James discussed cooperating agreements with local law enforcement in northern campus locations.

6. Information Only – Allocation of Legislative Funds for Systemwide Safety Upgrades (Agenda Item 5) (Continued)

The committee recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:24 p.m. with all members present except Vice Chair Arrascada and Regent Bautista.

7. Information Only – Implementation of UNLV Safety Upgrades (Agenda Item 6) - Arnold Vasquez, Chief of Police, Southern Command, presented a report on the implementation of safety upgrades since the December 6, 2023, shooting event at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Ref. SEC-6 on file in the Board Office).

Chief Vasquez began by honoring those lost and impacted by the events on December 6, 2023. He described safety enhancement initiatives including community outreach and service programs; hardware, communications, surveillance, and exterior lighting upgrades, and access controls; and additions to the vehicle fleet.

Chief Vasquez confirmed for Chair Boylan that access controls will be implemented strategically, and in a phased approach. Further, he committed to more regular updates from the Public Safety Council to the Security Committee.

Regent Brown expressed appreciation to the legislature for security funding. Further, she acknowledged Chief Vasquez's efforts to unify southern campus safety operations with the funding provided.

8. Information Only – Policy and Law Related to the Possession of Weapons on NSHE Property (Agenda Item 7) - James Martines, Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel, presented a review of the current state of policy and Nevada law as it relates to the possession of weapons on NSHE property. The discussion included NRS 202.265, originally adopted in 1989, Board of Regents Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 33, and other matters related thereto.

Counsel Martines explained the NRS 202.265 is the controlling statute for weapons on campus, and that the Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 33, provides the process for requesting and assessing permission to bring a weapon on NSHE property.

Regent Downs, Chair Boylan, and Counsel Martines discussed Reserve Police Officer programs to reduce campuses as "soft targets." Mr. Martines recommended seeking expert advice from an external party to determine feasibility if the Board was considering adopting such programs at NSHE institutions. Regent Brown expressed concerns about the idea and acknowledged that it is a nuanced topic requiring research and data-informed discussion.

9. Information Only – New Business - None.

10. Information Only – Public Comment – Gloria Sharlein spoke in support of armed community members on campus and requested that the Committee look at security disparities when political parties visit campus. Ms. Sharlein further shared her concerns on transgender participation in sports and urged the Committee to listen to those directly affected and consider scientific evidence.

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Prepared by: Klaas H. Van Der Wey
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Submitted for approval by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents