

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

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ad hoc NSU PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Nevada State University
Christenson Education Building, Rooms 211/212
1300 Nevada State Drive, Henderson

Monday, November 24, 2025

Members Present: Regents' Committee
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs
Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

Members Absent: Regents' Committee
Mr. Aaron Bautista

Other Regents Present: Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Ms. Heather Brown
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Mr. Pete Goicoechea

Members Present: Advisory Committee
Mr. Glenn Christenson, Trustee Emeritus, NSU Foundation
Ms. Sonnya DeBonis, Chair, NSU Foundation
Dr. Katherine Dockweiler, President, NV Board of Education
Ms. Kaytee Johns, Administrative Faculty, Career Services Center
Dr. Pete Martini, Academic Faculty, LASB
Mr. Matt Morris, Alumnus/Holland & Hart
Mr. Scott Muelrath, President and CEO, Henderson Chamber
Dr. Michelle Oddi, Academic Faculty, Nursing
Ms. Lahana Pearce, President, NSSA
Ms. Astrid Silva, Executive Director, Dream Big Nevada
Dr. Raul Tapia, Academic Faculty, LASB
Ms. Stacy Wallace, Vice Chair, Classified Council
Dr. Kinsey Wright, Academic Faculty, Education

Others Present: Mr. Matt McNair, Chancellor
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents

Chair Amy J. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. with all members present except Regents Arrascada and Bautista. Chancellor McNair led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chair Carvalho provided the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

2. Information Only-Welcome and Introductions – Chair Amy J. Carvalho offered welcome remarks and invited brief introductions from Search Committee members.

Regent Arrascada entered the meeting.

Chair Carvalho thanked the advisory members for serving on the committee. She provided information on the structure of the search committee and a rough timeline for the search.

3. Information Only-Nevada Open Meeting Law – Special Counsel to the Board of Regents Chris Nielsen provided an overview of the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML) ([NRS Chapter 241](#)) as it relates to the ad hoc NSU Presidential Search Committee and the search process.

The overview included: the purpose of the OML; OML violation consequences; how the OML applies to public bodies; what defines a quorum and walking quorum; the definition of “deliberate” specifically within NRS; committee agendas and the three-day notice period for meetings; action and information items on an agenda; public comment; and the importance of discussions in meetings to remain within the framework of what is agendaized.

4. Information Only-Search Firm Presentations – The Board of Regents, at its October 17, 2025, special meeting, took action to commence a national search for the next President of Nevada State University (NSU) and approve the engagement of a search firm with expertise in higher education to aid the Search Committee. In accordance with the NSHE Code ([Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.5.5.f](#)), Chief of Staff Keri D. Nikolajewski, in consultation with Search Committee Chair Amy J. Carvalho and Chancellor Matt McNair, selected three executive search firms for consideration by the Search Committee.

Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents, provided a brief overview of commencing the national search for the next president of Nevada State University, including the RFQ and selection process for the search firms.

Representatives of the following firms presented proposals for executive search services.

- Academic Search
- WittKieffer
- AGB Search

Dr. Mary Kennard, Dr. Jay Lemons and Dr. Gabriel Eseban, Academic Search, presented their proposal and answered follow-up questions from the Committee and advisory members.

Christine Pendleton and Charlene Aguilar, WittKieffer, presented their proposal and answered follow-up questions from the Committee and advisory members.

Due to technical issues, the meeting recessed at 9:53 a.m. and reconvened at 10:03 a.m. with all Regents’ Committee members present except Regent Bautista.

4. Information Only-Search Firm Presentations – (continued)

The WittKieffer representatives continued to answer follow-up questions from the Committee and advisory members.

Dr. Garry Owens and Dr. Laura Woodworth-Ney, AGB Search, presented their proposal and answered follow-up questions from the Committee and advisory members.

5. Approved-Search Firm Selection – The Search Committee discussed the proposals from Academic Search, WittKieffer, and AGB Search, including information provided in response to follow-up questions. The Committee selected and approved Academic Search to enter into negotiations with the Nevada System of Higher Education for a contract with the Board of Regents on behalf of Nevada State University to assist the Search Committee in the performance of a search for a permanent President of NSU.

At the request of Chair Carvalho, the Committee, advisory members and other Regents present, assessed each of the proposals from the three search firms and shared their top choices.

Regent Boylan expressed concerns about the cost of hiring search consultants and spoke in opposition to engaging an external firm to assist with the search.

Regent Arrascada moved approval of Academic Search to enter into negotiations with the Nevada System of Higher Education for a contract with the Board of Regents on behalf of Nevada State University to provide executive search services and assist the Search Committee in the performance of a search for a permanent President of NSU. Regent Downs seconded. Motion carried. Regent Bautista was absent.

6. Information Only-New Business – None.

7. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.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