

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

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

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Student Union, Ballroom A  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas  
Thursday, December 4, 2025

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

Others Present: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Dr. Terina Caserto, Director of Policy  
Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Mr. Ryan Herrick, Deputy System Counsel  
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents  
Mr. David Singleton, Academic & Transfer Policy Analyst  
Dr. Stacy S. Klippenstein, CSN President  
Dr. Jeffrey W. Alexander, TMCC President

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

1. Information Only- Public Comment – None.

Regent Bautista entered the meeting.

2. Possible Action-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the following consent items:

2a. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2025, meeting. (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).

2b. Approved-Program Elimination A.A. Culinary Arts Management, CSN – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Arts (A.A.) in Culinary Arts due to no enrollment. (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).

2. Approved- Consent Items– (*Continued*)

- 2c. Approved-Program Elimination A.A.S. Fire Science Technology, CSN – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Fire Science Technology due to no enrollment. (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office*).
- 2d. Approved-Program Elimination, A.A.S. Occupational Therapy Assistant, CSN – The Committee recommended approval of the elimination of the Associate of Science (A.A.S.) in Occupational Therapy Assistant due to no enrollment (*Ref. ARSA-2d on file in the Board Office*).

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

3. Approved- CSN Program Changes – The Committee recommended approval of the following items:
  - 3a. Approved-A.B. Associate of Business, CSN – The Committee recommended approval to change the existing Business degree to an Associate of Business (A.B.). Additionally, curricular changes decrease the total credits from 61 to 60. The degree transfers to bachelor programs in Business at other institutions. The change in name and credit requirements does not impact physical or financial resources (*Ref. ARSA-3a on file in the Board Office*).
  - 3b. Approved-A.A. Criminal Justice, CSN – The Committee recommended approval of the program change to the Associate of Arts (A.A.) Criminal Justice. The structural changes are a response to changes in Criminal Justice degrees at other NSHE institutions. The changes provide CSN students with a clean transfer with no loss of credits. The change in credit requirements does not impact physical or financial resources (*Ref. ARSA-3b on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Brown entered the meeting.

Dr. James McCoy, CSN Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, explained that the requested name and credit changes are very minimal. The Department of Education did an audit for CSN and found that these courses are out of alignment with NSHE APUS and their course catalog. The changes will also allow the Business degree to be updated so that the credit amount will also be reflected in their course catalog in Spring of 2026.

Regent Del Carlo recognized the value of having a third-party conduct audits on institutions and felt these changes will ultimately save students money and time.

3. Approved- CSN Program Changes – (*Continued*)

Regent Del Carlo moved approval of the consent items. Regent Brown seconded. Motion carried.

4. Approved-Program Change, A.A.S. Architectural Design, TMCC- The Committee recommended approval of the program change to the existing Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Architecture and Construction to an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Architectural Design. Additionally, curricular changes focus on the architectural aspects of the degree by removing construction curriculum. The curricular changes assist in aligning the degree with TMCC's Bachelor of Architecture (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Melissa Deadmond, TMCC Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, clarified the program change is based on curriculum changes and allows TMCC to align with their Bachelor of Architecture program. TMCC is seeking accreditation with the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) and these changes will allow TMCC to be the first community college to offer the Bachelor of Architecture degree.

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

5. Approved-NSHE Planning Report – The Committee recommended approval of the additions to the 2025-2029 Planning Report originally approved at the December 4-5, 2024, Board of Regents meeting. Current revisions include additional academic programs that may come forward for Board approval within the 2026 calendar year (*Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Terina Caserto, Director of Policy, presented the proposed additions to the *2025-2029 Planning Report*.

Chair Arrascada outlined key updates in the *Planning Report* and shared his support for the revisions.

Regent Brown echoed Chair Arrascada's comments and emphasized that these implementations are planning for jobs of the future.

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

6. Information Only-New Program Review – Academic and Transfer Policy Analyst David Singleton presented the *New Program Review* report as required by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 6*). This report included reviews from the universities, state universities, and community colleges comparing originally projected program enrollments and expenses to actual first-, third-, and fifth-year figures (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Mr. Singleton provided an overview of the report.

6. Information Only-New Program Review – (*Continued*)

Chair Arrascada provided a synopsis of the *New Program Review* and invited the representatives from CSN, TMCC, NSU and UNLV to share updates related to their respective campuses.

For CSN, Dr. McCoy shared that the institution is on their third year of an approved change to their Associate of Applied Science degree, which is a transferable degree. This resulted in a large increase in enrollment for the program, as the key idea of transferable credits is extremely valuable to students. It also paved a pathway for students to further their education.

For TMCC, Dr. Deadmond provided an overview of the apprenticeships and partnerships with labor unions for Certificate of Achievements at the community college.

Dr. Tony Scinta, NSU Executive Vice Provost, shared that the university offers a Human Health Science program, which has maintained and increased enrollment by 40 percent. This growth is due to the direct link to the institution's competitive program: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Dr. Kate Hausbeck Korgan, UNLV Acting Executive Vice President and Provost, addressed Chair Arrascada's question regarding a discrepancy to the five-year follow-up for the Ph.D. program for Psychology. Dr. Korgan explained how enrollment dropped by two students; however, the expenditure increase was a typo between the Ph.D. and Master of Science programs.

Chair Arrascada commended WNC on its pragmatic approach regarding the overhead for its Health Science associate's degree program.

7. Information Only- Existing Program Review – Director of Policy Terina Caserto presented the report on institutional reviews of existing programs as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 6*). In addition, representatives from NSU and WNC presented reviews conducted for at least one program at their respective institutions. The presentations included NSU's Criminal Justice program, WNC's Computer Technology program, the processes for evaluating existing programs generally, indications of quality, whether programs are meeting employer expectations, improvements in student learning outcomes, and any action steps identified based on the review of programs and the status of action steps (*Refs. ARSA-7a, ARSA-7b and ARSA-7c on file in the Board Office*).

Chair Arrascada thanked Dr. Caserto and her team for their work on the report.

Dr. Caserto provided an overview of the NSHE Existing Program Review for 2024-2025.

Regent Del Carlo emphasized the importance of program reviews as it allows the institutions to maintain competitiveness and meet the current needs in education.

7. Information Only- Existing Program Review – (*Continued*)

Dr. Scinta presented NSU's existing program review for its B.A. in Criminal Justice which included: program review changes and core elements; key metrics: first-time, full-time and all students; CRJ Majors, fall 2014-fall 2024; majors by race/ethnicity (fall 2024); retention; persistence rates; CRJ graduates, fall 2014-spring 2025; 6-year graduation rates (2014-2019 cohorts); 6-year graduation rates for first-generation students and Hispanic students; Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) Assessment; contribution to workforce strategic plan goals; external review highlights; and areas for ongoing improvement.

Vice Chair Downs asked who conducted the external review for NSU's Criminal Justice program. Dr. Scinta said an associate professor in criminal justice from one of the Indiana state universities performed the review.

Chair Arrascada and Dr. Scinta discussed best processes and practices for streamlining a program and the impacts on faculty and students.

Dr. Dana Ryan, WNC Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, and Dr. Amy Ghilieri, WNC Professor of History, presented WNC's existing program review for its A.A.S. in Computer Information Technology which included: changes to the program review process; program overview of the A.A.S. in Computer Information Technology; program data for course level enrollment (fall 2024) and graduation; and program review results.

Vice Chair Downs asked if an external reviewer was utilized. Dr. Ghilieri answered that an advisory board within the program conducted the review. They further discussed challenges of students receiving adequate training and being recruited by the industry before degree completion, and the automatic rewards of reverse degrees.

Vice Chair Downs and Regent Del Carlo discussed the last program review performed for WNC's mathematics department. In response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Downs, Dr. Ghilieri stated that WNC has three liberal arts degrees (A.A., A.S. and the A.G.S.) which are up for review in 2026.

8. Approved- 2025 NSHE Science and Technology Plan – The Committee recommended approval of the 2025 NSHE Science and Technology Plan. The plan is designed to be a blueprint for both the state and public higher education in setting priorities in science and technology research (*Refs. ARSA-8a and ARSA-8b on file in the Board Office*).

Mr. Fred Harris, Jr., Nevada State EPSCoR Director, provided an overview of the 2025 NSHE Science and Technology Plan which included: an overview of changes; land and natural resources; integrated health and wellness; digital technologies; infrastructure and industrial technology; and strategies for success.

Vice Chair Downs and Mr. Harris discussed the level of integration of AI in the Science and Technology Plan and how it is not a main focus at this time.

8. Approved- 2025 NSHE Science and Technology Plan – (*Continued*)

Regent Brown and Mr. Harris discussed the expansion and growth of the research footprint in Nevada and if a systemwide tech transfer program could be beneficial in attracting better talent. Mr. Harris added there are specific goals pertaining to those items within the “strategies for success” portion of the plan.

Regent Brown moved approval of the 2025 NSHE Science and Technology Plan. Regent Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried.

9. Information Only-New Business – Vice Chair Downs requested a discussion to explore a common General Education (GE) requirement for all NSHE institutions.

Regent Del Carlo requested the following items: 1) an update on the Board policy pertaining to the 350:1 student to advisor ratio for all degree-seeking institutions; and 2) have staff look into the Board receiving meeting minutes from the Institutional Advisory Councils (IAC) and the community college presidents providing periodic updates on their respective IAC’s to the Board per policy.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Prepared by: Catherine Riley  
Special Assistant & Coordinator to the Board of Regents

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