

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents in the June 11-12, 2026, meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
HEALTH SCIENCES SYSTEM COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room
Thursday, February 26, 2026

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: Ms. Stephanie Goodman, Chair
Mrs. Susan Brager, Vice Chair
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

Members Absent: Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez

Other Regents Present: Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Ms. Heather Brown
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho
Mr. Pete Goicoechea

Others Present: Mr. Matt McNair, Chancellor
Mr. James J. Martines, Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
Mr. Chris Viton, Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance/Chief
Financial Officer
Dr. Marcia Turner, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences
Dr. Chris Heavey, Interim President, UNLV
Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, Acting President, NSU

Chair Stephanie Goodman called the meeting to order at 11:56 a.m. with all members present except Regent Fernandez. Chair Goodman provided the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the September 4, 2025, meeting minutes (*Ref. HSS-2 on file in the Board Office*).

2. Approved-Minutes – (continued)

Vice Chair Brager moved approval of the September 4, 2025, meeting minutes. Regent McGrath seconded. Motion carried. Regent Fernandez was absent.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Stephanie Goodman provided general remarks on activities and updates since the last meeting of the Committee. She noted that following the presentation on the *Nevada Student Gambling Survey* by the International Gaming Institute at the December 2025 Board of Regents meeting, the NCAA may implement a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) focused on gambling and sports betting education for student-athletes. Chair Goodman praised the potential opportunity to create positive change by increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and supporting athletes' well-being.

4. Information Only-Rural Health Transformation Grant Program – Dr. Marcia Turner, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, highlighted key opportunities for NSHE and Nevada to advance rural healthcare and health sciences workforce development across the System through the federal Rural Transformation Grant authorized in recent federal legislation. The presentation focused on how these investments can strengthen workforce pipelines and expand access in rural Nevada (*Ref. HSS-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Turner provided an overview of the Rural Health Transformation Grant Program authorized through recent federal legislation. She emphasized the size and reach of NSHE's statewide role in supporting rural health needs. Dr. Turner explained that the program began as a \$25 billion federal allocation to improve rural healthcare access and was later increased to \$50 billion. Nevada received nearly \$180 million for the first year, with funding opportunities focused on rural health infrastructure, workforce development, chronic disease prevention, and technology-based care. She noted that Chancellor McNair asked each NSHE president to appoint a representative to a coordinating council to help institutions collaborate on competitive proposals. Dr. Turner highlighted the four key pillars of Nevada's Rural Health Transformation Program: Rural Health Outcomes Accelerator Program, Flex Fund to Strengthen Rural Health Infrastructure, Workforce Recruitment and Rural Access Program, and Rural Health Innovation and Technology initiative.

Regent Boylan asked how the Board fits into the process. Dr. Turner explained that Regents can help by staying informed, sharing ideas, and identifying potential partners in rural areas. Regent McGrath encouraged attention to long-term sustainability and Regent Del Carlo expressed appreciation for the focus on rural communities and expanded healthcare access throughout Nevada.

5. Information Only-UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine Accreditation and University Medical Center Affiliation Study – Dr. Alison Netski, Interim Dean of the UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, provided an overview of academic, administrative, and clinical operations, including an update on the accreditation status, UNLV Health

5. Information Only-UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine Accreditation and University Medical Center Affiliation Study – (continued)

performance, and University Medical Center of Southern Nevada affiliation negotiations (*Ref. HSS-5 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Netski highlighted the School's mission areas of education, research, patient care, and community engagement, all aimed at strengthening Nevada's healthcare workforce. She shared updates on recruitment efforts, noting strong interest in the incoming tenth class and approximately 400 qualified applicants. She also discussed residency Match Day and partnerships with NSHE institutions and local high schools to encourage students to pursue medical careers and participate in outreach programs designed to increase early student engagement in medicine.

Dr. Netski announced that the School of Medicine received notification of continued full accreditation approval from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). She also reviewed Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding and residency pipeline efforts, noting that residents and employees receive salaries and health insurance benefits, making sustainability an important consideration when developing or expanding GME programs. Dr. Netski stated that approximately two-thirds of residents remain in Nevada to practice.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Brager regarding student ties to Nevada, Dr. Netski explained that one of the School of Medicine's top priorities is recruiting and retaining Nevada students. Looking ahead, she discussed plans for a new ophthalmology residency program, explaining that Nevada currently needs approximately 66 additional ophthalmologists to meet the national average.

Vice Chair Brager asked about shortages in anesthesiology. Dr. Netski explained that anesthesiology is not currently being pursued independently by the School of Medicine because workforce data classifies the specialty as sufficiently staffed, largely due to anesthesiologists practicing pain management rather than surgery. She noted, however, that anesthesiology remains on University Medical Center's (UMC) list of potential future programs and that the School of Medicine would welcome the opportunity to partner, though it does not currently have anesthesiologists on faculty. UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey added that the Board recently approved a registered nurse anesthetist program, which will help produce graduates working under physician supervision. Dr. Netski also noted that the School of Dental Medicine's dental anesthesia residency program, in partnership with UMC, has been working well.

Dr. Netski also highlighted the School of Medicine's first-class simulation and anatomy facilities in the Medical Education Building, including simulated operating rooms and robotic surgery training equipment that support GME programs and surgical subspecialties. She noted continued growth in research activity, including increases in external grants, submitted proposals, and grant awards, supported by investments in infrastructure, statisticians, grant writers, and faculty resources. She also highlighted the School's Alzheimer's research program in the Department of Brain Health, traffic safety and injury

5. Information Only-UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine Accreditation and University Medical Center Affiliation Study – *(continued)*

prevention research in the Department of Surgery, and community-based programs such as Walk with a Doc, rural obstetrics emergency training for EMTs, and the military medicine partnership with UMC and the United States Air Force.

Dr. Netski also discussed physician and faculty recruitment, noting that competition for hiring physicians nationwide is difficult, especially in academic medicine where salaries are often lower than private practice and faculty responsibilities include research, mentorship, scholarship, teaching, and clinical care. She explained that the School of Medicine has added new recruitment tools, including targeted databases, specialty conference outreach, and efforts to promote Las Vegas as a community rather than just an entertainment destination. Dr. Netski noted that work-life balance is now a top priority for graduating residents and faculty candidates, and the School of Medicine has emphasized benefits such as major holiday clinic closures, paid time off, part-time faculty opportunities, loan forgiveness programs, and a 72-hour retention offer process for faculty being recruited by competitors. She stated that FY 2026 hiring is trending better than the prior year, with the school expecting to hire approximately 27 new faculty members, while continuing to address remaining vacancies.

Dr. Netski provided an overview of the financial status of the School of Medicine and the UNLV Health practice plan operations. Chair Goodman asked for additional information on the School of Medicine's billing, scheduling, and other operational and financial status. Dr. Netski shared that the School of Medicine has engaged a national consulting company called ECG to conduct an analysis of UNLV Health operations. This engagement will focus on a review of the current organizational and governance structures of UNLV Health, business and finance operations, clinical operations such as scheduling, and other future operational planning and best practices that can be implemented to support optimization of the UNLV Health practice plan. This study should conclude by the end of August.

Regent Boylan asked how the Board can support the School of Medicine. Dr. Netski explained that as the School considers its next phase of growth, it will likely need major infrastructure investments, including potential facilities that could support billable services, such as an ambulatory surgery center. She noted that current clinical revenue supports many operations but would not be enough to immediately cover the cost of building or purchasing major new facilities, making Board guidance and support important as future investment conversations continue.

6. Information Only-UNLV School of Dental Medicine – Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger, Acting Dean for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, provided an overview of academic, administrative, and clinical operations, including key priorities and ongoing initiatives (*Ref. HSS-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Gerstenberger stated the School of Dental Medicine, founded in 2002, is the only accredited dental school in Nevada and is preparing for its Commission on Dental

6. Information Only-UNLV School of Dental Medicine – (continued)

Accreditation review in 2028. Dr. Gerstenberger highlighted the School's continued growth, including approximately 80 graduates per year, about 2,000 annual applications, and roughly 75 students admitted each year, with about half of enrolled students coming from Nevada. He also shared that the School graduated its largest class in history, with approximately 111 students and residents graduating over the last year.

Dr. Gerstenberger reviewed the School's residency programs, including pediatrics, orthodontics, dental anesthesia, and dental public health. He noted that the dental anesthesia residency program, launched in 2025 in partnership with UMC, is one of the first programs of its kind west of the Mississippi. He also discussed staffing challenges, noting that the School has about 370 employees, significant vacancies, and 17 priority recruitments underway, including key human resources positions. Main campus human resources and the School of Medicine have been assisting with recruitment while the school rebuilds its internal human resources capacity. Vice Chair Brager asked how long the School of Dental Medicine has been using the School of Medicine's human resources department for recruitment. Interim President Heavey shared there has been a cascade of challenges for filling positions and that working together with the School of Medicine has been a vital component of hiring.

Dr. Gerstenberger highlighted the School's research, community partnerships, and clinical services. He described the School of Dental Medicine as a "hidden gem," noting that it has more than 40 partnerships, provides oral health education, sealant programs, and fluoride treatments. The School serves more than 50,000 patients each year, many that may not otherwise have access to dental care. He also highlighted the pediatrics program, where approximately 80% of children served are Medicaid patients.

Financially, Dr. Gerstenberger reported approximately \$7.6 million in clinical revenue and noted that dental care provided by students is billable, generating about \$3 million annually for the School. He also discussed the addition of E-Assist, a third-party billing and collections firm, to help address aged claims, denial root causes, and billing recovery.

Vice Chair Brager asked about the billing component for visits, with Dr. Gerstenberger sharing that E-Assist is a well-known billing company and will help the School collect outstanding bills, although some will be outdated. Vice Chair Brager inquired about partnering with the Clark County Commission for promotional activity. Dr. Gerstenberger stated he would welcome additional support in promoting the School's services and community impact.

7. Information Only-New Business – None.

8. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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

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