

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

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Friday, April 17, 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: Mr. Byron Brooks, Chair
Ms. Stephanie Goodman, Vice Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
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

Members Absent: Mr. Aaron Bautista

Others Present: Mr. Matt McNair, Chancellor
Ms. Renée Davis, Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic and
Student Affairs
Mr. Brody Leiser, Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance/ Chief
Financial Officer
Mr. James J. Martines, Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
Dr. Stacy S. Klippenstein, President, CSN
Dr. Amber Donnelly, President, GBC
Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, Acting President, NSU
Dr. Jeffrey W. Alexander, President, TMCC
Dr. Chris Heavey, Interim President, UNLV
Mr. Brian Sandoval, President, UNR

Chair Byron Brooks called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with all members present except Regent Bautista. Regent Goicoechea led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Doug Unger, representing the Nevada Prison Education Project, expressed support for NSHE’s prison education expansion and noted a potential supplemental budget request for departmental staffing. He further alerted the Board to a dire healthcare crisis involving the Public Employees Benefits Program, citing sharply rising premiums and \$140 million in accounting discrepancies that will create significant budget impacts across the System. Mr. Unger requested a formal opportunity to discuss in expert detail with the Chancellor and Council of Presidents to facilitate urgent financial planning.

Vivian Rumar submitted written public comment expressing concerns regarding the clarity and accuracy of how academic distinction criteria are communicated to students across NSHE institutions. She emphasized that students rely on published criteria when making long-term academic decisions. She further stated her belief that when that language is later acknowledged as misleading without timely correction, it creates confusion and undermines trust in the system. She respectfully asked the Board to consider ensuring that all NSHE institutions clearly and accurately communicate how academic distinctions are determined, and that any misleading language currently published be corrected promptly.

2. Approved-Consent Items – The Board of Regents approved the consent items.
 - 2a. Approved-Nomination, Career Pathways Oversight Committee – The Board of Regents approved the nomination of Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges Natalie Brown for consideration and appointment by the Governor to the Career Pathways Oversight Committee within the Nevada Department of Education. Established by Assembly Bill 462 (Chapter 428, *Statutes of Nevada 2025*), the committee is required to: (1) establish metrics to measure the success of the career pathways programs; (2) evaluate the progress and success of the career pathways programs; (3) evaluate programs for dual credit provided by the Nevada System of Higher Education; (4) report certain findings to the State Board and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education; and (5) identify state agencies with the jurisdiction and expertise to oversee, implement and regulate the career pathways programs for different industries.
 - 2b. Approved-Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision, Non-Resident Distance Education Tuition – The Board of Regents approved a revision to the *Procedures and Guidelines Manual (Chapter 7, Section 1)* to correct the 2026-27 non-resident distance education tuition rates for NSU undergraduate and CSN, GBC, TMCC, and WNC upper-division (*Ref. BOR-2b on file in the Board office*).

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

3. Information Only-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities – Pursuant to NRS 281A, Regent Downs disclosed his status as an employee of Western Nevada College, stating that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected by this situation and that he would vote on the matter.

Chief Financial Officer Brody Leiser noted that he joined NSHE System Administration on April 1st after serving for over 13 years with the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Division. He stated that his number one focus is to get his arms around everything related to the budget. Mr. Leiser presented the 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request process and operating budget priorities (*Ref. BOR-3 on file in the Board Office*).

Mr. Leiser presented the timeline, noting that NSHE's budget priorities are in alignment with the System strategic plan and the Governor's priorities. He highlighted a key legislative change regarding the state general fund revenue projections from the Economic Forum. The due date has been moved to November 15th from December 3rd. Chief Financial Officer Leiser explained that will provide an idea of the state's fiscal picture about two to three weeks earlier than usual. Mr. Leiser also mentioned SB 462, a clean-up bill from the 2023 session regarding how agencies build their adjusted base budget.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser explained the spending limit or two-times cap provided by the Governor's Finance Office, which was calculated at \$1.9 billion for the System. Mr. Leiser clarified that the limit determines what can be put into the agency request budget, while anything outside that cap is entered as items for special consideration. He emphasized that the limit does not set a cap on what the System can ask for as priorities. Mr. Leiser noted that, historically, caseload adjustments have been included outside of the cap.

The meeting recessed at 9:23 a.m. to address technical issues and reconvened at 9:28 a.m. with all members present except Regent Bautista.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser presented a request for \$22.8 million for the biennium to cover statutorily mandated Native American and National Guard fee waivers. He stated current appropriations are nowhere near sufficient to offset the loss of registration fees. Mr. Leiser noted that in AY 24-25, \$8.2 million in registration fees was waived for over 1,800 students with an anticipated 20% annual growth. Vice Chair Goodman requested follow-up information regarding residency requirements for the Native American fee waiver.

Mr. Leiser indicated support for small institution factor funding at 100% for Great Basin College (GBC) and Western Nevada College (WNC). He noted that while the legislature raised the threshold to 125,000 weighted student credit hours, it was previously only funded at 20-40%. Regent Brown noted that funding the extra cost to educate rural populations is a priority. Regent Del Carlo emphasized that community colleges do heavy lifting for workforce development which is what Nevada truly needs. Regent Goicoechea echoed earlier remarks and noted that the requested amount is budget dust in the context of the total state budget, but is vital for the institutions.

Mr. Leiser also outlined a funding request for public safety including staffing, integrated surveillance, panic software, and badging systems. He noted that institutions have already

3. Information Only-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities –
(continued)

expended or committed the \$11 million from AB 567. Chief Financial Officer Leiser addressed the history of funding Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). He explained the 2011-2012 policy decoupled registration fees from the General Fund, providing an exemption from Section 7 of the Authorizations Act. Mr. Leiser explained that the non-offset policy means the System is not required to revert General Fund dollars if fee collections exceed budgeted amounts. He further explained the 2019 COLA change. Mr. Leiser noted that an 80% of 80% calculation resulted in 64% funding, and how since 2005, COLA funds have been appropriated to the Board of Examiners, requiring the System to justify and seek approval.

Regent Goicoechea expressed his belief that there is an opportunity to present NSHE's case before the legislature, the Governor, and Board of Examiners to help the System address the recently approved fee increases. Mr. Leiser responded that the Board's commitment to address some of the challenges and shortfalls will go a long way in the next steps of the budgetary cycle.

Regent Del Carlo welcomed Mr. Leiser and shared her excitement about having his expertise. Additionally, she inquired about the role of the Board of Examiners. Chief Financial Officer Leiser explained that the Board of Examiners is comprised of the Governor, Attorney General, and the Secretary of State and is charged with contractual and financial approvals related to the executive branch. Vice Chair Goodman expressed her appreciation for Mr. Leiser's expertise, especially around the topic of COLA funding.

UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey added context, noting that COLA justifications happen late in the fiscal year after the money has been expended, making the budgetary process more difficult, especially without knowing the amount of the state's reimbursement. Additionally, President Heavey noted that enrollment trends are a unique factor with budgetary impact that other agencies generally do not face.

Regent McGrath moved approval of the 2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities. Regent Brown seconded.

Special Counsel to the Board of Regents Chris Nielsen and Chief Financial Officer Leiser established that no specific action is needed at this time. The item was introduced for possible action to allow the Board to provide formal direction, if necessary.

Regent McGrath withdrew her motion. Regent Brown withdrew her second.

4. Information Only-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests – Chief Financial Officer Brody Leiser presented the 2027-29 Capital Improvement process and recommended ranking of projects (*Ref. BOR-4 and Supplemental Material on file in the Board office*).

4. Information Only-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests – (continued)

Pursuant to NRS 281A, Regent Downs disclosed his status as an employee of the System, and stated that because the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected by his situation, he would participate in a vote if there is one.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser outlined the key dates and noted the Board will meet again on May 21, 2026, to finalize the ranking for submission to the State Public Works Board. Mr. Leiser explained that Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 26 of the *Handbook* governs the process involving a prioritized list developed by the business officers and Council of Presidents. The criteria used to evaluate projects focused on inclusion of both planning and construction projects and considered the previous rankings approved by the Board.

Mr. Leiser noted several high-priority projects. He described the CSN Northwest Campus construction project as an investment into expansion for the institution into the Northwest Valley requiring infrastructure and construction of a first building. Mr. Leiser noted that \$9 million has been invested to date, with \$4.2 million coming from the state. Additionally, the Nevada State University Academic Village project was included to ensure the list reflected both construction and planning priorities. Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted the UNR HVAC replacement is a critical maintenance need for the main campus, alongside HVAC and roof repairs for the WNC Fallon Campus Sage Building.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser addressed the Capital Construction Fund for Higher Education (HECC) and Special Capital Construction Fund for Higher Education (SHECC). He noted that while the System traditionally receives \$15 million in HECC/SHECC funds, the amount is insufficient. Mr. Leiser provided historical context explaining that in 1983, a legislative change redirected \$5 million of the HECC fund to the State General Fund, and the HECC funds have not been used to support capital projects with the System since. He highlighted that in the 2023-25 biennium, the System received a total of \$65 million, representing 25% of the state's overall maintenance funding which is a significant increase from the historical 6%.

Regent Brown noted that \$15 million from 1983 would be equivalent to \$49.7 million today. She further emphasized that the investment from the state promised 43 years ago has not kept up with inflation or the demands to sustain the state's workforce pipeline. Regent Goicoechea expressed concern about jumping in the pool with other state agencies for general CIP maintenance, suggesting the System should instead expand that piece of earmarked funding. Chief Financial Officer Leiser responded that a total of \$100 million is included for deferred maintenance in the CIP request and it may be possible to pursue a one-shot appropriation to address the dire need across the System. Regent Del Carlo expressed her desire for a statewide building maintenance lottery.

The meeting recessed at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m. with all members present except Regents Bautista and Fernandez.

5. Information Only-Career and Technical Education Winnemucca Building, GBC – President Amber Donnelly presented information regarding the Career and Technical

5. Information Only-Career and Technical Education Winnemucca Building, GBC – (continued)

Education building in Winnemucca. President Donnelly noted that the building was sponsored in part by the Tech Hub dollars received, a little over \$2 million, with an additional \$400,000 from WINN funding and \$100,000 from GM. She described the facility as chock full of diesel and industrial maintenance, explaining that previously the Winnemucca location just had electrical.

President Donnelly emphasized the urgent need for expansion to accommodate new program components, specifically a process plant trainer operator and an expanded electrical component supported by GM and WINN funding.

Dr. Donnelly explained that the System currently pays a \$15,000 lease per month, and that arrangement will end in 2029. She noted that GBC has been proactive in figuring out what to do for space going forward. While a design for a new 20,000 square foot building through Public Works came in at an estimated \$29 million, which she characterized as a big lift for a small institution, a new opportunity has arisen. President Donnelly reported that the current owner, who previously was not interested in selling, has approached the institution. He owns the current building plus three additional buildings that are adjacent. She stated that the owner is now interested in potentially selling the building to GBC.

President Donnelly explained that the request was an information item in the event the owner is willing to sell, as the next step is to proceed with appraisals. She highlighted the strategic value of the site, noting that building space in Winnemucca is scarce. The next step is to proceed with appraisals.

6. Information Only-Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision, 2027-29 Tuition and Fees, UNR School of Medicine – University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval presented the proposed 2027-29 biennium tuition and fee structure for the UNR School of Medicine (*Procedures and Guidelines Manual Chapter 7, Sections 3 and 18*). The proposal reflects an increase in resident and non-resident tuition and fees of 3.80 percent per year for each year of the 2027-29 biennium (*Ref. BOR-6 on file in the Board office*).

President Sandoval noted that the school examined relevant data and made recommendations for consideration by the Chancellor and the Board. He explained that the committee used AAMC as a surrogate with direct comparison to other medical schools to establish benchmarks. The committee also considered inflation and regional costs using the Common Fund Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) and a needs assessment of the School of Medicine. He detailed that UNR Med uses a five-year rolling average between 2021 and 2025 of the HEPI to keep pace with inflation while remaining competitive with other schools in the western region.

The proposed revision reflects an increase in resident and nonresident tuition and fees of 3.8% per year for each year of the 2027, 2029 biennium. President Sandoval noted these investments provide critical funding to sustain and strengthen the educational experience and help expand the pipeline of new physicians to serve Nevada. He clarified that if

6. Information Only-Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision, 2027-29 Tuition and Fees, UNR School of Medicine – (continued)

approved, the increases, net of specific fees like capital improvement and technology, will be allocated to the state supported operating budget of the School of Medicine.

President Sandoval addressed concerns regarding student debt. He acknowledged that UNR recognizes that any increase in tuition and fees is significant for students and can contribute to higher debt. President Sandoval noted this concern was directly discussed by the committee, which included student government representatives from the Class of 2028 and the Class of 2029. He reported that the committee unanimously supported the 3.8% increase each year of the biennium. President Sandoval further highlighted that the Student Access Fee is calculated as a percentage of tuition and fees, which results in an automatic increase when tuition and fees increase.

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, Production or Inspection of Records/Files and Requests for Information by Regents – The Board of Regents approved the proposed revisions to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 4, Subsections 1 and 2, and Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 5, Subsections 2 and 2a of the *Handbook*. Revisions to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 5, Subsection 2b were excluded from the motion and were not approved (*Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office*).

Assistant System Counsel Carrie Parker noted the proposed revision addresses a gap in policy regarding non-public records. She clarified that it does not impact what can be requested, but rather impacts the submission and processing of those requests. Under the proposal, requests would be made in writing to the Chancellor and the Chief of Staff to the Board.

Ms. Parker explained that the current policy requires Regents to review non-public information in the office. The proposed revision offers an additional option allowing files to be e-mailed to a Regent's official NSHE address if the Board Chair, in consultation with General Counsel, determines there are appropriate safeguards. However, highly sensitive information would never be sent outside the secure network, and student and employee files would always remain at the office.

Regent Boylan criticized the proposal, stating it was prompted by his request for an After Action Report (AAR). Regent Boylan inquired and Counsel Parker clarified the proposed allowances to the policy. She reiterated that the proposed change does not impact what can be requested, but rather how the information is provided. Regent Boylan questioned why the Chair should be involved in a Regent's request, and called the oversight nonsense and rubbish. He emphasized that it was chipping away at the powers of individual Regents.

Chair Brooks clarified that the intent is to eliminate as many barriers as possible to ensure information is received in the fastest manner. Chair Brooks further noted that counsel did not want to be the sole and final decision maker on electronic transmission.

Regent McGrath expressed technological concerns, noting that email attachments are not best practice and instead suggested password protected links that expire. Chief General

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, Production or Inspection of Records/Files and Requests for Information by Regents – (continued)

Counsel James J. Martines clarified that the policy was designed to account for the unknown and provide the ability to send files electronically while complying with security protocols. Regent Del Carlo opposed the change, citing a history of leaks. She stated her belief that coming to the office is the proper way. Regent Goicoechea echoed the security concerns, and stated his preference is to review records in print at the office. Regent Brown characterized the proposal as a solution looking for a problem and something that opens the Board up to potential liabilities.

Chair Brooks suggested the Board might approve the administrative updates in Section 4 while omitting the objectionable electronic transmission language in Section 5. Regent Brager spoke in favor of the protection afforded by the compromise, calling the email option extremely dangerous.

Regent Carvalho moved approval of revisions to the *Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 4-5, excluding Section 5.2.b. Regent Brown seconded. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Chair Brooks, Vice Chair Goodman, and Regents Arrascada, Brager, Brown, Carvalho, Goicoechea, and McGrath voted yes. Regents Boylan, Del Carlo, and Downs voted no. Regents Bautista and Fernandez were absent.

8. Information Only-New Business – Regent Downs requested a future agenda item dedicated to a full presentation on collective bargaining so that the public and the Board can better understand the bargaining updates. He specifically emphasized the need for a discussion about arbitration. He further asked for fellow Regents to support the item's inclusion on a future agenda.

9. Information Only-Public Comment – Pio Rejas expressed his appreciation and noted that students appreciate the Board's desire to include their voices, specifically around the priorities for the legislative sessions. He emphasized students are still part of the conversation when going to the 84th Legislative Session.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Prepared by:

Klaas H. Van Der Wey
Special Assistant and Coordinator to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by:

Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents