Minutes were approved at the August 27, 2026 Special meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF REGENTS
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Thursday, May 21, 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 Mr. Jason Frierson, Vice Chancellor of Government Relations Mr. Brody Leiser, Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance/ Chief Financial Officer Mr. James Martines, Vice Chancellor & 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 Lopez Lasater, Acting President, NSU Dr. Chris Heavey, Interim President, UNLV Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President, WNC

Faculty senate chair in attendance: Jessica Rowe, WNC. Student body president in attendance: Kelechi Odunze, UNLV-CSUN.

Chair Byron Brooks called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with all members present except Regent Bautista. Regent Brager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. <u>Information Only-Public Comment</u> – The following speakers shared comments on Agenda Item 6:

- Dr. Stacy Walters, President of the Nevada Faculty Alliance and member of the AFL-CIO, noted that over 3,000 building trade apprentices were currently enrolled at CSN and TMCC, working toward degrees and certificates. Dr. Walters highlighted that these students were taking math classes for load-bearing requirements and learning blueprint reading and construction code in their classrooms. She emphasized that faculty worked directly with union training directors to develop curriculum and serve on advisory councils. Dr. Walters observed that these apprenticeship programs provided debt-free pathways to family-sustaining careers with healthcare and retirement. She acknowledged that when construction contracts are negotiated without building trade partnerships, students are often shut out in favor of out-of-state labor. Dr. Walters urged the Board to ensure capital project contracts aligned with the educational mission. She requested that the Board exercise oversight to hold partners accountable to outcomes that serve Nevada students, ensuring capital projects reflect the partnership between building trade unions and faculty.

- Loren Graves, a retiree of Local 872, noted his experience living next door to a public charter school that was built by non-union contractors. He highlighted his concerns regarding asbestos exposure in the old building, which led him to contact the County for inspection. Mr. Graves observed that after his call, the building was properly sealed with plastic to prevent asbestos from entering the environment. He also mentioned an incident where concrete was being poured in a residential neighborhood, leading him to file an incident report. Mr. Graves further emphasized safety concerns after seeing painters on the second floor without proper safety apparatus, which resulted in an OSHA violation for the contractor. He acknowledged that shortcuts were taken on the building's substructure and suggested that core samples would reveal deviations from engineer specs. Mr. Graves expressed his preference for keeping work and money within Nevada to support local families and ensure they have proper nutrition and attire.

- Joseph Franco, a union organizer with Liuna Local 872, noted that many projects were being built using non-signatory and non-local labor while local workers remained on the sidelines. He emphasized that Nevada public projects should create Nevada careers. Mr. Franco highlighted that building trades apprentices are also students who participate in accredited programs while working in the field. He observed that these programs invest millions of private dollars into training at no cost to taxpayers, providing debt-free education, healthcare, and family-sustaining careers. He acknowledged that excluding building trade partnerships limits career opportunities for students and urged for the creation of pathways for local workers rather than importing out-of-state labor. He suggested that utilizing community workforce agreements would guarantee local hiring, safer job sites, and high workforce standards. He emphasized that organized labor must have a seat at the table to develop the next generation of Nevada's skilled workforce.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – *(Continued)*

- Aaron Ibarra stated that he does not believe any current issues stem from ill intent, as many development structures simply reflect historical business practices. However, he emphasized that it is vital to recognize the real-world consequences these decisions have on Nevada workers and students. Mr. Ibarra highlighted serious concerns regarding the lease agreement language for the new Nevada State University campus project. He observed that the project appeared to be structured specifically to avoid being classified as public work, which allows prevailing wage standards and apprenticeship utilization requirements to be bypassed. Mr. Ibarra noted that this is fundamentally a student issue, pointing out that over 3,500 registered apprentices in Southern Nevada are also students through CSN. Mr. Ibarra emphasized that these apprentices rely on job hours to graduate and build middle-class careers in Nevada. He stated that the Apprenticeship Utilization Act was designed to ensure public projects contribute to workforce development, and he observed that using loopholes to avoid these standards disenfranchises the very students the system is meant to support. Finally, Mr. Ibarra highlighted his excitement as a North Las Vegas resident for the new campus, but he acknowledged that circumventing these standards sidelines local apprentices. He emphasized a request for the Board to evaluate whether these agreements truly align with the mission of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the long-term success of its students.

- Robert Dias, representing Sheet Metal Workers Smart Local 88, noted that he was accompanied by a coalition of families representing tens of thousands of working families who could not be present because they are currently at work. Mr. Dias highlighted that the redevelopment agency had committed approximately $7.5 million to the North Las Vegas redevelopment project, while the Nevada Legislature had committed $2.5 million. He emphasized that because these are public dollars, the project should be classified as a public work employing workers under prevailing wage, and he observed that failing to do so would be a willful circumvention of NRS 338. Mr. Dias acknowledged the repetitive argument that the project would be unaffordable if prevailing wages were paid. However, he highlighted that the alternative implemented involved paying a developer the difference in wages through lease language to avoid enacting a public-private partnership. He noted that nearly $9 million in total allocation, $750,000 came from private sources, including $250,000 from NV Energy and $500,000 from an anonymous philanthropist. Mr. Dias requested the Board add this to future agenda items to continue discussing how the project can be completed through public works.

- Lamare Jones, representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, noted that Nevada trades apprenticeship programs are comprised of students who attend classes, complete coursework, and participate in accredited training programs while working in the field. He emphasized that when projects exclude building trades partnerships and labor agreements, it disenfranchises students and limits their opportunities to work as Nevadans. Mr. Jones highlighted that union apprenticeship programs provide debt-free education, family-sustaining careers, healthcare, retirement, and long-term workforce development.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – *(Continued)*

Further, Mr. Jones observed that building trades apprenticeship programs invest millions in private dollars every year into training at no cost to taxpayers. He stated that the state should be creating pathways for Nevada students to remain working in Nevada rather than importing out-of-state labor. Mr. Jones acknowledged the struggles apprentices face in accessing opportunities and noted that community workforce agreements ensure local hiring, a skilled workforce, and safer job sites. He emphasized a request for the Board to remain cognizant of the local job opportunities that Nevada apprentices and journeyman wiremen would like to be part of.

- Paul Catha, representing the Culinary Union, spoke in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the building trades, observing that many Culinary Union members are married to members of the building trades. He emphasized that when building trades members do well, his members do better also. Further, Mr. Catha highlighted his belief that public dollars should stay in Nevada to benefit Nevada workers. He acknowledged his full support for the efforts of both the university and the Nevada Faculty Alliance to form unions and bargain a contract with the Board of Regents. Mr. Catha stated his hope that the Board will be able to reach a just resolution to all of these issues.

- Alfonso Lopez, representing Sheet Metal Workers Local 88, noted that he and many others had attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the former Texas and Fiesta Station properties for a new $600 million project. However, Mr. Lopez highlighted a major concern regarding the developer, Agora Realty and Management Incorporation. He observed that the construction jobs being brought to Las Vegas pay less than half, and in some cases, less than one-third of the area standard wages. Mr. Lopez emphasized that the development agreement with Nevada State University and the City of North Las Vegas appeared to be specifically written to classify the project as "not a public work" to circumvent paying prevailing wages. To provide context on the cost of living, Mr. Lopez noted a September 2025 UNLV study which found that a single-income household needs to earn at least $57.22 an hour to comfortably afford a mortgage in the Las Vegas Valley. He acknowledged the urgent need for the development agreement to be amended. Mr. Lopez emphasized the importance of protecting workers by paying affordable living wages and providing opportunities for the thousands of apprentices currently studying at the College of Southern Nevada.

- Patrick Villa, a mathematics professor at the College of Southern Nevada, observed that the large group of people gathered behind him were present because they had a legitimate concern. He acknowledged that he did not believe the Board was trying to circumvent or sidestep rules, but suggested that the current issues might be an unintended consequence of trying to save money. Mr. Villa highlighted a group he was part of a year ago that made recommendations to the Board. He noted that, at the time, faculty and staff did not get their preferred choice because the Board cited the wishes of local union members instead. Mr. Villa emphasized that if the Board listened to union members then they should listen to their words and concerns now. He stated that it is better to get the contract right than to get it done fast. Mr. Villa requested that the

1. Information Only-Public Comment – *(Continued)*

Board re-evaluate the contract, and urged them to have a full discussion to give all considerations their due weight.

- Cassie Charles, representing AFSCME, highlighted that public dollars are being used for the project and observed that the community wants to see it fulfilled using union labor and prevailing wages. Further, Ms. Charles noted the importance of including community benefit agreements in the project. She acknowledged the large number of people present in the room to support the initiative and stated her hope that the Board would hear their voices and take their concerns into action. She thanked the Regents for their time and for the opportunity to be heard.

Trey Curtis Brown, incoming UNLV GPSA President, introduced himself to the Regents and expressed his gratitude for their ongoing hard work and dedication. He noted the positive collaborations he has already experienced with several Regents and shared his enthusiasm for building partnerships with the remaining members. Mr. Curtis Brown emphasized his commitment to a productive year of collaboration and support for the university community.

Randall Dannen, representing postdoctoral scholars, highlighted that a majority of postdocs signed union authorization cards as a democratic demonstration of support for the union. He emphasized that supporting postdocs through a collaborative union relationship would strengthen the recruitment and retention of talented researchers. Further, he observed that this support helps maintain the strong research environments necessary for Carnegie R1 status. Mr. Dannon stated his hope for constructive conversations regarding the next steps for recognition. He emphasized a request for the university to meet and discuss a fair process for negotiations under an enforceable bargaining framework, similar to those already in place for other higher education workers across the U.S.

The following individuals submitted written public comment:

- Jonathan Hansen expressed opposition to the Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement between UMC and UNLVKSOM, sharing his concern over a mandate that residents must install a location-tracking application on their personal phones.

- Mary McDonough expressed opposition to the inclusion of the ResQ location-tracking platform in the Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement between UMC and UNLVKSOM.

- Erica Rae Herrera took no position, but expressed dire concern about the use of ResQ for tracking resident hours and the direct infringement on medical trainees' personal privacy.

2. Approved-Consent Items – The Board of Regents approved the consent items.

2a. Approved-Minutes – The Board of Regents approved the January 23, 2026, and February 20, 2026, special meeting minutes *(Refs. BOR-2a1 and BOR-2a2 on file in the Board Office)*.

2b. Approved-2027 Board of Regents Meeting Dates and Locations – The Board of Regents approved the following quarterly meeting dates and locations for calendar year 2027:

- March 11-12, 2027 – DRI Las Vegas Campus
- June 8-9, 2027 – UNR
- September 1-2, 2027 – WNC
- December 9-10, 2027 – UNLV

Regent Brager moved approval of the consent items. Regent Del Carlo seconded.

Regent Del Carlo asked for clarification on the deviation from Thursdays and Fridays as meeting dates. Keri Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents, stated that at the March 2026 quarterly meeting, the Board recommended adjustments to the June and September 2027 meeting dates, which were subsequently revised to accommodate staff workload and avoid potential holiday conflicts. It was noted that the June schedule change was specifically intended to provide staff with a necessary break after the legislative session to ensure they are prepared for the quarterly meeting.

Motion carried. Regent Bautista was absent.

The meeting recessed at 9:27 a.m. and reconvened at 9:32 a.m. with all members present except Regent Bautista.

Chair Brooks announced that Agenda Item 6 would be taken out of order.

3. Approved-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests (Agenda Item 6) – The Board of Regents approved the recommended ranking of construction, planning, and deferred maintenance projects from NSHE institutions for submission to the State Public Works Board *(Ref. BOR-6 and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office)*.

Pursuant to NRS Chapter 281, Regent Downs disclosed that he is an employee of WNC, an institution within NSHE. Because of the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected by his situation, he will vote on the matter.

Chief Financial Officer Brody Leiser presented the 2027-29 Capital Improvement project requests. Chair Brooks emphasized that the item does not consider any contracts, rather it is purely about future planning.

3. Approved-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests (Agenda Item 6) – *(Continued)*

Chief Financial Officer Leiser emphasized that the agenda item is specifically for the Board to take action and set its priority rankings for capital improvement projects for the upcoming biennium. He highlighted the way the cycle works, explaining that the ranked list would be submitted to the State Public Works Board for consideration. He noted that the State Public Works Board would then make recommendations to the governor for inclusion in the budget for the upcoming biennium.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser explained that if these projects are approved as part of the 2027 Capital Improvement Program, they would all be managed and overseen by the State Public Works Board, with the exception of some minor maintenance projects. He acknowledged that the presentation is limited to projects being considered for ranking and submission for the upcoming biennium. Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated that he would not present projects previously approved by the Board, but offered to provide further clarification if needed. He highlighted that the institutions began talking about their capital projects at the March 2026 quarterly meeting. Further, he reminded Regents that during the April 2026 special meeting, he presented the recommended ranking of capital improvement projects.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser revisited the list of approved projects from the last regular and special legislative sessions. He recalled that state general fund appropriations were just over $176 million and noted commitments by the institutions, mainly for the UNR Life Sciences building and UNLV business school construction. He stated that these commitments contribute toward the capital construction costs for those buildings. In total, including university funds, the slot tax, and state funds, the institutions received just over $354 million in authorized and appropriated funding.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted that on August 26, 2026, the Chancellor's office and institution representatives will present the Board's priorities to the State Public Works Board. He highlighted that Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 26 of the *Handbook* outlines the process. Chief Financial Officer Leiser presented the criteria used by the chief business officers and the Council of Presidents to evaluate projects. He emphasized that it was important to the chief business officers to include both planning and construction projects as priorities. He highlighted that several projects at the top of the ranked list included both planning and construction components, noting that the traditional legislative cycle typically approves planning in one biennium with construction funding following in the next.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted the magnitude of deferred maintenance dollars and the number of related projects reflect critical infrastructure needs across the state. He stated that the ranking order remained the same as what was presented in April 2026 with no changes. Chief Financial Officer Leiser offered that the Board of Regents could approve the list as presented, approve it in a different order, or add and remove projects as they desired.

Regent Del Carlo observed that the $85 million appeared to be another separate bucket for deferred maintenance needs. She highlighted that these needs are above and beyond those

3. Approved-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests (Agenda Item 6) – *(Continued)*

already listed in the other twenty-three items. Regent Del Carlo noted that since roofs and chillers were included there too, the total request exceeds $100 million dollars. Chief Financial Officer Leiser responded that the $85 million is in addition to those larger maintenance projects. He noted that campus needs go well beyond everything on the list. Large HVAC and roof repair projects are individually listed and ranked. He acknowledged that in an ideal world, they would be able to secure funding to address the entire list so that campuses and institutions would have no problems. He further imagined that the institutions would be able to spend $100 million on deferred maintenance beyond the individual projects. However, he cautioned that as they go through the cycle and budget process, it is important to understand that there are limited resources available. Regent Del Carlo acknowledged that she is particularly happy with the business officers' involvement, as they and the presidents are closest to the ground. She additionally stated that she is satisfied with the ranking exactly as it is.

Regent Brager agreed with Regent Del Carlo. She noted that it is difficult because there are so many needs and wants. Regent Brager asked if there was any way to fund the UNLV School of Nursing expansion and clinic with grants, foundation monies, or donations. She urged the System to seek funding for something so important. UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey acknowledged that it is a vitally important project and he is exploring ways to move it forward on an accelerated timeline. He noted the reality that every project is urgent for all the campuses. Interim President Heavey further observed that if UNLV has to wait for the project to rise to the top of state funding, it might be longer than they want. He confirmed that fundraising is underway to support projects. He emphasized that one of the messages he gives the community is that the more they can fundraise for the business building, the faster UNLV can move forward with other projects in fine arts and nursing that are also urgently needed. Regent Brager expressed her appreciation and noted it is a critical need across the state, and especially in Clark County. She additionally observed that the CSN Northwest Campus is lucky that it can still be on the list and move forward. She highlighted that the land has been Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property for so long and cautioned that sometimes they can take things away.

Regent Fernandez stated that he wanted to ensure capital funding requests moving through the public works process would receive prevailing wage status should the legislature approve them. He emphasized his desire to ensure that the state recognizes the labor unions, which he described as the backbone of the state. Regent Fernandez acknowledged that the topic requires a much broader conversation. He inquired whether these specific priorities would indeed result in prevailing wage if they are funded. Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents, confirmed that discussion was beyond the scope of this agenda item. However, he indicated that Chief Financial Officer Leiser may weigh in quickly on the question, with a broader discussion taking place at a future meeting. Chief Financial Officer Leiser confirmed that all projects within the state's capital improvement program are subject to NRS 338 as public works projects which include requirements for prevailing wage. Regent Downs also expressed his appreciation that prevailing wage is considered in the process.

3. Approved-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests (Agenda Item 6) – *(Continued)*

Regent Arrascada noted that from doing quick research on HECC/SHECC funding, the dollar amount has not increased beyond $15 million since 1984. He recognized that there are hundreds of millions of dollars in higher education capital construction and special projects necessary right now. He highlighted that these are far above the request for deferred maintenance funding as the second priority. Regent Arrascada asked if there are plans to request the state increase the HECC/SHECC appropriation. Chancellor Matt McNair confirmed the amount has been $15 million for a very long time. He acknowledged that is the reason for the second request of $85 million, to round up to $100 million. Chancellor McNair highlighted that the request prioritizes what they know are scarce resources because the System has upwards of a billion dollars in actual deferred maintenance costs. He emphasized that they are trying to be reasonable. Chancellor McNair acknowledged that they know it is not possible to get the entire amount that it would take to cover all projects.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser recalled that in the 2023 Session, the institutions received an additional $50 million on top of $15 million for deferred maintenance. He noted that the institutions have no problem going through those funds. Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated the next process following today's discussion is to take the priorities of the Board of Regents to the State Public Works Board for consideration. He explained that after they see what the State Public Works Board recommends to the governor, the System will still have a duty to communicate and engage in conversations with the governor's office. If any of the priorities are not recommended by the State Public Works Board, the System has an obligation to continue conversations with the governor before he finalizes the budget.

WNC President J. Kyle Dalpe explained that the $15 million figure is outdated and WNC receives $500,000 each biennium. He noted that a recent outside assessment put the College's deferred maintenance alone at $20 million. President Dalpe added that fixing everything would leave the College $5 million short of the total allocation that goes to the whole System. He said they appreciate the additional money being considered, but emphasized that they still hope for support for the HVAC unit in Building 6. He pointed out that the $2.7 million project would not be covered under WNC's biennial deferred maintenance allocation.

Vice Chair Goodman observed that the CSN Northwest Campus is a very large dollar figure. She acknowledged that the project is in her district and emphasized the importance of understanding that they have met on this, leading to incredible conversations that will make the project much more than what was initially presented to the legislature. Vice Chair Goodman highlighted that they will still maintain and adhere to all parameters. She acknowledged that the parameters were previously designated by the legislature, and stated her belief that they have developed some great ideas. She emphasized that they are not simply reintroducing the $135 million figure, and that the project will be a jewel for Nevada.

Regent Goicoechea noted that he supports the recommended ranking. He recognized that the CSN campus is clearly a large dollar amount and they have to run with it. He added

3. Approved-2027-29 NSHE Capital Construction, Planning, and Deferred Maintenance Requests (Agenda Item 6) – *(Continued)*

that over the next year, the System will need to get its arms around the figures instead of just saying it has "a billion dollars" in deferred maintenance. Regent Goicoechea emphasized that in the future, the System needs to come up with a true number as it does in other budget processes. He observed the need is present and growing, noting that while there are requests for campus expansions and new buildings, they cannot let the old ones fall down. He expressed his appreciation for Chief Financial Officer Leiser's explanation regarding prevailing wage and acknowledged that it is the law.

Regent Goicoechea moved approval of the recommended ranking of construction, planning, and deferred maintenance projects from NSHE institutions for submission to the State Public Works Board. Regent Del Carlo seconded.

Regent Carvalho echoed Regent Goicoechea's comments regarding capital improvement. She recalled that at the March 2026 meeting, she noted the Board needs to take a deeper look and really understand the needs of the System. She expressed support for requesting the $85 million, though she recognized it is a heavy lift for the legislature. Regent Carvalho inquired how HECC/SHECC funds are prioritized, along with the $100 million request from all institutions. Mr. Chris Viton, UNLV Chief Financial Officer, noted that in the past HECC/SHECC funds were distributed based on the proportional share of square footage.

Mr. Viton highlighted that they used a floor level for the smaller institutions of $500,000 on the $15 million allocation. He noted that when they had the $50 million additional allocation in 2023, they approached that similarly. Mr. Viton recalled that the floor in that specific case was $1.5 million. He highlighted that in that session with the $15 and $50 million, the smaller institutions received a total of $2 million. The other institutions received what was proportional based on their square footage.

Regent Carvalho thanked Mr. Viton for his explanation. She highlighted that the intention moving forward, if they were to get the additional money, would be to allocate it in an equitable manner. She emphasized the need to look at how the System prioritizes capital improvements based on budgets. She expressed hope that any kind of System-level economies of scale would be considered for similar projects like HVACs. Regent Carvalho understood there are different compressors and units on different campuses, but that any way to save money and perhaps come together for a larger project would be helpful.

Regent Carol Del Carlo stated that before the legislative session she would like to see the institutions hire an outside consultant to assess deferred maintenance, similar to what President Dalpe did. Additionally, she expressed the need to set money aside during new construction for eventual maintenance.

Motion carried. Regent Bautista was absent.

4. Approved-Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement Between University Medical Center and Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV (Agenda Item 3) – The Board of Regents approved the Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement between University Medical Center (UMC) and Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, as amended by the Clark County Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2026 *(Ref. BOR-3 and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office)*.

UNLV Interim President Heavey expressed his delight in bringing the item before the Board. He recognized the support of UMC's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer. He thanked the Clark County Board of Commissioners and the Nevada Health and Bioscience Corp. for their support of the affiliation agreement. He stated that it creates a bold vision for an Academic Health Center with their primary partner, UMC, and allows for future collaboration with the Intermountain Health Children's Hospital in the form of new pediatric residencies.

Interim President Heavey noted that the agreement was negotiated with some give and take in the process. However, he emphasized that it sets a new baseline of trust and ensures compliance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) regulations related to graduate medical education (GME) funding. He noted how important that is to both the UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine and UMC. Interim President Heavey also highlighted that one aspect of compliance is a new system called ResQ that will ensure the location of residents when they are working on-site. He noted this is used by many large academic health centers, such as UCLA, UC Davis, and Cedars-Sinai. He emphasized that it is not geo tracking, but rather geofencing. He explained that it shows whether residents are in the designated work zone, without giving precise locations or tracking people beyond that area, and noted it will ensure compliance with CMS reporting requirements to meet federal expectations.

Interim President Heavey acknowledged that there were complicated aspects of the negotiation, but in general they are very excited about this next step. He highlighted how the agreement was amended by the Clark County Board of Commissioners, noting that Section 3.3A was changed to allow new pediatric residency programs without UMC notification or approval. Interim President Heavey observed that Section 13.1 was revised to be a five-year agreement rather than a one-year agreement with three additional five-year renewals. He additionally noted that the language in Section 13.2 was also revised to clarify that it is now only a five-year agreement.

Vice Chair Goodman stated, as the chair of the Health Sciences System Committee, she had been diligently working on this with Associate Vice Chancellor Marcia Turner, and thought it was important to acknowledge Interim President Heavey's involvement. Vice Chair Goodman recognized other key individuals including Interim Dean Alison Netski, UMC CEO Mason Van Houweling, and UMC Board President John O'Reilly. She acknowledged that she could not list everyone, specifically all the attorneys involved, but emphasized that the process had been a true negotiation. Vice Chair Goodman acknowledged that the compromises would result in the betterment of the community and improvement of healthcare in southern Nevada.

4. Approved-Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement Between University Medical Center and Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV (Agenda Item 3) – *(Continued)*

Regent Fernandez echoed Vice Chair Goodman's comments. He offered kudos to everyone involved and emphasized his belief that this provides a vision for what can be accomplished in the future.

Regent Del Carlo echoed her colleagues and noted that these kinds of negotiations are difficult and time consuming. She emphasized that UNLV and UMC need each other and the better they can work together, the better it is for the community.

Interim President Heavey noted the agreement allows UNLV to be the academic partner of the Intermountain Health Children's Hospital while maintaining the vision of the Academic Health Center in partnership with UMC.

Regent Carvalho echoed previous statements, and expressed her belief that it is important to have this collaboration and partnership. She extended special appreciation for UNLV's partnership with the new pediatric hospital, specifically as someone who has a personal stake in children's healthcare in Nevada. Regent Carvalho stated her concern about the geofencing conditions, but recognized that it is done at other institutions which provides her with a little bit of comfort. Additionally, she noted that the agreement spelled out a specific private company, but found the "comparable feature" provision acceptable. Regent Carvalho expressed her full support. Interim President Heavey recognized Interim Dean Netski for her proactive approach in communicating the geofencing requirements out to students.

Regent Goicoechea asked for clarification on the GME consortium, specifically who the participants will be and how it will work. Interim President Heavey stated the consortium will be formed by members of UMC and UNLV who will be appointed, with the core idea to create a partnership-style oversight board. He highlighted that a major facet of the consortium will be to manage existing programs and growth while looking for new strategic opportunities for UMC and UNLV to add residency programs that meet community needs. Interim President Heavey further emphasized that a great part of the agreement is laying the foundation for proactive strategic growth together. Regent Goicoechea was also curious if the Board of Regents would initially, or at least eventually, be kept abreast of what is happening. Interim President Heavey committed to including GME consortium activities in updates provided to the Health Science System Committee or the full Board on a regular basis.

Chair Brooks acknowledged that the project was a large undertaking that Interim President Heavey inherited upon assuming his role. He shared his understanding that years of conversations had taken place through negotiations, contracts, affiliations, and with partnership stakeholders. Chair Brooks stated the amount of work done collaboratively on the project cannot be understated and he expressed appreciation for the time and investment put into the effort. Chair Brooks highlighted the work of the Clark County Commissioners, leadership at UMC, and all other active participants.

4. Approved-Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement Between University Medical Center and Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV (Agenda Item 3) – *(Continued)*

Mr. Jim Gibson, Clark County Commissioner, expressed his relief after working very hard to get to this point. Commissioner Gibson highlighted that some have been involved in the process on a day-to-day basis. He celebrated that it is rewarding to know that one can get to the end of the road when there appeared to be nothing but obstacles in the way. Commissioner Gibson stated that credit should go to UMC leadership and Interim President Heavey. He also noted that the Chancellor was an important part of the conversations early on and that Commission Chair Michael Naft spent a lot of time working on this, as well.

Regent Brager thanked everyone and said the results are amazing. She briefly reflected on her days as a Commissioner, noting that when the UMC board was created there was some initial skepticism. She acknowledged the UMC CEO and noted how much of a difference it makes when everyone is working toward the same goals. She said that stronger buy-in improved the relationship between UMC and the Board of Commissioners, and suggested that maintaining one seat on the board in the future could help by ensuring information is relayed consistently. She suggested that the chair of the Health Sciences System Committee serving in that capacity might be a good approach going forward. She recognized the complexity of the work and expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts.

Vice Chair Goodman moved approval of the Academic Health Center Master Affiliation Agreement between University Medical Center (UMC) and Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, as amended by the Clark County Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2026. Regent Brager seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. Regent Bautista was absent.

5. Information Only-Grade Separated Roadway Project Update, UNLV/Clark County Public Works (Agenda Item 4) – University of Nevada, Las Vegas Interim President Chris Heavey; Mr. Jim Gibson, Clark County Commissioner; and Mr. Dennis Cederburg, Director of Public Works, presented an update regarding the grade separated roadway project at the intersection of Tropicana Avenue and University Center Drive *(Ref. BOR-4 on file in the Board Office).*

Interim President Heavey emphasized that UNLV's partnership with Clark County is vital to the University and southern Nevada. He stated that the project was aimed at relieving traffic from Harry Reid International Airport to the resort corridor via a depressed Tropicana roadway. Interim President Heavey acknowledged that the County later estimated the cost to be impractical.

Commissioner Gibson said the County had worked to strengthen the relationship with the University and had raised concerns about the flyover project. He noted that the County agreed to examine other alternatives and accommodate those concerns. Mr. Gibson also

5. Information Only-Grade Separated Roadway Project, Update, UNLV/Clark County Public Works (Agenda Item 4) – *(Continued)*

said they had changed the name to University Center Drive, committed resources to Maryland Parkway improvements, and worked on the master affiliation agreement because the medical school should be a leader in the community. He added that they had approached these efforts as part of building a meaningful relationship, and that the costs and difficulties made the project impossible to move forward. Commissioner Gibson said they had not yet taken the item to the Board of Commissioners, wanting to first explain the limitations to the Board of Regents before seeking approval from the County.

Director Cederberg highlighted that the goal is to improve access for the majority of traffic traveling north via University Center Drive. He stated that the street is a one-way northbound route and approximately 50% of the traffic turns westbound at Tropicana while the other 50% continues north. Director Cederberg explained that the project would also improve travel along Paradise Road by eliminating some of the traffic through the intersection via an underpass. He highlighted that this would allow westbound traffic from the airport to go beneath Paradise Road. Director Cederberg emphasized that traffic heading to the Thomas & Mack Center would no longer conflict with airport-bound traffic. He noted that the initial proposal involved an overpass for northbound traffic on University Center Drive over Tropicana. He stated that the estimated cost for that initial overpass was $78 million.

Director Cederberg acknowledged that the overpass would create visual impacts for the UNLV and the Thomas & Mack Center. He explained that in response, they met with UNLV staff and offered a solution involving a depressed roadway. Director Cederberg highlighted that this solution avoided many utility relocations but required additional right-of-way from the University. He noted that the proposal included seven bridges and separate access to the parking lot.

Director Cederberg emphasized that the presence of shallow groundwater required the construction of a pump house. He acknowledged that the cost estimate for the depressed section climbed from $150 million to $195 million. Director Cederberg stated that to reduce costs, they decreased the number of bridges from seven to four. He noted that the current independent cost estimate for the depressed section has now reached $210 million. The project would require over 1,400 piles driven 80 to 100 feet deep due to the groundwater. He emphasized that construction within the Runway Protection Zone would require coordination with air traffic control. Director Cederberg noted that due to the high costs, they reconsidered the overpass and reduced its length by 400 feet. He stated that the current estimated cost for the revised overpass is $97 million.

Director Cederberg explained that the revised overpass eliminates one bridge and offers a better visual impact. He highlighted that the construction duration would be 24 months for the overpass compared to 36 plus months for the depressed section. Director Cederberg noted that the overpass requires only 5 acres of right-of-way compared to 15 acres for the depressed version. He also stated that the overpass allows for gravity flow drainage, whereas the depressed section required a pump house. He acknowledged that while the

5. Information Only-Grade Separated Roadway Project, Update, UNLV/Clark County Public Works (Agenda Item 4) – *(Continued)*

above-grade overpass has a significant visual impact, the below-grade option has a minimal one. He stated that the overpass provides continuous free-flow traffic, whereas the depressed section adds a new signal.

Director Cederberg highlighted a newly proposed connection called the Tompkins Avenue extension. He noted that this road would extend from Koval Lane to Paradise Road as an alternative for airport traffic. The project would include a ramp for northbound traffic to turn westbound over Paradise Road. He stated that there are also opportunities for a separate multi-use path along the corridor. The visual renderings show the alignment toward the University.

Regent Brager described Director Cederberg a guru of Clark County, adding she has always been impressed by his work. She noted that Director Cederberg considers many options and their impact on roadways, people, and traffic rather than looking at issues one way. She expressed her appreciation and hope that when the item returns it will receive the same consideration.

In response to a question from Regent Carvalho, Director Cederberg confirmed that traffic and access into the Thomas & Mack Center would improve with this plan. Additionally, the project has no impact to the ingress and egress of the UNLV 42-acre property.

6. Information Only-2026 NSHE Space Report (Agenda Item 5) – Chief Financial Officer Brody Leiser presented the 2026 NSHE Space Report identifying changes in space or usage to guide future capital planning and budgeting cycles, specifically for the 2027-29 Capital Improvement requests *(Ref. BOR-5 and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office).*

Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted that the space codes utilized are sourced from the Department of Education and the National Center for Education Statistics. He acknowledged that this is referred to as the facilities inventory and classification manual and the codes include descriptions for various areas, such as classroom and office facilities.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser highlighted the actual square footage from the 2023-2024 academic year, the change between the 2025-2026 academic year and the 23-24 period, and the actual square footage for the 2025-2026 academic year, with each area broken down by owned versus leased space. He also noted student enrollment totals and summaries as well as substantial changes for each institution.

Vice Chair Goodman left the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated that currently, the System owns approximately 95.4% of the reported square footage and leases about 4.6%. He noted that those numbers are consistent with the percentages from the 2023-2024 academic year. Chief Financial Officer Leiser observed that the figures changed by only about one-tenth of a percent, and overall growth was approximately 10% over the two years. The growth is mainly due to CSN

6. Information Only-2026 NSHE Space Report (Agenda Item 5) – *(Continued)*

facilities, specifically the Deborah March Center of Excellence and the historic Westside Educational Center. He noted that those facilities are driving more than half of the growth for the two-year period.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser also shared his understanding that the enrollment counts on the report include all students in credit-earning programs, including full-time students within the institutions as well as students enrolled through dual or concurrent enrollment.

With respect to leases, Regent Brager shared a concern that after three to five years money is being wasted. She believes when the System has a lease, it should look futuristically at purchasing. She also wanted to know whether the leases are being used to maximum capacity so there are no empty rooms, and suggested that if leased facilities are close to one another, consideration should be given to sharing space rather than maintaining separate leases.

Regent Del Carlo asked if the report is standard practice in higher education and whether information is compared. She noted that the chart showing student and enrollment growth over two years is helpful, since all but one campus showed solid growth. Regent Del Carlo also asked whether this information is used to determine if campuses have enough space for their students and why this review is conducted every two years.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted that the goal and purpose of the report is to identify institutional capital construction needs. He observed that there are a lot of factors that can go into that. He also noted it is a very high-level report on square footage. Chief Financial Officer Leiser emphasized that it does tell a story in terms of how the institutions are either growing or eliminating space. He noted that when they tie in enrollment numbers, those growths or declines have an indirect impact on facility needs across the campuses. Chief Financial Officer Leiser emphasized that they cannot simply look at enrollment with a narrow view. It is important to look at a bigger picture, specifically how the institutions use this information to develop their priorities.

In response to a question from Regent Del Carlo on how UNLV uses the report, Interim President Heavey stated they are constantly monitoring space conditions and managing programmatic space. He noted that the information informs their vision of the capital projects they will need, particularly in prioritizing projects related to additional space. He also highlighted the importance of understanding ratios of space to students on campus and identifying which programs are bursting at the seams. UNLV is actively evaluating space needs as new programs are introduced and determinations are made about where those programs will be housed. Interim President Heavey acknowledged that they are at the limits of what they can manage space-wise and are in urgent need of additional capacity. He stated that the new business school building is needed to provide surge space for other programs as enrollment continues to grow. Interim President Heavey stated UNLV uses the data actively and evaluates it continuously.

Regent Del Carlo said there had been a past report on classroom utilization, though she was unsure whether it was still available. She noted that classroom use is very high Monday

6. Information Only-2026 NSHE Space Report (Agenda Item 5) – *(Continued)*

through Friday during business hours, drops significantly on Fridays, and is almost non-existent on weekends. She recalled that this topic had been discussed long ago and said students today are often balancing work and family responsibilities. Regent Del Carlo suggested thinking outside the box and offering more options to accommodate those schedules, possibly on Fridays or Saturdays, though she was unsure how that would work.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated his understanding is they have not looked at utilization reporting since COVID. He noted that this report is a legacy reporting tool carried over from previous policy and is intended to inform the Board as it sets capital priorities for the upcoming biennium. This is why it is presented every two years. He emphasized that, after talking with Chancellor McNair and hearing the points made, he would be happy to review the report and evaluate how the information is presented.

Regent Del Carlo noted that the John Tulloch Business Building at UNR is brand new and this is its first academic year open. She found the codes fascinating and asked who assigns them and whether that happens during the architectural process or after construction, room by room. Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated his understanding is that the institutions themselves assign the square footage. He stated that for the Tulloch building, UNR would have been involved in assigning the areas based on the codes.

WNC President Dalpe said he is speaking only from his institution's perspective, and is being candid about his view. He liked the term "legacy report" used by Chief Financial Officer Leiser and noted that he did not review the report until it reached the Board. President Dalpe observed that the report was developed under the old funding formula and may still be useful in that context. He said that, in practice, space utilization depends more on where classes can fit, which roofs are not leaking, and which facilities are not currently being updated. President Dalpe added that his strategy focuses on moving students from point A to point B based more on enrollment management than on capacity alone, and that although capacity is part of their work, this report does not guide those decisions.

Chancellor McNair said he and Chief Financial Officer Leiser agreed the report should be evaluated to determine what story it tells, and that in its current form, it does not tell much of one. He said they will either revise it so it presents a clear, useful story or eliminate it entirely, adding that they can likely find a better way to present the information.

Regent Carvalho noted that there was a discussion about the usefulness of the space utilization report in June 2024 at a meeting of the Business, Finance and Facilities Committee. Regent Carvalho thought it would be useful for Regents to understand where and how classroom space and other campus spaces are being used in the context of establishing priorities for the legislative session. She agreed there needs to be a deeper look into the report to ensure it tells the right story for the Board.

Regent Downs stated he appreciates the report. In reviewing the student enrollment totals, he thought it might be helpful to see the on-campus student enrollment totals instead, since changes in those totals would affect utilization data. Regent Downs recalled that the space utilization report was originally intended for the prior funding formula, noting it has

6. Information Only-2026 NSHE Space Report (Agenda Item 5) – *(Continued)*

changed over time. He emphasized that, until a year or two ago, WNC would leave 30-seat classrooms empty and place 15 students in a 16-seat classroom because it looked better on the report, regardless of the effect on learning. Regent Downs added that President Dalpe, has changed that practice, but he cautioned that some reports can still prompt efforts to improve appearances on paper rather than the actual classroom environment.

CSN President Stacy S. Klippenstein concurred with many of the points mentioned when he first reviewed the report. He noted that as a new president, it was helpful to understand that the institution has roughly 1.2 million square feet of space and the leased-versus-owned breakdown is valuable in that context. President Klippenstein emphasized, however, that the data needs to be more granular to be used effectively. He highlighted that while the report is helpful for basic understanding, it should be used alongside a more detailed look at space utilization, including which classrooms are dark or lit at various points during the week or weekend. President Klippenstein noted that the purpose of this information is to build better reports for each institution and for the data to inform facilities master planning, which CSN will soon undertake. He added that it is time to take a serious look at deferred maintenance and determine exactly how much square footage falls into that category. President Klippenstein emphasized that improving the report annually would provide a clearer, broader, and more granular understanding, helping explain why some buildings should be renovated, removed, or replaced.

Regent Boylan added to Regent Del Carlo's comments, noting that doctoral programs use classrooms on Saturdays, as well as Thursday and Friday evenings.

7. No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities – Chief Financial Officer Brody Leiser presented the 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request process and operating budget priorities *(Ref. BOR-7 and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office)*.

Pursuant to NRS Chapter 281A, Regent Downs disclosed that he is an employee of WNC. Because the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected by his situation, he will vote on this matter.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated the goal is to make the report as useful as possible, including possible revisions and incorporation of discussed items, and that he appreciated the feedback and would consider it for the next cycle. He noted that the Board will hear a similar presentation in June, when it will set direction on priority areas. He added that, in coordination with the institutions, they will use that direction to finalize materials in preparation for the August 27, 2026, special meeting where the Board will act on the 2027–29 biennial budget priorities for submission to the Governor’s Finance Office.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser confirmed that the budgetary requests are aligned with the governor's three-year plan priorities and the Board's strategic plan. He also highlighted funding adequacy, noting that Applied Analysis presented to the Board in September 2025 and discussed whether to pursue a funding formula model. He explained that the model would set a proportionate funding split within the state’s shared higher education funding structure. It compares peer and aspirational institutions to determine the balance between

7. No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities – *(Continued)*

state investment, meaning the State General Fund, and student-derived revenue, including registration fees and nonresident tuition. He added that the target split could differ between universities and community colleges, and among institutions such as Nevada State University, the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He said another part of the proposal is to reach aspirational funding levels needed to achieve adequate funding, using peer and aspirational institutions, including UNLV and UNR, to help define those targets.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser confirmed they will look at peer and aspirational R1 institutions to see what levels of funding those institutions are receiving. He noted that this includes funding through both state investment and the investment that their students make. Ultimately, the goal of the funding model would be to set what those aspirational funding levels are. Chief Financial Officer Leiser emphasized that it would also be used to determine what the right split of commitment is.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser stated they are not asking institutions to do anything differently as they prepare budget requests for the upcoming biennium. He acknowledged the significant work campus staff must do to enter that information into the state budgeting system and said institutions can proceed with the proposed requests in a manner consistent with the structure approved by the legislature. He added that this work can continue while they also discuss a new funding formula model, with further details to come in June and August.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser emphasized the importance of the continuation of base funding components as well as caseload. He observed that base funding to continue the ongoing operations of the campuses into the next biennium will likely be about $1.8 billion in General Fund investment. He added that they have started looking at preliminary caseload numbers and will have the final weighted student credit hours for the current academic year soon. Without those final numbers, he said he cannot state exactly what the caseload growth will be. Based on preliminary projections, however, he believes all institutions will see caseload growth, generating additional General Fund dollars System-wide. He estimated they are looking at over $50 million a year in General Fund appropriations directly related to the case load calculation. He added that this is a conservative estimate across all seven instructional institutions.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser said the Native American and National Guard fee waivers have been discussed quite a bit. He stated those are statutory mandates and the most supplied waiver programs across the institutions. Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted that he did not have the final numbers for the current academic year, but for academic year 2024–25, $8.2 million in registration fees had been waived across the institutions for over 1,800 students. NSHE is seeing about 20% growth with those waivers. He noted that total requests for the upcoming biennium are about $22.8 million.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser recalled that small institution factor policy changes approved during the last session raised the threshold used in the calculation from 100,000

7. No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities – *(Continued)*

to 125,000 weighted student credit hours. Chief Financial Officer Leiser said the second policy change approved by the legislature increased the per-credit-hour rate, which would apply the HEPI rate annually. He also said he anticipates growth in weighted student credit hours for all institutions. For GBC and WNC, growth in weighted student credit hours would reduce the small institution factor if that factor were funded at 100% for the current biennium. As an institution approaches 125,000 weighted student credit hours, small institution factor funding declines. He said this is not necessarily negative, because institutional growth also brings additional General Fund support through the caseload decision unit. Final numbers should be available at the August 2026 special meeting. He added that the net impacts from the policy changes were funded at 20% in FY26 and 40% in FY27.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser acknowledged the Board's interest in public safety and security. The figures have been updated by assigning dollar amounts to requests in each focus area, broken down by institution. He noted that the funds would support staffing, security camera upgrades, integrated surveillance, classroom safety preparedness, badging systems, and door locks.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser highlighted requests for mental health and wellness from several institutions, then moved to facility and operations support, noting that the first item was also requested in the last session. He said the bill died in the final hours of the legislative session and that the request includes operations and maintenance funding for new space at UNLV and UNR. He addressed healthcare workforce development, specifically a proposed increase in course weight for nursing, allied health, and other health professions within the existing cluster taxonomy used to convert credit hours to weighted student credit hours. Although not all institutions requested this enhancement, he noted it would affect all institutions because each offers courses in the health cluster. Across all seven instructional institutions, the request totals $74.6 million over the biennium.

Chair Brooks left the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser discussed graduate medical education. He stated that the UNLV and UNR could do significant work in this area through their medical schools if they received direct appropriations. He noted that graduate medical education has typically been state-funded, previously through the Governor's Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), but that the program was moved to Nevada Medicaid during the last legislative session. He added that if the governor's budget does not recommend direct appropriations to the universities, a recommendation for graduate medical education funding could still be made, as in previous biennia, and the Board could consider supporting it even though it falls outside its specific budget.

Chair Brooks returned to the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser discussed healthcare workforce development, noting it is similar to the information presented earlier on the increased weight for the health cluster.

7. <u>No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities</u> – *(Continued)*

He highlighted a proposed $20 million appropriation to continue nursing expansion one-shot funding, which institutions had requested. He said this amount matches what the legislature appropriated in each of the last two biennia for nursing expansion. He added that as the Board prepares for its June and August meetings, it will need to decide whether to prioritize both continued nursing expansion funding and the increase to the health cluster for weighted student credit hours. He suggested this may be an area where the Board chooses one option or the other. He also noted that the legislature has appropriated $20 million total, or $10 million annually, for nursing expansion support, with the expectation that increasing capacity would follow once expansion efforts were underway.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser said the increased capacity would generate additional weighted student credit hours, increasing funding for institutional nursing programs. He noted that requesting another one-time appropriation from the governor for a third straight biennium could be difficult from a messaging standpoint. If the Board considers this a priority, he said it should discuss how to move the request forward with the governor's office. He added that nursing programs may still be able to use one-time funding to build their programs, provided the request clearly justifies the funding and explains the expected outcomes.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser discussed the teacher pipeline and education workforce, highlighting work being done at GBC. He explained that some appropriations for teacher expansion programs are made directly to the state Department of Education, so if future appropriations go to K-12 education, they will not be part of their specific budget request. He added that they want to identify those programs so the Board can support them if the governor recommends funding teacher pipeline areas through the Department of Education, with institutions receiving sub-grants.

Mr. Leiser next discussed student access and affordability. He highlighted a request from CSN related to the Silver State Opportunity Grant. He noted that although CSN identified the request based on its own needs, the Board could consider a broader request because the program serves other campuses in the System. He explained that in the current biennium, the program received a $5 million appropriation each year. For the 2025–26 academic year, fully eligible student costs reached $8.5 million but only $5 million was available for awards. He said that as discussions continue through June and August, the request will likely become a Systemwide one rather than one focused on a single institution. He added that the Nevada Promise Scholarship is another area where increased state appropriations could help meet student demand and eligibility. Although appropriations for that program are made directly to the Nevada State Treasurer's Office, he said it is outside NSHE's budget and likely something the Board would support including as it finalizes recommendations ahead of the next legislative session.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser said there are technology, digital, specialized program, and research initiatives to consider. He noted that the Knowledge Fund would be referred to as the Knowledge Account, reflecting a statutory name change made several years ago. He said the Knowledge Account is administered by the Governor's Office of Economic

7. No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities – *(Continued)*

Development and benefits UNR, UNLV, and DRI. If the Board supports it, the funding would be handled as an appropriation rather than placed directly in the budget. He added that they would continue to support the Knowledge Account if the Board chooses that path. There are additional specialized program research areas to review, and that same logic applies to Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada (WINN) funding. He highlighted the program designed specifically for workforce innovation within the state. Chief Financial Officer Leiser observed that while there are specific requests from GBC and CSN, the Board could consider broader support for the initiative. He acknowledged that this funding remains outside the direct budget since it is appropriated to GOED.

Regent Fernandez left the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Leiser indicated there is no specific action needed from the Board at this meeting. There will be an opportunity to provide direction in June before final approval of the biennial budget request at the August 27, 2026, meeting.

Regent Boylan observed that many of the actions being taken appeared socialistic to him, adding that taxpayer money is being given to people who do not pay taxes. Regent Boylan cited the UNLV legal clinic and said it uses taxpayer money to provide legal advice to illegal aliens. He asked how much money is involved in the program and questioned why the System engages in this practice so often. Regent Boylan contrasted those programs with rising student costs, saying students were then asked to accept fee increases often attributed to "pet programs" leadership wants to keep in the budget. Chief Financial Officer Leiser responded the budget request is $1 million for the upcoming biennium. He deferred to counsel and the institution for responses to the other questions.

Regent Fernandez returned to the meeting.

Special Counsel Chris Nielsen clarified that the agenda item is focused on budget and questions related to any budgetary items, including the legal aid clinic, are appropriate but getting into the policy behind those programs is not.

Regent Del Carlo noted that Chief Financial Officer Leiser had mentioned CSN and GBC regarding the advisor ratio of 350:1 and the funding required to reach that goal. Because the other five instructional institutions were not listed, she is assuming they are already maintaining a ratio of 350:1. She emphasized that success depends on getting those numbers right. Chief Financial Officer Leiser noted that none of the institutions are currently meeting the 350:1 goal based on the data available to him. He provided the following ratios: TMCC, 455:1; CSN, 631:1; NSU, 461:1; GBC, 480:1; UNR, 365:1; and WNC, 523:1. Interim President Heavey confirmed UNLV is in compliance at 318:1.

Regent Arrascada left the meeting.

President Dalpe noted that WNC had previously maintained a ratio of approximately 351:1. A rapid increase in enrollment of 17% two years ago negatively impacted the ratio, as

7. No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities – *(Continued)*

expected. President Dalpe emphasized that additional caseload funding to support advisors due to the enrollment increase did not come through, nor did the small institution factor. He would like to submit a proposal to add to these requests if there is a way to do so.

Regent Arrascada returned to the meeting.

Chair Brooks observed that, to Regent Del Carlo's point, the Board has always viewed student success and advising as a major component of keeping students on track. He emphasized that proper guidance regarding course loads is essential so that students can enter the Nevada economy as quickly as possible. A lack of advising is often one reason students remain on campus longer than they should.

Regent Carvalho asked whether the Nevada Promise Scholarship should be included in the Board's priorities or whether it is automatically funded. Chief Financial Officer Leiser clarified that the funding is appropriated directly to the state Treasurer's office, who administers the program. He stated that the Board could consider broader support for the initiative but that this funding remains outside the direct budget.

Chair Brooks requested an update on fee waivers. Chief Financial Officer Leiser said they will continue discussing mandated fee waivers with the Governor's Finance Office and, later, legislative leadership. He noted that revenue losses in the millions are not something campuses can easily absorb, so funding for these waivers must be addressed through the budget process. He added that the legislature has appropriated $460,000 per year beginning two sessions ago and continued that funding into the current biennium, signaling support for the waivers. He also noted that funding limitations were considered during the last session.

Chair Brooks noted he has not seen any requests that support veteran service offices. He added that these campus programs are doing excellent work and would likely benefit from additional funding. Chief Financial Officer Leiser committed to following up with that information.

Regent Downs noted that salary increase requests for institutions with collective bargaining agreements may need to comply with current Board policy, including any increases over $2,000. He asked whether those amounts must be included in a formal submission to the legislature, noting that no such document appeared in the current files. Regent Downs said it is unclear whether that absence meant no request was planned or simply that the deadline had not passed. Chief Financial Officer Leiser said the Board is expected to review a request for TMCC at its June quarterly meeting. He explained that when a collective bargaining agreement has a fiscal impact, the institution must identify that cost for the Board. TMCC plans to do so in June, after which the funding request will go through the governor's office and then to the legislature. He added that such agreements must include a non-appropriation clause, meaning the process can move forward but any unfunded portion is ineffective without legislative approval.

7. <u>No Action Taken-2027-29 NSHE Biennial Budget Request Process and Priorities</u> – *(Continued)*

Regent Downs questioned whether the request could proceed only after a total agreement is finalized, noting that institutions still negotiating might still be able to submit. He emphasized the strict deadline and said that missing it would delay the request for two years. He added that it may be reasonable for institutions still in the process to include their request now before the deadline expires.

Chief General Counsel James Martines cautioned against the discussion veering too far off the agenda item. He confirmed that collective bargaining agreements are required to be ratified by both faculty and the Board. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for anything to be brought forward to the Board for inclusion before it is properly negotiated and agreed upon.

8. <u>Information Only-New Business</u> – Regent Brager expressed interest in receiving more information on leased properties including vacancies, duration, and whether they can be coordinated or combined.

Regent Del Carlo requested a discussion on how future deferred maintenance is considered for new buildings. She additionally requested that the next report on advising ratios differentiate between faculty and staff advising models.

Regent Downs requested a discussion that will foster a better understanding of how collective bargaining functions at the institutions, specifically to ensure that the presidents and faculty understand the Board's position and the Board understands theirs.

Regent Boylan requested a report showing the specific costs associated with fee waivers and special programs, and which segments of society those programs benefit. Additionally, he requested a discussion on student newspaper fees.

9. <u>Information Only-Public Comment</u> – None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 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