

**From:** [NSHE](#)  
**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Business, Finance and Facilities Committee, September 5, 2024  
**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:15:34 AM

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**External Email:**

# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the Business, Finance and Facilities Committee, September 5, 2024

**Email:** kent.ervin@nevadafacultyalliance.org

**Name:** Kent Ervin

**Representing someone other than yourself?:** Nevada Faculty Alliance

**Meeting:** Business, Finance and Facilities Committee, September 5, 2024

**Agenda Item:** 3. Fiscal Exceptions Report

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

### Comment:

The fiscal exceptions report again has several very exceptional items. UNLV Athletics had a \$20.6M (million) deficit at the end of FY2024, up from \$5.8M at the beginning of the fiscal year. The written explanation mainly says they are working on more philanthropy. UNLV providing \$5M from investment accounts and a “bridge loan” of \$6M. Are those funds that could have been used to support the core educational mission? The \$60M deficit at UNLV for the Maryland Parkway purchase relies on projected lease revenue over 20 years. How secure is that financing? UNR has a \$27.5M deficit on various capital projects, including nearly \$10M for gift pledges for athletics, and a \$19M deficit in special projects funds for a “variety of campus funding demands”, also counting on the ability for future repayment. There is also the 30 year \$10M/year commitment for the Business Building public-private partnership, with students on the hook for additional student fees if the quasi-endowment is not fully funded. These large amounts are concerning and bear close scrutiny. We have heard questions raised about inappropriate expenditures in athletics programs, for example. The best way to dispel such concerns, even if they are just unfounded rumors, is full transparency. Please ask for full audits and analyses of the expenditures in the athletics programs and deferred capital project funding. Reviews should not just determine whether transactions are within the letter of the law and NSHE policy, but whether expenditures make fiscal sense and fully support the missions set out by the Board of Regents. The Board should not wait for legislative audits, which are coming, to hold the institutions accountable. Full transparency and sunshine avoid

issues and bad press later.

**Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes**

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