

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 6:21:54 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: ewersfia@gmail.com

Name: Fia Ewers

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: BYLAW REVISION, ELIMINATION OF THE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I oppose the elimination of the IDEA committee. As a bachelors and masters graduate from the university of Nevada, reno, I believe all NSHE campuses and students deserve their identities to be protected and represented. Eliminating this committee is dangerous to our campuses and students because it removes the support of a safe, supportive environment for ALL students and faculty.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:25:09 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: michael.pruce@gmail.com

Name: Michael Pruce

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: 7. BYLAW REVISION, ELIMINATION OF THE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Why would you eliminate this committee? What harm is it causing? If you argue that it is causing harm, what/where are the statistics? Don't do something like this because it fits someone's agenda. I want things like this protected because I want everyone protected, especially those I vulnerable populations. Thank you.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:23:35 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: alexandersaporito05@gmail.com

Name: Alexander Saporito

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item 7: Elimination of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I hope you are all having a good day. My name is Alexander Saporito (S-A-P-O-R-I-T-O), and I am here in opposition of agenda item 7 discussing the removal for the committee on IDEA. I am enrolled within the University of Nevada, Reno, and serve as the Senator for our College of Liberal Arts. Liberal Arts is one of the most diverse colleges within the campus, filled with scholars coming from all backgrounds. As UNR is Nevada's only land-grant University, we have a responsibility to support ALL Nevadans regardless of political pressures. Not only will the potential removal of this committee halt any future capabilities to advocate for our diverse students, it will also serve as an incredible moral belligerence to the scholars you were elected to protect. According to Nevada's Rural and Frontier Health Book, published by UNR's School of Medicine, there currently reside 3.3 million residents in state. Nearly 53% of our state population is made up of Hispanic, Black, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American peoples. Population statistics highlight alone why promoting inclusion is needed within Nevada; and seeing that a majority of our University students are Nevadan-born, it is pivotal for the Board to actually represent them. Almost every year we have a major event on campus that brings more discomfort to our marginalized communities; many of them already feel disenfranchised and intimidated from their experiences throughout their childhoods. How will removing this committee help them? What lesson are we teaching our students? Maintaining these programs ensures that our students feel empowered to participate in civil society, which delivers a plethora of benefits that not only affect the education system but the status of the state itself. While federal policy moves against DEI, many of the students I represent cannot afford to lose this assistance. When discussing if this committee should be removed from the

Board, please look back to the state's heterogeneity.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 1:07:43 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: isabellapupo1@gmail.com

Name: Isabella Pupo

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item #7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

As a UNLV student, I am concerned with the Board of Regent's consideration to eliminate the inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) committee. Students need and deserve a dedicated committee that will prioritize the equity and inclusion of all students. The elimination of this committee would only make it exceedingly challenging to foster safe and inclusive campus environments across higher education in Nevada. I encourage the Board of Regents to not continue with the elimination of the IDEA committee.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 3:45:00 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: rchinnappan@unr.edu

Name: Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan

Representing someone other than yourself?: Myself

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Elimination of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) Committee

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan. I am a graduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno and serve as President of the Graduate Student Association.

I am writing as a graduate student in opposition to eliminating the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee as a standing committee of the Board.

The IDEA Committee has been part of the Board's committee structure in some form since 2005. Over the past six years, it has held 16 meetings and forwarded nine substantive recommendations to the full Board.

I care about retaining this committee because these issues remain part of the System's responsibilities. NRS 396.532 requires the Board to report on the participation of protected classes in NSHE, including efforts to enroll, retain, and graduate students from underrepresented groups. NSHE policy also calls for programs supporting women, minority group members, persons with disabilities, veterans, and other protected classes, along with regular evaluation of those programs.

These responsibilities need continued attention and oversight. As an international graduate student, I value having a clear and dedicated place within the Board's governance structure where issues of access, inclusion, and participation can be reviewed.

I agree that these issues are the responsibility of the full Board. But that does not mean a dedicated committee is unnecessary. The committee can provide focused review while the full Board maintains final responsibility and oversight.

If the concern is efficiency or effectiveness, I encourage the Board to improve the committee rather than eliminate it.

I respectfully ask the Board to retain the IDEA Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 4:32:01 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: josephkeller2006@gmail.com

Name: Joseph Keller

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: BYLAW REVISION, ELIMINATION OF THE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Good morning, Regents,

My name is Joseph Keller, a Sophomore at UNLV. I am writing to you today in opposition to the possible removal of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee. If removed, this board would be operating against what it promotes to the general public, while hurting students in the process.

First, no matter someone's views on diversity, the truth is that we are one of the most diverse states in the country, with many of our institutions serving large groups of different cultural, ethnic, and spiritual backgrounds. This leaves a responsibility to the NSHE system, along with the Regents, to not only promote but also uplift these groups. Getting rid of this committee would do the opposite of what we as a student body need, especially in these troubling times.

With this, the NSHE system proudly promotes its want for equity and inclusion on the website. It states that "NSHE is proud to serve as a majority-minority system that values an educational, working, and collegial environment that fosters inclusion, diversity, equity, and access for all students, faculty, staff, and the public served by our institutions". It seems quite contradictory that this is being promoted for anyone to view, while simultaneously this committee is under review to be removed.

Finally, students need you for support. We put our trust in you every electoral cycle to help

uplift and support us, with many of your campaigns shifted in that focus. I know you all want the same thing: for students to thrive and make everlasting change in not only the state of Nevada, but the world. For this to happen, please consider keeping this committee and uplifting the students who elected you to serve.

Thank you for your time and service.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 6:55:18 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: binder4nevada@gmail.com

Name: Anna Marie Binder

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Item 7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I strongly oppose Agenda Item 7 as written.

This proposal does more than eliminate a committee. It eliminates a Board-level structure whose bylaws explicitly include disability and define access as the ability to fully participate in NSHE programs, services, environments, and decision-making.

And what replaces it?

Nothing specific.

The proposal simply says these issues will become part of the full Board's general governance responsibilities.

For students with disabilities, that should be unacceptable.

Disability access is not a political slogan. It is not a trend. And it cannot become something addressed only when there happens to be room on an already crowded Board agenda.

Your own briefing paper acknowledges that eliminating this committee risks issues receiving less discussion and eliminates a forum for deeper consideration before matters reach the full Board.

If you eliminate this committee, tell Nevada's students with disabilities who owns this work tomorrow.

Who is responsible for identifying systemic accessibility barriers? Who examines them? Who develops solutions? Who tracks whether they are fixed?

If the answer is simply "the entire Board," then functionally, no one has been specifically charged with it.

Restructure if necessary. Rename it if necessary. But do not erase dedicated disability-access oversight without replacing it with something equally clear and accountable.

Students with disabilities should not disappear from your governance structure because their protections were housed inside a committee you no longer want.

Please vote no on Agenda Item 7.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:38:16 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: radtke kaylee557@gmail.com

Name: Kaylee Radtke

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item 7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

My name is Kaylee Radtke (R-A-D-T-K-E). I am here in opposition to agenda item 7, discussing the removal of the committee on IDEA.

I am an undergrad student at the University of Nevada, Reno, and serve as a senator in ASUN for the School of Social Work. Social work is made up of many different people and serves many populations within our college. According to data from UNR, we have the most racially/ethnically diverse program on campus. 55% of BSW students identify as persons of color, and among our undergraduate population, 86% of BSW students are female. These students all benefit from a committee on IDEA. Without a committee, these students' experiences, issues, and difficulties during college will not be heard or represented equally compared to their counterparts. UNR and NSHE have a responsibility to consider all students and how to best represent their needs and how they can be supported throughout their college careers. The demolition of this committee will not only do irreparable damage to the perspective of the diverse student population but will cause irreversible distrust between communities of students and the system that was elected to protect and serve them. During times of uncertainty for many populations in the United States, it is imperative that NSHE stands up and speaks out for these communities in Nevada. Nevada is a diverse, unique, and one-of-a-kind state that is full of many types of populations and communities which NSHE must protect and serve.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:49:15 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: denstaed@unlv.nevada.edu

Name: Abraham Denstaedt

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item 7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I am against the motion to end the committee. I will give my remarks at the meeting.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:05:09 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: sidneyhorst@unr.edu

Name: Sidney Horst

Representing someone other than yourself?: Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item 7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Dear NSHE Board of Regents,

My name is Sidney Horst, and I am the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno's Honors College senator. I am writing to you today to express my deep concern and disdain for the vote on dismantling the Board of Regents Committee on IDEA.

During this time of political strife, it is of the utmost importance to keep Nevada's diversity at the forefront of not only our projects and programs, but also when making decisions regarding student life. Due to the federal rollback of DEI and other programs representing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access, students are feeling threatened now more than ever that they will be judged based on their race, gender, and religion.

As a representative of the University of Nevada, Reno, I ask that you stop threatening the students with repealing diversified education and equal accessibility. These pillars ensure that students are going to succeed academically and personally, and without a dedicated committee, the ideals of IDEA will be ebbed and put in the backseat.

And so, I ask you to please vote against this revision, as the Committee of IDEA is central to Nevada's students.

Thank you.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 12:50:05 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: keianbenavente25@gmail.com

Name: Keian Benavente

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: 7. BYLAW REVISION, ELIMINATION OF THE INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Dear NSHE Board of Regents,

My name is Keian Benavente, and I am a Sophomore at the University of Nevada, Reno and serve as the Senator for the College of Education and Human Development in the Associated Students of the University of Nevada.

Nevada's diverse populations should be carefully protected, and striking down the committee on IDEA will negatively influence the attention put on topics surrounding Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Access. It is important for a space to exist where full attention can be put on IDEA issues so that topics regarding our most vulnerable students do not have to compete with other Board priorities like academics, finance, workforce development, or student affairs. Furthermore, the removal of the committee on IDEA is not needed to heighten Board engagement, the two can coexist. We must minimize the chance of IDEA topics being shoved to the side.

In addition to student voices, consider keeping this committee in operation as all of you know at least one person who benefits from IDEA and needs its support. My request is that you rethink your opposition to the committee on IDEA so that NSHE can properly and attentively serve all Nevadans no matter their background or abilities. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Keian Benavente
University of Nevada, Reno
ASUN Senator for the College of Education and Human Development

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:15:47 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: vmc007iv@gmail.com

Name: Viviana Castro

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Item 7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Hello, my name is Viviana Castro, and for the last two sessions within ASUN, I've had the pleasure of serving as the chair of the ASUN committee on DEI. In this role I have come to learn of the incredibly diverse campus I live on that is bolstered by programs and groups who care deeply about the principles of diversity equity and inclusion. As a chair of this committee on a smaller level. I am touched by the changes we have been able to create through advocacy, and I look up to the other committees that I see at higher levels of governance who reflect our principles and willingness to disagree with the popular belief that DEI is not worth thinking about. I encourage you to think about the promises and things that you offered your constituents when you ran for these positions and to question how the committee on IDEA aligns with your ability to complete these goals. I believe that issues of diversity require the utmost attention and fragility, something which cannot be guaranteed when said issues are not given the forum they deserve, and the individual attention they require. I fear that the abolishment of this committee will be a reflection of a greater loss and refusal to attend to the needs of minorities and diverse populations on all campuses and I encourage you to continue caring about these issues and giving them the time they deserve. I believe that although issues of diversity require the attention of every member of the board, this is not a reason to abolish. this means we have to give these issues more attention. If we simply wish for more voices to be heard in discussions regarding diversity, then more people should be sitting on the committee. Please do not abolish this committee in adherence to the Trump Administration's and other's beliefs that IDEA is flawed or should not exist on college campuses. You must prevail as a pillar of values for not only the state but for other universities across the country to look upon, please vote No.

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

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 6:51:16 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: kmbkbd@gmail.com

Name: David Kelsey

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Removal DEI

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Members of the board, my name is David Kelsey. I am Deaf and am a faculty member within the Nevada System of Higher Education. I am speaking today in strong opposition to the proposal to eliminate the Inclusive, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee.

System-wide oversight and structured committees like IDEA provide essential governance, consistency, and accountability across all Nevada institutions. Fostering an inclusive and accessible educational environment is not merely symbolic—it is directly tied to student retention, academic rigor, clear communication, and the practical skills our graduates need to serve Nevada's diverse communities.

Dissolving this committee sends the wrong message about NSHE's commitment to supporting all students, faculty, and staff. Rather than dismantling structural support, the Board should maintain dedicated leadership bodies that address access, equity, and institutional success across our state. I strongly urge you to vote against this proposal and keep the IDEA Committee intact

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 8:22:01 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: jacekkaiser0401@gmail.com

Name: Jacek Kaiser

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda item #7, I'd like point out that the creation of diversity related programs are due to systemic imbalances. Furthermore, by removing this program, we are impacting the education of students in relation to the research and the general education for our students. Ending the DEI board would be a great disservice to the students you serve.

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I'd like point out that the creation of diversity related programs are due to systemic imbalances. Furthermore, by removing this program, we are impacting the education of students in relation to the discrimination based in race, ethnicity gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc. Ending the DEI board would be a great disservice to the students you serve.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 8:24:54 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: adeste@gmail.com

Name: Adeste Sipin

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Elimination of IDEA

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Claiming that dissolving a committee dedicated to inclusion somehow 'reinforces commitment to a welcoming environment' makes no sense. Dedicated focus matters if you actually care about supporting all students and staff across Nevada campuses

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 8:42:43 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: kmberkshire@gmail.com

Name: Kevin Berkshire

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Elimination of IDEA

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I spent my teaching career as a special educator in a public school environment. Initiatives to assist students with disabilities not only enable students with disabilities to achieve success and become productive members of society, all initiatives benefit students without disabilities as well and open up the possibilities that all students regardless of physical, mental, and emotional limitations can prosper and contribute to the environment around them. Continuing to advocate for all members of society should remain a priority for the Board of Regents.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [Steven Cohen](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#)
Cc: [Joe Arrascada](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:21:10 AM

Please see enclosed.

Good morning Chair Goodman, Vice Chair Del Carlo, and Members of the Board,

My name is Steven Cohen, and until today's agenda was publicized, I thought I was reasonably proud to be a both Coyote and Rebel alum. Instead, today, I rebel for a different reason.

As a person with multiple intellectual and neuro-developmental disabilities, while in Student Government at both CSN and UNLV from 2012 through 2016, inclusive, accessibility projects were at the core of the work I did, including establishing the ThinkAbility Assessment Grant, which allows students with disabilities, just as it sounds, to be assessed to receive help to become productive members of their community, with friends just like you.

Without IDEA, the committee which is before you in agenda item #7 to be dissolved, students with disabilities would be back to being treated as they were when I was a young child, as well as before, nothing more than an institution. I wish I meant one of higher education, but I don't, instead a disgusting setting that's worse than a correctional facility.

Compliance is the bare minimum, but it's 2026 and it's enough. With initial gratitude to CFO Leiser for agenda item #6, immediately prior, the System clearly recognizes and is taking proactive steps to include its friends with disabilities in its Carson City office. However, spending \$660,000 on a building purchase where the building is reported as not being not ADA compliant, requiring \$150,000 in minimum compliance upgrades, before you in agenda item #6, was an irresponsible decision. IDEA brings people with disabilities, their families, and friends to the table to create an experience which is universally designed, accessible to all. When people with disabilities win, everyone does.

IDEA helps people with disabilities become productive members of society. I'm living proof of that. Recently, I was recognized as the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD/DD Council)' inaugural Trailblazer Impact Award winner, as my work in disability policy has continued long after graduations.

I would encourage Members of the Board to engage with the Council and Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) to consider participating in programs such as Partners in Policymaking (PIP) and Leadership Education in Neuro-developmental Disabilities (LEND). Without appropriate historical and current information, the Board is ill equipped to make decisions about the future of its institutions.

Please vote an emphatic no on the IDEA dissolution agenda item, #7. Thank you, and I stand ready for questions/comments virtually.

Sincerely,

Steven Cohen
Alumni, Lee Business School (BSBA - Accounting) '16
Cell: ~~(702)~~ 843-0214
General E-mail: Steven.Cohen@Alumni.UNLV.edu
Legislative E-mail: InternalAuditorLVNV@GMail.com

Regain your E-mail sanity: <http://www.SaneBox.com/signup/92a308d8c9/a>

If this has not been schedule sent for items arising after traditional business hours in your time zone, I do apologize in advance. No response is expected outside of these hours, unless the matter is marked "Urgent" in some form or fashion.

Want me not to miss your important E-mail, particularly while I'm busiest? Add "Markovits" to the subject line.

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:48:50 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: Lowen.Patigayon.RN@gmail.com

Name: Lowen Patigayon

Representing someone other than yourself?: Stripping away dedicated oversight for diversity, equity, and access sends a crystal-clear message: NSHE cares more about political posturing than protecting its own students. Dissolving this committee is a direct betrayal of the campus community, and we see right through it. Vote NO.

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Stripping away dedicated oversight for diversity, equity, and access sends a crystal-clear message: NSHE cares more about political posturing than protecting its own students. Dissolving this committee is a direct betrayal of the campus community, and we see right through it. Vote NO.

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

Comment:

Stripping away dedicated oversight for diversity, equity, and access sends a crystal-clear message: NSHE cares more about political posturing than protecting its own students. Dissolving this committee is a direct betrayal of the campus community, and we see right through it. Vote NO.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:49:49 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: olivegreen09@msn.com

Name: Janice Green

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Keep IDEA

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Please keep IDEA in place and protected at all universities. As a Deaf person working full time as a lecturer, I understand firsthand the importance of inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in higher education. It has been a challenge to find employment that truly provides an inclusive and equitable environment for all individuals.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:05:43 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: nrosesavi@gmail.com

Name: nia savoie

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: agenda item #7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Today, the governing body of higher education is considering disbanding the diversity committee. Meaning when issues impacting black, brown, and LGBTQIA+ are presented, there will not be anyone to speak up for them.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:11:37 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: dvsavoie@icloud.com

Name: Donielle Savoie

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item #7: BYLAW REVISION, ELIMINATION OF THE
INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Diversity is a fact. Different cultures, gender identities, religions, and socio economic exist. Disbanding the IDEA committee takes away a voice for students who fit into those categories. Difference is what makes us strong. Don't take it away, as the future of Nevada depends heavily on these people.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:17:51 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: zoeoropeza207@gmail.com

Name: Zoe Oropeza-Gonzalez

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Good morning Chair and Regents, for the record my name is Zoe Oropeza-Gonzalez. That is spelled Z-O-E O-R-O-P-E-Z-A G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z. I am currently a student at the College of Southern Nevada and I am also working as an intern at Battle Born Future.

I am speaking today in opposition to the proposed elimination of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee.

As a student, I believe having a committee specifically focused on IDEA is important because these issues directly affect students and our experiences in higher education. NSHE itself says it values an educational environment that “fosters inclusion, diversity, equity, and access for all students, faculty, staff, and the public served by our institutions.” NSHE’s 2025–2031 Strategic Plan also focuses on ways to “increase student success of underrepresented populations and close equity performance gaps.” If these goals are important enough to be included in NSHE’s own statements and strategic plan, I believe they deserve a dedicated committee to help keep them a priority.

I understand the Board’s argument that IDEA issues can be handled by the full Board. However, the briefing paper itself acknowledges that without a dedicated committee, these issues could receive less focused attention when competing with other priorities. I believe that is exactly why the committee should remain.

The IDEA Committee has already forwarded nine substantive recommendations to the full Board over the past six years. Even if it does not meet as frequently as other committees, its work still matters.

Students deserve to know that inclusion, diversity, equity, and access remain a priority within

Nevada's higher education system. I respectfully ask the Board of Regents to reconsider this proposal and maintain the IDEA Committee.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to speak today.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 12:01:18 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: jatencio@unr.edu

Name: Jenna Atencio

Representing someone other than yourself?: UNR People Power

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: 7. BYLAW REVISION, ELIMINATION OF THE INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Dear Regents,

My name is Jenna Atencio, I am a student advocate at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the President of UNR People Power, a club dedicated to protecting civil rights. As Americans, I can't help but question why we have lost sight of the purpose behind IDEA and other inclusivity initiatives. We come from a history rich with strife and hatred, having to cope with issues such as chattel slavery, the pulse nightclub shooting, and the prohibition of women's education. These incidents and eras of American history are not something to be pushed under the rug, forgotten about, or assumed to be secure. We have seen nasty incidents of hate on our campus, dating back to my first year as a student where individuals in dorms screamed racial slurs with no consequence. Things like Title XI sex discrimination scandals, and disability accommodation failures on campus have become patterned experiences for myself and my peers. When there are no open forums for discussion about these inadequacies, it dehumanizes and decentralizes students from their university. Ensuring that the governing body of my university and others like it have space for students to express their grievances with regards to discriminatory policy at the systemic level makes for a better experience for all people regardless of background. There has been so much progress made to tear down these barriers, but please do not forget that progress does not mean completion. We did not forget when you removed IDEA from your handbook. It's not just student conduct that leaves a stain of prejudice on campuses – it's yours. YOUR conduct reflects the hatred of women, people with disabilities, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. A vote to further the erasure of

marginalized communities by disbanding this committee is a reflection of you. Nevada's constitution when it comes to equal rights is clear: uphold everyone's access regardless of background. Vote no to uphold students rights and preserve democracy.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:31:09 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Email: nkeredrea@gmail.com

Name: Dreanna Haywood

Representing someone other than yourself?: UNR Department of IDEA

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, August 27, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda item 7

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Hello regents,

My name is Dreanna Haywood. I am Commissioner of Marketing and Outreach for the ASUN's department of IDEA. I am speaking in opposition of agenda item 7. During my time as a student at both CSN and UNR, there was a difference in representation between both colleges.

The community at CSN was very strong. It was apparent that every student was welcome and there is always a place for you no matter what your race, ethnicity, or background you were from. I never felt like I was out of place or I was not represented as a black student.

As a UNR student, that representation is scarce. Going from a more diverse college to a less diverse institution is scary as a person of color because it is uncertain if you will be included. I constantly feel out of place because it's hard to find a community. This is a reality for many students: feeling alienated from your community. The Board of Regents Committee on IDEA is uniquely qualified to address these concerns system-wide to ensure safety amongst students. Each College in Nevada is capable of supporting Nevada students, when held to a higher standard.

The IDEA committee's purpose is to create policies that highlight and promote diversity. We must protect this committee to "represent underrepresented students." Advocacy for that representation is decreasing rapidly. Many students feel they are invisible which leads to a lack of community building. NSHE's IDEA committee is needed to combat that.

Regardless of what college I attend, I want to feel seen. You have the power to make that a reality. Rather than dismissing the committee as a whole, reform it to make it more effective. Vote NO on Agenda Item Number 7.

Thank you, and GO pack!

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

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)