October 16, 2026

Chancellor Matt McNair
Chair Goodman and Vice Chair Del Carlo
Members of the Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education

Re: Support for Dr. Chris Heavey as President of UNLV

Dear Chancellor, Chair Goodman, Vice Chair Del Carlo, and Members of the Board of Regents:

We at the Council for a Better Nevada are writing to express our strong support for Dr. Chris Heavey to be named President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As an organization committed to Nevada's long-term prosperity, we understand that the strength of UNLV is tied directly to the strength of our State.

Dr. Heavey has spent more than three decades at UNLV. He has served as a professor, vice provost for undergraduate education, senior vice provost, dean, and, from 2019 to 2025, executive vice president and provost. When the Board asked him to step in as interim president, he was already deeply familiar with the university's strengths, its challenges, and the people who make it work. He did not need a lesson on the community or time to get situated - He has consistently advanced the university forward with clarity and purpose.

What sets Dr. Heavey apart is the combination of his knowledge and his character. He understands the academic mission at a granular level, from student success and research to the operational and financial realities of running one of Nevada's largest public Tier 1 research institutions. He is a thoughtful, steady presence who listens carefully, respects differing views, and builds consensus. Faculty, staff, students, and community partners trust him because he has earned it over many years. His diplomacy is one of his greatest assets. He engages with the Board, the Chancellor's office, legislators, and civic and business leaders with candor and confidence, and he represents UNLV to each of them with credibility.

His commitment to UNLV and to Southern Nevada is also unmistakable. Dr. Heavey has made his home and his career here. He has championed initiatives that help students enroll, persist, and graduate, and he has worked to align UNLV's programs with the workforce needs of our region. He understands that UNLV's success and the community's success are inseparable.

This matters especially now. Higher education is navigating significant uncertainty, including shifting federal policy on research funding, financial aid, and institutional oversight. At the same time, Nevada's economy remains vulnerable, and the state's public institutions must do more with limited resources while continuing to serve a growing and diverse student population. In such a

period, stability is not a luxury. It is a strategic necessity. Universities lose ground when leadership is uncertain: strategic plans stall, donors and partners hesitate, and talented faculty and administrators consider leaving or dismiss coming. UNLV needs a president who can make long-term commitments, build lasting relationships in Carson City and Washington, and provide the steady hand that students, employees, and the broader community deserve.

Dr. Heavey has already shown he can provide that. Naming him president would give UNLV continuity at a critical time, and it would send a clear signal of confidence to the campus and the community that depend on this institution. We respectfully urge the Board to take that step.

Thank you for your service to Nevada's students and for your careful consideration of this decision.

Respectfully,

The Council for a Better Nevada

Lisa Levine, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Council for a Better Nevada

Todd P. Sklamberg
Chairman
CEO, Sunrise & Sunrise Children's Hospital

Dr. Hugh Bassewitz
Executive Committee
President, Desert Orthopaedic Center

Peter Guzman
Executive Committee
President, Opa Group & Latin Chamber of Commerce

Terry Shirey
Executive Committee
President & CEO, Nevada State Bank

Paul Anderson
Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Affairs, Boyd Gaming

John Bailey
Managing Partner, Bailey Kennedy Esq.

Randy Garcia
CEO, The Investment Counsel Company

Amanda Hilton
President, Nevada Mining Association

Jan Jones Blackhurst
Board of Directors, Caesars Entertainment

Mike Kazmierski
CEO, Save Our Community Nevada

Windom Kimsey
Owner, Blue Skye Development, LLC

Duncan Lee
President, RDL Investments Inc.

Jenna Morton
Principal, Morton Group

Curtis Myles III
President & CEO, Western Management Group, LLC

Maureen Schafer
Former Executive Director & Founder
Council for a Better Nevada

Keith Smith
CEO, Boyd Gaming Corporation

Janet Uthman
Market Vice President, Cox Communications

From: NSHE
To: Keri Nikolajewski; Winter Lipson
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026
Date: Monday, October 12, 2026 11:21:01 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: jose.melendrez@unlv.edu

Name: José L. Melendrez

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Appointment of Interim President Chris Heavey to Permanent President of UNLV

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

As a twenty-year employee of UNLV, I have had the opportunity to both observe and work directly with Chris Heavey as he has served in multiple leadership roles at UNLV. In his most recent appointment as Interim President for UNLV, he has proved his commitment, experience, and knowledge. This remains a very challenging time for higher education. He has proven to be a real asset to Nevada, navigating these difficult times and moving UNLV forward despite the current political climate. What makes Chris stand out is his understanding of current dynamics, his maintenance of compassion and humanity towards the campus community, and his ability to engage with all stakeholders to prioritize student success and well-being. I ask the Board of Regents to support and approve Dr. Heavey as the next permanent president for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Monday, October 12, 2026 12:02:06 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: guzmanpeter@hotmail.com

Name: Peter Guzman

Representing someone other than yourself?: Latin Chamber of Commerce

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

The Latin Chamber of Commerce proudly supports the appointment of Chris Heavey as President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). We believe his leadership, vision, and commitment to academic excellence will help strengthen UNLV's role as a driving force for education, workforce development, and economic opportunity in Southern Nevada. As a Chamber that represents the interests of our business community, we recognize that a strong UNLV means a stronger Nevada. We are confident that Chris Heavey will continue building meaningful partnerships between higher education and the business community, expanding opportunities for our students, supporting innovation, and preparing the next generation of leaders. His success will be our community's success, and the Latin Chamber of Commerce stands ready to support his leadership.
Peter Guzman-President of the Latin Chamber of Commerce NV.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 11:59:18 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: andrewbspivak@gmail.com

Name: Andrew Spivak

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: #5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

As a proud UNLV alumnus and member of Southern Nevada's Jewish community, I am writing to express my strong support for appointing Dr. Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV.

Since October 7, 2023, the safety and well-being of Jewish students have been a significant concern for our community. Dr. Heavey's willingness to engage directly with students, listen to their concerns, and take meaningful steps to strengthen inclusion on campus reflects the thoughtful, responsive leadership I want to see at my alma mater.

Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported. Dr. Heavey's commitment to these values strengthens UNLV and reinforces my pride in the university.

I believe his continued leadership will benefit students and the entire UNLV community. I respectfully urge the Board to support his permanent appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Go Rebels!

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

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From: NSHE
To: Keri Nikolajewski; Winter Lipson
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 9:11:16 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: jbrislin@adl.org

Name: jolie brislin

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Appointment of Dr. Chris Heavey

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Dear NSHE Board of Regents,
I am writing in my capacity as Regional Director of the Desert Region for the ADL (Anti-Defamation League), the nation's leading anti-hate organization, to offer my strong support for Dr. Chris Heavey's appointment as President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
I have worked alongside Dr. Heavey for more than a decade and have witnessed his leadership through both moments of progress and moments of challenge. Throughout that time, he has consistently demonstrated integrity, thoughtfulness, and a deep commitment to the UNLV community.
UNLV has experienced a lack of consistent leadership in recent years, and that instability has been felt across the broader community, particularly by Jewish students and faculty who look to university leadership for clarity and confidence during difficult moments. Dr. Heavey has provided that steady hand during his time as Interim President.
At a time when university leaders are being tested in unprecedented ways, Dr. Heavey has shown the kind of principled leadership institutions need. He understands that fostering a campus where all students can thrive requires more than rhetoric. It requires engagement, partnership, and the courage to lead through difficult issues with clarity.
As a community partner working closely with educational institutions on issues of antisemitism, hate, and inclusion, I can say without hesitation that Dr. Heavey has been a trusted and responsive partner. He has demonstrated a clear commitment to ensuring Jewish students and all members of the UNLV community are able to learn in an environment where they feel respected, supported, and safe.
Dr. Heavey's long standing service to UNLV, understanding of its community, and

commitment to its future make him uniquely qualified to lead the university into its next chapter.
I strongly urge the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents to support his appointment as the next President of UNLV.
Sincerely,
Jolie Brislin

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 7:29:01 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: roberta.sabbath@unlv.edu

Name: Dr. Roberta Sabbath

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: #5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I am in favor of the permanent appointment of Dr. Chris Heavey as President, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a Las Vegas resident since 1969, recipient of two UNLV master's degrees, and UNLV faculty since 2000, I have witnessed many iterations of presidencies at UNLV. Dr. Heavey's presidency has brought by far the most notable advances to UNLV in a variety of ways. His emphasis on academic quality has been unquestioned. His community engagement has been significant. Partnerships span from the campus to the business, scientific, medical, diplomatic, non-profit and civic worlds. These partnerships have produced substantive campus investment and enrichment. Under Dr. Heavey, the UNLV footprint has grown in downtown Las Vegas, the medical school district and in arenas of scientific innovation, diplomacy, and technology in dramatic ways. Unlike many other universities around the country, student numbers indicate trust in UNLV to provide life-changing opportunities in an ever-growing number of fields that promise students a brighter future, preparing them to support their families, and to be productive citizens. In addition, Dr. Heavey has the support, trust, and hope campus-wide to maintain stable, financially sound, and forward-thinking presidency.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 4:23:53 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: bsummerhill@tmcc.edu

Name: Bradley Summerhill

Representing someone other than yourself?: TMCC Faculty Senate

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Item 8. NSHE Target Funding Model

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

Comment:

Regents,

Greetings. My name is Bradley Summerhill. I serve as chair of the TMCC Faculty Senate.

Item 8. NSHE Target Funding Model presents to us faculty as a bit of a mystery. To my knowledge, faculty have not been consulted in the development of a new funding model. My colleagues have not been able to tell me anything about the goals, objectives, or rationale behind the impetus for a new funding model. What outcomes do we as a system hope to achieve and how would a new formula improve the position of Nevada higher education? We faculty at the various institutions possess a wealth of practical knowledge that might prove useful. It seems appropriate to bring faculty into the conversation so that we can be part of the process.

Thank you.

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

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

SHELLEY BERKLEY
MAYOR

OLIVIA DIAZ
MAYOR PRO-TEM

BRIAN KNUDSEN
COUNCILMAN

October 14, 2026

The Honorable Stephanie Goodman
Chair, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

RE: Letter of Support – Dr. Chris Heavey, President of UNLV

Dear Chair Goodman and Members of the Board of Regents,

On behalf of the City of Las Vegas, we are pleased to write in strong support of Dr. Chris Heavey's appointment as President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. We are grateful to the Board for its thoughtful stewardship of UNLV over the past year and a half, and for its confidence in Dr. Heavey throughout that time.

UNLV and the City of Las Vegas share more than a home. The university's students, faculty, and staff are our residents, neighbors, and workforce, and UNLV's success is closely tied to the health and opportunity of every neighborhood we serve. Two of us are proud UNLV graduates, and Mayor Berkley has served on this Board. We know firsthand how much steady, trusted leadership at UNLV matters.

Since stepping in as Officer in Charge in March 2025 and serving as Interim President, Dr. Heavey has provided exactly that. Under his leadership, UNLV has reached record enrollment of about 34,000 students, record research expenditures of $134 million, and a record graduation rate. The university also renewed its Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, a recognition our city sees reflected in his work every day.

Nowhere is that clearer than downtown. On October 7, the Las Vegas City Council approved UNLV at Civic Plaza, a permanent UNLV campus in the heart of our city, just steps from City Hall. It will bring admissions, financial aid, and advising services directly to residents. It will also offer career support, a Cyber Clinic, and Boyd School of Law programs, alongside partners such as Nevada Workforce Connections, the Secretary of State's Office, and the Vegas Chamber. This partnership opens the door to higher education for working adults and families who might never have set foot on the Maryland Parkway campus. It moved from first presentation to Council approval in under four months, a reflection of the trust and collaboration Dr. Heavey has built with the City.

That partnership extends well beyond downtown. Councilman Knudsen has worked closely with Dr. Heavey on children's mental health, an issue of deep importance to our community. Dr. Heavey brought his team to the table, listened, and helped create the conditions for a new program that is moving Nevada toward a stronger mental health system. We also hear consistent praise for his leadership from UNLV faculty across Education, Dental Medicine, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Affairs.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS
495 S. MAIN STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101

VOICE 702.229.6241
FAX 702.385.7960
TTY 711

EMAIL
officeofthemayor@lasvegasnevada.gov
WEBSITE www.lasvegasnevada.gov

UNLV is also an essential partner in the City's vision for the Las Vegas Medical District, a long-term effort to improve the quality of and access to health care for Southern Nevadans. Continuity of leadership at UNLV will help keep that work moving forward.

Dr. Heavey is direct, deliberate, trustworthy, and deeply committed to UNLV and to Southern Nevada. He understands both the university and the community it serves. We believe he is the right person to lead UNLV into its next chapter, and we respectfully urge the Board to confirm him as President.

Thank you for your service to Nevada's students and for your consideration of this letter. We stand ready to support the Board and UNLV in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

Shelley Berkley
Mayor, City of Las Vegas

Olivia Diaz
Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Las Vegas

Brian Knudsen
Councilman, City of Las Vegas

From: NSHE
To: Keri Nikolajewski; Winter Lipson
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 7:12:17 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: russell.hurlburt@unlv.edu

Name: Russell Hurlburt

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5. APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT…

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I have been a faculty member at UNLV for 49 years; in 2024 you honored me by naming me a Distinguished Nevadan. I chaired the search committee that hired Dr. Heavey, and since then I have closely observed him in all the roles he has fulfilled at UNLV, including colleague, chair, dean, provost, interim president, and all the steps in between. He has been 100% impressive in all those roles, and I wholeheartedly support your naming him permanent President.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 8:59:24 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: nelliebertram74@gmail.com

Name: Nellie Bertram

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Dear Board of Regents:

I strongly urge you to vote against Item 5, the appointment of Chris Heavey as permanent president of UNLV.

Heavey has allowed a small group of highly ambitious senior administrators to wield extraordinary power with little accountability. His recent Cabinet appointments have reinforced a troubling pattern of favoritism, but the greatest concerns involve Senior Vice Provost Kate Korgan and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Barb Roberts. Both appear to operate with little meaningful oversight, expanding their administrative empires by promoting loyal followers and friends rather than prioritizing competence. Their influence has fostered a culture in which personal loyalty matters more than performance and employees are afraid to challenge those in power.

If these administrators were exceptionally effective, their growing influence might be easier to justify. Unfortunately, I have seen few meaningful improvements at UNLV attributable to their leadership. Instead, their actions suggest that they are far more interested in advancing their own careers and consolidating power than in making the university better. The substantial resources entrusted to them could have accomplished far more under more capable leadership.

Heavey has enabled this culture, and there is little reason to believe he will change it. UNLV

deserves better. I urge you to vote against item 5 and launch a national search to identify its next leader.

Sincerely,
Nellie Bertram

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 9:01:21 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: jb_vegas@gmail.com

Name: James Birken

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

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

Comment:

Colleagues and I have concerns about the appointment of Chris Heavey as permanent UNLV president. While he has some positive qualities, many faculty question whether he is willing to make the difficult decisions that come with leading a university. There is a growing perception that certain deans and members of his cabinet have too much influence over him and face few consequences for bad decisions. Some of these administrators have made questionable choices about who gets hired or promoted, and UNLV is paying the price. Faculty are increasingly frustrated by the number of people in important positions who seem ill-equipped for their responsibilities. It is discouraging to see these problems continue without any action from the president's office. Dr. Heavy may be able to lead UNLV successfully, but that will require him to take a much more active role in addressing ineffective leadership. If the regents appoint him, they should pay close attention to the people he chooses to keep in charge. Changes are badly needed, and there is little confidence among faculty that he will make them without pressure from the board.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 10:29:27 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: Vera.Sterling.LV@gmail.com

Name: Vera Sterling

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Board of Regents:

I write in the strongest possible support of Dr. Chris Heavey's appointment as the permanent president of UNLV. I am certain that even an intergalactic search would not turn up anyone better suited to lead this university.

My assessment of Dr. Heavey is informed not only by the qualities that are evident to many who observe his public leadership, but also by what I have observed working with him behind the scenes. I have seen him confront extraordinarily difficult situations, often without the luxury of time or complete information. This was particularly true during the COVID-19 pandemic and following the December 6, 2023, shooting at UNLV. Having witnessed his leadership and impact during both crises, I am confident in saying that Dr. Heavey did more than any other senior leader at UNLV to help the university through those terrible periods. I have seen how seriously he takes the responsibility entrusted to him and how carefully he considers decisions affecting others. Ultimately, it's his genuine concern for the UNLV community that drives him.

I also believe his intellectual capacity deserves far greater recognition. Dr. Heavey is exceptionally intelligent. Even those who recognize his intelligence may not fully appreciate just how brilliant he is. I have seen the problems that arise when administrators do not fully grasp the issues before them. A misunderstanding of a complicated contract or policy can have serious institutional consequences. A president must understand such issues well enough to

question advice and exercise independent judgment. Dr. Heavey is remarkably adept at absorbing complicated information and recognizing implications others may overlook.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 10:32:02 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: Vera.Sterling.LV@gmail.com

Name: Vera Sterling

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I also want to speak to his integrity and generosity. I remember when Dr. Heavey earned a relatively modest salary by university administrative standards, yet he was invariably the person who insisted on buying coffee or picking up the check. He has also contributed very generously to UNLV, including substantial personal donations to student scholarships and other university initiatives, without seeking recognition. I have had the pleasure of becoming friends with his wife and can attest that they are both extraordinarily generous people.

I have rarely encountered anyone easier to talk with or more capable of making others feel comfortable and included. Dr. Heavey connects naturally with people regardless of their position or background. He listens with genuine interest, seeking to understand different perspectives and learn from others. At a university where the president must work effectively with people who have very different backgrounds and priorities, that ability is indispensable. His approachability also makes it easier for people to raise concerns or express disagreement, which is especially important in a university.

UNLV has enormous potential, but realizing it will require leadership that recognizes where improvements are needed and is determined to pursue them. After devoting a substantial part of my professional life to UNLV, I would not offer this endorsement lightly. My confidence comes from having observed Dr. Heavey's leadership firsthand. I believe he has much more to contribute.

I respectfully urge the Board to appoint Dr. Heavey as the permanent president of UNLV and

give him the opportunity to lead this institution that is so vital to Southern Nevada and our state to even greater heights.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Vera Sterling

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)

October 15, 2026

Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
c/o Stephanie Goodman, Chair
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Re: Special Meeting of October 16, 2026, Item No. 5: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (collectively, the "**Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment**")

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Nevada Las Vegas Foundation.

I hereby communicate my unconditional support for Chris Heavey as Permanent President of UNLV and ask that you vote in favor of the Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment.

Sincerely,

By: Andrew F. Abboud

Trustee Name: Andrew F. Abboud

Date Executed: 10/14/2026

October 15, 2026

Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
c/o Stephanie Goodman, Chair
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Re: Special Meeting of October 16, 2026, Item No. 5: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (collectively, the "**Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment**")

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Nevada Las Vegas Foundation.

I hereby communicate my unconditional support for Chris Heavey as Permanent President of UNLV and ask that you vote in favor of the Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment.

Sincerely,

By: _____

Trustee Name: Hugo Mariscal

Date Executed: 10-15-2026

October 15, 2026

Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
c/o Stephanie Goodman, Chair
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

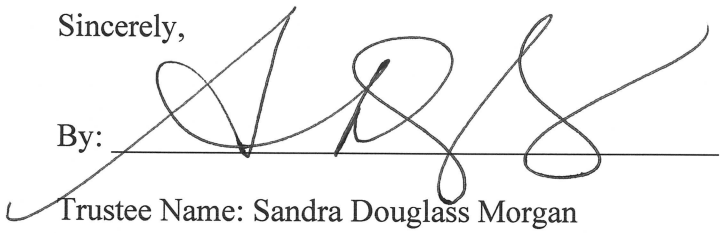
Re: Special Meeting of October 16, 2026, Item No. 5: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (collectively, the "**Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment**")

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

As a proud member of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased to express my full and unwavering support for Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV.

I have tremendous respect for Chris and his dedication to the university and our Southern Nevada community. I am confident in his ability to lead UNLV into its next chapter and respectfully ask for your favorable vote in support of his permanent appointment.

Sincerely,

By: 

Trustee Name: Sandra Douglass Morgan

Date Executed: 10/15/2026

October 15, 2026

Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
c/o Stephanie Goodman, Chair
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Re: Special Meeting of October 16, 2026, Item No. 5: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (collectively, the "**Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment**")

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Nevada Las Vegas Foundation.

I hereby communicate my unconditional support for Chris Heavey as Permanent President of UNLV and ask that you vote in favor of the Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment.

Sincerely,

By: Curtis L. Myles III

Trustee Name: Curtis L. Myles III

Date Executed: Oct 15, 2026

October 15, 2026

Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
c/o Stephanie Goodman, Chair
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Re: Special Meeting of October 16, 2026, Item No. 5: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (collectively, the "**Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment**")

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Nevada Las Vegas Foundation.

I hereby communicate my unconditional support for Chris Heavey as Permanent President of UNLV and ask that you vote in favor of the Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment.

Sincerely,

By: _____

Trustee Name: Joseph Murphy

Date Executed: 10-15-26

October 15, 2026

Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
c/o Stephanie Goodman, Chair
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119

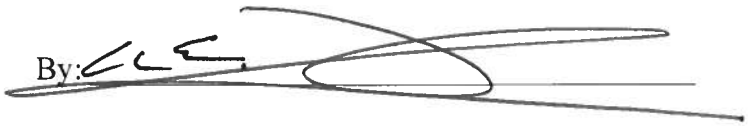
Re: Special Meeting of October 16, 2026, Item No. 5: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (collectively, the "**Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment**")

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Nevada Las Vegas Foundation.

I hereby communicate my unconditional support for Chris Heavey as Permanent President of UNLV and ask that you vote in favor of the Chris Heavey Permanent President Appointment.

Sincerely,

By: 

Trustee Name: Kevin E. Burke

Date Executed: 10/15/26

From: NSHE
To: Keri Nikolajewski; Winter Lipson
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 4:10:23 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: DavidNavarro@ColumbiaBank.com

Name: David Navarro

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Agenda Item #5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Chair and members of the Board of Regents,

My name is David Navarro. I am a two-time graduate of UNLV, the Past President of the UNLV Alumni Association, and a Trustee of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees.

I am not only an alumnus, but also someone whose life has been profoundly shaped by this university. UNLV opened doors for me, helped prepare me for a successful career, and instilled in me a responsibility to give back to the institution that gave me so much.

I am here to strongly encourage you to appoint Dr. Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV.

Leadership at a university like UNLV requires more than impressive credentials. It requires a genuine understanding of our institution, a commitment to our students, a respect for our faculty and staff, and a vision for the critical role this university plays in the future of Southern Nevada and the state of Nevada.

I believe Chris is the right person to lead UNLV into its next chapter. Our university needs continuity, strong leadership, and someone who understands both the opportunities before us and the responsibility we have to the students and communities we serve.

UNLV is more than a university. It is an engine of opportunity, economic growth, and social

mobility for generations of Nevadans. Its next president will help shape not only the future of this institution, but the future of our entire state.

I respectfully urge the Board of Regents to appoint Dr. Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV. I believe our university will be well served by his leadership, and I hope you will join me in giving him the opportunity to lead UNLV forward.

Thank you for your time and for your service to higher education in Nevada.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 4:51:14 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: J.Lindero59@outlook.com

Name: Jessie Lindero

Representing someone other than yourself?: UNLV student

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: APPOINTMENT OF UNLV INTERIM PRESIDENT CHRIS HEAVEY AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND APPROVAL OF NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Chris Heavey is unfit for presidency. His behavior toward a female student outside his community talk on well-being, disclosing her identity as a Title IX reported victim is egregious. A witness asked "Are you the student?" Heavey smirked & answered "Yes she is" breaching federal Title IX confidentiality laws. When asked why he'd remained silent about reports of Title IX case abandonment & multiple semesters of targeted academic disparity following the initial harm, he displayed overt hostility responding "that's your version [of events]", dismissing the victim's concerns outright. Visibly shaking she asked what resources she had & from whom she could seek help; Heavey responded there were resources going into it but refused to say where. She asked by whom & said no one would speak to her. Heavey responded coursely "You talk to a lot of people." Following this interaction the victim was charged with violating an illegal blanket gag order on contacting admin about malfeasant school actions. This punitive reprisal suppresses the right to report unlawful administrative activity to executives. The victim was charged for directly reporting to Heavey a prejudicial dereliction of Title IX regulatory duty & request to file a case mishandling complaint. After receiving no substantive response the student was charged for following up 2 wks later detailing Title IX's intentional misrouting of a Title IX matter as EEO, which could be seen to evade federal disclosure mandates on grants. A 3rd charge was for an email invited by an administrator, revealing academic disenfranchisement & potential conspiracy to commit fraud against the U.S. govt on an NIH grant intended for training & mentorship in the student's program, while the student was deliberately deprived of training & mentorship. Heavey's indifference is unnerving. A report was made to HR director E. Smith about the unlawful

activity. Smith's departure was announced shortly after. Heavey is a liability to Nevada funding.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 7:08:06 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: jgriffin1@tmcc.edu

Name: Jen Griffin

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Public Comment

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

Comment:

I implore you, on behalf of myself and countless other faculty and staff, many of whom are underpaid and without COLA or merit for YEARS, to figure out a way to increase our pay or benefits to accomodate the upcoming increase in student loan payments. In January the 'affordable' repayment plans implemented by the federal regime will skyrocket our payments. I know of several other faculty who are so underpaid and financially distressed by the high cost of living in Nevada, compounded by inflation, they are facing loss of home and savings. I know my student loan payment will go from less than $200 to more than $1500; I net $4100, haven't any control over my retirement deduction, and my mortgage is $1750 (at 4%; less than average rent for a two bedroom apartment). Can you see the problem here? I know others who are going from $100 to more than $700. This is a widespread issue that requires immediate attention and creative problem solving by NSHE. If our BOR can somehow lose millions of dollars and not have to be accountable for that mismanagement, surely there is adequate money to fund the faculty and staff who make it possible to execute the vision and mission of our higher education institutions. Many of us live in relative poverty, we should not qualify for public assistance yet some of us can, should we choose to go that route. If we do not get some form of relief, there is a good chance you'll soon see a significant loss of talent – and good luck recruiting replacements.

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

From: NSHE
To: Keri Nikolajewski; Winter Lipson
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 8:13:42 PM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: fmanans@gmail.com

Name: Filemon Manansala

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Dr Chris Heavey, PhD, Permanent UNLV President

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I'm Filemon Manansala, Lt Col, USAF, retired, member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UNLV, and a USO volunteer at Harry Reid Airport. I am writing to urge you to appoint Interim President Dr. Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV. Steady fiscal leadership in a changing era. Dr. Heavey has led UNLV through the upheaval of the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) era while carrying out NSHE budget policy campus-wide and staying within budget. At a time when many institutions struggled, he has shown sound judgment in planning, programming, budgeting and financial execution. Research excellence and community programs. Under his leadership, UNLV has sustained its standing as a top-tier R1 research university and strengthened programs such as the Chambers-Grundy Center for Transformative Neuroscience. In 2025, UNLV also opened the Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture, which shares academic space with OLLI on Maryland Parkway. Dr. Heavey has also kept OLLI at UNLV operating at a level that meets its funding requirements, serving thousands of older adults in Southern Nevada. Vision for the future: Dr. Heavey sees opportunities that fit Las Vegas uniquely, including positioning UNLV as a center of excellence in artificial intelligence, building on the global Black Hat and DEF CON conferences held here each year and on AI-focused military exercises at the Nevada Test and Training Range. Impact on one community member: I am a disabled minority veteran. Retired District Court Judge William Voy told me that, because of my year-long, enrollment in OLLI at UNLV, institutionalized memory care is not appropriate for me. Lifelong learning has preserved my independence and thinking. Today, instead of being a burden on medical and social services, I volunteer with the USO, and peer counselor. Dr. Heavey's leadership will allow people like me to keep learning, contributing, and remain active members of of our

community. Thank you. Mr Manansala.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026 6:39:30 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: webera4@unlv.nevada.edu

Name: Alice Weber

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Appointment of UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey As Permanent President

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

Chris Heavey told a room of students at his well-being event that he knows their parents loved them more than his because people have fewer kids now. It was insensitive to students who grew up in foster care or may have been abused. He said we live in the best time because we know where our next meal is coming from and cited the event's boxed lunches. He makes $540k/year, and his $26k per year housing/car allowance alone is more than academic workers make in a year. Many students don't know where their next meal will come from and may have attended the event because of the boxed lunches. Meanwhile, NSHE regents plan to give him $25k more. A man who is willfully ignorant of the hardships of students and can't speak about real issues during a well-being event should not make a King's salary to be in charge of those students. He is out of touch. He is the only president at NSHE who's refused to meet with the Academic Workers Union before they speak to legislation, showing how little he cares about students' voices. We need a president who genuinely cares enough to talk to students face to face. People don't start a union because they're having a good time at their job. They do it because they feel like they need protection from people like that. Our students are the reason we exist, not the administration. The state of UNLV is not what Heavey has portrayed in the news. Unchecked abuses of power by faculty and administration continually threaten the well-being and education of students: Title IX cases go uninvestigated for years, leaving the most vulnerable unprotected; students drop out because of mental health issues related to work exploitation and abuses of all kinds which Heavey has shown himself unwilling to hear or resolve. A faculty senator recently told me she'd experienced retaliation for 2 years but never reported it to Title IX out of fear for her job. That should alarm you to

your core. Public comments can't reflect what people are scared to speak up about.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026 9:26:59 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: mikeyacruz3@gmail.com

Name: Michael Cruz Jr (Mikey)

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Raise and issue for consideration

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

Comment:

My name is Mikey Cruz. I grew up in Reno, and I've spent my whole college career within the Nevada System of Higher Education.
I graduated from Reno High in 2022 and started at the College of Southern Nevada. From there I transferred to UNLV, then to UNR, where I finished my bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. This fall I was admitted to UNLV's graduate program in [program], and I'm taking classes now. I'm the kind of student this Board's transfer and completion goals are built for.
I also played baseball every one of those 4 years. Two seasons at CSN, one at UNLV, one at UNR. I never redshirted and never asked for a waiver. This past season was my best: I led the Mountain West in batting average and made the All-Mountain West Second Team. I was looking forward to my fifth and final season.
This past June, the NCAA adopted a rule giving athletes five seasons of eligibility within five years. That rule covers incoming freshmen and every current athlete with eligibility left. The one group left out is my class, the high school class of 2022. If you finished a fourth season by spring 2026, you get "no additional eligibility." An athlete who played three seasons gets a fifth year. I played every season I was given, and that's what closed the door. If I had redshirted or asked for a waiver, I would still be playing. My younger teammates, including guys who were juniors last season, get up to five years. I don't.
For a few weeks this summer, a federal judge blocked the NCAA from enforcing the rule against the Class of 2022, and schools could decide for themselves whether to roster those athletes. UNLV put me on its roster. Then in August, an appeals court put that order on hold, and I was told I was no longer eligible. No waiver, no appeal, and only a few weeks to rework

my academic and career plans.
I’m not asking for special treatment. I’m asking you to know that this is happening to students at your universities, to care and add this to future agenda.

The

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026 9:21:49 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: aliseporto@me.com

Name: Alise porto

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: Raise issue for your consideration

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

Comment:

Good morning, Chair Goodman and members of the Board. My name is Alise Porto, and I'm Michael Cruz Jr.'s mother.

I'm here as his mom, asking this Board to stand up for Michael and the other Class of 2022 student-athletes caught in the middle of a change in NCAA eligibility rules.

Every step of Michael's education has been in NSHE. He started at CSN, earned his degree at UNR, and is now in graduate school at UNLV.

Michael played every season he was given. He never redshirted. He stayed academically eligible. Last year it all came together, and he led the Mountain West with a .403 batting average. As his mother, I watched the years of work behind that number.

Today he's healthy, eager to play, and continuing his education. UNLV wants him on its team. The only thing standing in the way is the year he happened to start college.

Athletes before his class got extra eligibility. Athletes after his class get five seasons. Michael's class is the one left behind. And there's one thing nobody can give him back.

Time.

If this takes another year to resolve, nobody can give him back this time. Nobody can recreate

him at 22, healthy, playing the best baseball of his life. Once this season is gone, it's gone.

This week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine acted to protect Ohio's Class of 2022 student-athletes, saying, "When the rules change, fairness has to remain part of the equation."

Speak up for fairness.

I know this Board doesn't write the NCAA's rules, but you can use your voice. You can put this on a future agenda and learn how many of your students are in Michael's position. And you can support efforts to make this right for them.

Ohio took a stand for its student-athletes. I'm asking Nevada to stand up for ours.

Thank you.
Alise Porto

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026 11:12:03 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: devers3@unlv.nevada.edu

Name: SJ Devereaux

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: President Heavey as President of UNLV

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Opposition

Comment:

I am in opposition of President Heavey due to the fact that he has neglected to state what our campus will be doing to protect us against sexual and physical violence. I have emailed him, and heard from the Chief of Staff, but him not directly emailing me back shows his lack of care for students and delegation to others because he is not capable of addressing those situations on his own. Additionally, when mentioning that he had not made a public statement, I was told that he did not want to make public statements on everything that happens. However, it is important to note that when political figure Charlie Kirk was killed, he made a statement. For him to make a statement in favor of Charlie Kirk, someone who has hurt many minority communities, but to not make a comment on the Cornell 7, seems incredibly sensitive to the population of UNLV who has been impacted by sexual and physical violence on campus.

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, October 16, 2026
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026 11:29:31 AM

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Email: seth.amram@unlv.edu

Name: Seth Amram

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, October 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 5

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I am writing in strong support of appointing Dr. Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV.

As a UNLV student and Jewish Student and Community Liaison with the UNLV Task Force on Jewish Identity and Inclusion, I have seen how important university leadership is to the well-being of students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. Dr. Heavey has demonstrated a willingness to listen, meet directly with students, and take their concerns seriously.

This has been especially meaningful to me in my work supporting UNLV's Jewish community. At a time when Jewish students have faced concerns about antisemitism, campus safety, and feeling included in university life, it matters to have a president who is willing to engage with the community and hear our experiences. Dr. Heavey has shown support for UNLV's Jewish students, faculty, and staff, and has recognized the importance of fostering a campus where Jewish members of the community can feel safe, respected, and included. I appreciate his willingness to meet with members of our community and listen to the issues that matter to us.

I have also appreciated his collaborative approach to university leadership and his ability to work with members of the Board of Regents, including Regent Byron Brooks, in the interest of UNLV and its students. Strong relationships between the university and the Board are essential to UNLV's continued progress.

Thank you, Dr. Heavey, for your time, leadership, and willingness to engage with students and the communities you serve. I believe his permanent appointment would provide continuity and allow UNLV to build on the progress being made. I respectfully encourage the Board of Regents to appoint Dr. Chris Heavey as the permanent President of UNLV.

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)