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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 16, 2026

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Matt McNair, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Annual Evaluation Summary Interim President Dr. Chris Heavey, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Pursuant to Procedures & Guidelines Manual (PGM) Chapter 2, Section 2, Sub-section 1.A.4, please accept this summary of annual evaluation for Interim President Chris Heavey, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As prescribed, this summary includes "the status of institutional metrics and corresponding targets established to measure progress towards the achievement of goals outlined in the institutional strategic plan." (PGM Chapter 2, Section 2, Sub-section 1.A.4).

Overall Status of Institutional Performance:

Under Interim President Heavey's leadership, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas continued to advance institutional priorities in the areas of student success, academic quality, research excellence, health sciences, financial stewardship, philanthropy, and community engagement.

During the evaluation period, UNLV achieved record enrollment and graduation levels, maintained its Carnegie R1 classification, achieved record research expenditures, successfully completed its institutional accreditation review, strengthened institutional leadership, and advanced significant health sciences and community partnerships. Key areas of focus and highlights include:

- **Student Access & Success:** UNLV reported enrollment of approximately 34,000 students and approximately 7,000 graduates annually, along with a 52% graduation rate and a near-record retention rate of 79.4%. The University continued to expand academic programs in high-demand areas, including cybersecurity, health, mental health, sports management, and insurance and risk management. UNLV's Seal of Excelencia recognition further reflects the University's continued commitment to student success.
- **Research Excellence & Innovation:** UNLV achieved record research expenditures of approximately \$134 million, representing a 14% year-over-year increase, while maintaining its Carnegie R1 classification. The University also expanded research infrastructure through installation of Nevada's first research-dedicated functional MRI and advancement of high-performance computing capacity. Continued emphasis on artificial intelligence, interdisciplinary research, and innovation further supports UNLV's growing research enterprise.

- **Academic Quality & Institutional Excellence:** UNLV completed its second consecutive Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accreditation cycle with no recommendations and received four commendations addressing student success, student outcomes, data-informed decision-making, and online program quality. The Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine also received reaffirmation of its LCME accreditation. Expansion of academic programs and integration of artificial intelligence into coursework further supported academic innovation and responsiveness to workforce needs.
- **Health Sciences & Community Impact:** UNLV advanced several significant health sciences initiatives during the evaluation period. Reaffirmation of accreditation for the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine and execution of the land lease with Intermountain Health for a stand-alone children's hospital at the Research and Technology Park represent important milestones. The University also continued advancing clinical partnerships and initiatives designed to strengthen healthcare capacity throughout Southern Nevada.
- **Leadership, Financial Stewardship & Philanthropy:** Interim President Heavey strengthened institutional leadership through key senior-level appointments, including a new Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer and a new Executive Vice President and Provost. UNLV also advanced changes in Foundation leadership and operations, introduced Salesforce to strengthen donor tracking and engagement, and enhanced financial reporting and oversight. Fundraising reached nearly \$75 million during the evaluation period.
- **Campus & Community Engagement:** Interim President Heavey completed a comprehensive campus listening tour and continued strengthening relationships with elected officials, local governments, business organizations, and community partners throughout Southern Nevada. Partnerships involving Intermountain Health, University Medical Center, the Las Vegas Medical District, and Historic Westside initiatives further supported UNLV's role in healthcare, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and regional economic development.

Institutional Metrics & Corresponding Targets:

Annually, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas assesses progress toward institutional priorities through performance measures aligned with institutional and NSHE goals. Highlights of institutional performance during the evaluation period include:

- Enrollment of approximately 34,000 students and approximately 7,000 graduates annually.
- A graduation rate of 52% and a near-record retention rate of 79.4%.
- Record research expenditures of approximately \$134 million, representing a 14% year-over-year increase.
- Continued Carnegie R1 classification.
- Completion of UNLV's second consecutive NWCCU accreditation cycle with no recommendations and four commendations.
- Reaffirmation of LCME accreditation for the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine.
- Execution of the land lease with Intermountain Health for a stand-alone children's hospital at the Research and Technology Park.
- Nearly \$75 million in fundraising reported during the evaluation period.
- Significant resource commitments supporting institutional priorities, including \$74.7 million in state funding for the Lee Business School building.

- Continued expansion of academic programs in high-demand fields and investment in research infrastructure, including Nevada’s first research-dedicated functional MRI and expanded high-performance computing capacity.

Evaluation Goals:

Interim President Heavey remains committed to the establishment of goals that support student success, academic excellence, research growth, institutional effectiveness, community impact, and UNLV’s continued development as a nationally recognized public research university. The following goals have been established for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Professional/Institutional Goals 2026–27:

1. Develop and implement a new strategic plan grounded in campus and community input.
2. Drive institutional excellence across academics, student success, research, and community impact.
3. Build UNLV’s brand and expand its reach, increasing national and global visibility.
4. Expand global engagement through international partnerships, programs, and potential branch campuses.
5. Strengthen campus culture, engagement, and shared sense of purpose.
6. Clarify and elevate the essential functions of academic faculty.
7. Implement the Institutional Engagement and Experience Initiative.
8. Ensure long-term leadership stability and organizational alignment.
9. Grow research competitiveness, including increased federal funding and large-scale interdisciplinary initiatives.
10. Invest in priority areas such as health, sustainability, artificial intelligence, and data science.
11. Expand graduate education and postdoctoral pathways to support research and workforce needs.
12. Enhance infrastructure for research, innovation, and technology transfer.
13. Expand the health sciences enterprise through clinical partnerships, academic programs, and research capacity.
14. Establish an Academic Health Center model to support regional healthcare needs.
15. Strengthen athletics sustainability, competitiveness, and facility modernization.
16. Execute a comprehensive real estate and campus master plan strategy to support long-term growth.
17. Launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign to significantly expand institutional resources and strengthen long-term philanthropic capacity.
18. Deepen partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations to support economic development and workforce alignment.
19. Extend UNLV’s presence through strategic “outposts” across the region.
20. Reinforce and elevate UNLV’s institutional identity, including selection of a unifying mascot.
21. Position UNLV as a nationally recognized, high-impact public research university.