

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room
Friday, May 27, 2016

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present:

- Mr. Rick Trachok, Chairman
- Mr. Michael B. Wixom, Vice Chairman (*via telephone*)
- Dr. Andrea Anderson (*via telephone*)
- Mr. Cedric Crear
- Mr. Robert Davidson
- Dr. Mark W. Doubrava
- Dr. Jason Geddes
- Mr. Trevor Hayes
- Mr. James Dean Leavitt (*via telephone*)
- Mr. Sam Lieberman
- Mr. Kevin C. Melcher
- Mr. Kevin J. Page
- Ms. Allison Stephens

Others Present:

- Dr. Constance Brooks, Vice Chancellor, Gov't and Community Affairs
- Mr. Vic Redding, Vice Chancellor, Finance
- Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board
- Mr. John Albrecht, General Counsel
- Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC
- Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
- Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President, TMCC
- Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR
- Mr. Chet O. Burton, President, WNC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Ms. Dana Trimble, DRI, and Mr. Eric March, NSHE System Administration. Ms. Kanani Espinoza, UNLV, represented student government.

Chairman Rick Trachok called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all members present except Vice Chairman Wixom and Regent Leavitt. Regent Page led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

Vice Chairman Wixom joined the meeting by telephone.

2. Approved-Appointment, Acting Chancellor – The Board of Regents appointed Mr. John V. White to serve as acting Chancellor of the NSHE. The Board also approved the contract and terms as amended with a start date of June 3, 2016 (*Refs. BOR-2a and BOR-2b on file in the Board office*).

Regent Leavitt joined the meeting by telephone.

Chairman Trachok remarked on the beginning of a new chapter that will allow the NSHE to move forward in a positive manner to continue its mission of enhancing student success for a strong and educated Nevada. The NSHE will continue working to build bridges with legislative leaders, legislators and partners in the community to improve student success and move higher education and the state forward. The Regents and System Administration staff will continue to focus on being more responsive, more effective and more efficient in serving students and the state.

Regent Crear moved approval of the appointment of John V. White as acting Chancellor of the NSHE and the contract and terms as presented. Regent Stephens seconded.

Regent Page noted Board policy allows for a designated officer in charge to assume the responsibilities of president of an institution if the president is traveling, resigns or is no longer serving in the position. However, there is no comparable policy when a chancellor resigns or is no longer serving as chancellor. In order to avoid possible legal, logistical and administrative problems associated with not having a chancellor in place, Regent Page recommended the Board consider revising its policy to allow for the appointment of an officer in charge with respect to the chancellor's position.

Regent Page offered a friendly amendment to the motion to allow Mr. White to begin his term as acting Chancellor on June 3, 2016, instead of July 1, 2016.

Regents Crear and Stephens amended the motion to reflect a revised start date of June 3, 2016. Motion carried.

2. Approved-Appointment, Acting Chancellor – (*continued*)

Mr. White expressed his thanks to the Board and said he looks forward to visiting each of the campuses and learning more about the communities they serve. He offered a reminder that this is an interim appointment. He believes the NSHE must position itself for a new era, and part of what he will be doing is some of that positioning. He also believes it is a time for reflection. He views the job as an opportunity to listen and gain a better understanding of what is needed for higher education in Nevada.

Mr. White offered comments on the state of higher education in general including trends toward reduced state funding; shrinking pools of traditional college students; increased proportions of first-generation, low-income and historically underrepresented students; competitive pressures and competition among schools; reduced federal support for research and development; and degree attainment rates. Mr. White commented on the importance of reviewing how the NSHE institutions are supported and engaging the Governor and legislators in that process. He also views supporting the presidents and preparing for the next chancellor as major parts of his role.

Regent Doubrava expressed support for Mr. White and thanked him for stepping forward to assume the role of acting Chancellor.

Chairman Trachok extended the Board's appreciation to Mr. White.

3. Information Only-New Business – Regent Doubrava recommended the Board reevaluate the powers and authority vested with the position of chancellor at its next meeting.
4. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Prepared by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Manager of Board Operations

Submitted for approval by: Dean J. Gould
Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents

Approved by the Board of Regents at the August 25-26, 2016, meeting