

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its  
SECURITY COMMITTEE  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aspen Building, Carson Nugget Hall  
Western Nevada College  
2201 West College Parkway, Carson City  
Thursday, September 5, 2019

Video Conference Connection from the meeting site to:  
System Administration, Las Vegas  
4300 S. Maryland Parkway, Board Room  
and  
Great Basin College, Elko  
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mr. Kevin J. Page, Chair  
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo  
Mr. Trevor Hayes  
Mr. Sam Lieberman  
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Members Absent: Mr. Rick Trachok, Vice Chair

Other Regents Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chairman  
Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Vice Chairman  
Mr. John T. Moran  
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Others Present: Dr. Thom Reilly, Chancellor  
Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff & Special Counsel to the Board  
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs  
Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Michael Flores, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor  
Mr. Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges  
Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief General Counsel  
Mr. Zelalem Bogale, Deputy General Counsel  
Mr. Caleb Cage, Assistant Vice Chancellor,  
Workforce Development & Community Colleges  
Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, Academic & Student Affairs  
Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and  
Director of Student Affairs  
Mr. Francis McCabe, Communications Officer  
Dr. Anne Milkovich, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Theo Meek, Research Scholar  
Mr. Joseph Sunbury, Chief Internal Auditor  
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President, CSN

Others Present: Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI  
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, President, GBC  
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC  
Dr. Marta Meana, President, UNLV  
Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR  
Dr. Vincent R. Solis, President, WNC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Dr. Amanda Keen-Zebert, DRI; Ms. Brigitte Glynn, System Administration; and Dr. Janis McKay, UNLV. Student body presidents in attendance were: Mr. Daniel Gutierrez, CSN; Ms. Nicola Opfer, NSC; Ms. Alexandra Patri, TMCC; Ms. Hannah Patenaude, UNLV-CSUN; Ms. Stephanie Molina, UNLV-GPSA; and Ms. Tamara Guinn, UNR-GSA.

*For others present, please see the attendance roster on file in the Board Office.*

Chair Kevin J. Page called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present except for Vice Chair Trachok.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the March 1, 2019, meeting (*Ref. SEC-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Del Carlo moved approval of the minutes from the March 1, 2019, meeting. Regent Lieberman seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chair Trachok was absent.

3. Information Only-Opening Remarks by Chair – Chair Kevin J. Page provided opening remarks and thanked all first responders for a job well done regarding the July 5, 2019, incident on the UNR campus. He emphasized the importance of campus security at all NSHE institutions.
4. Information Only-NSHE Chief Information Security Officer – Dr. Anne Milkovich, NSHE Chief Information Officer (CIO), introduced newly hired NSHE Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Theresa Semmens and briefly discussed the position's mission and responsibilities.

CISO Semmens outlined the newly set goals for cybersecurity strategy in the NSHE which included maintaining effective and efficient security protection for constituents, shared services for the most cost-effective protection NSHE-wide and the creation of an NSHE-wide security operation center to improve cybersecurity posture more cost effectively. CIO Milkovich added that cybersecurity for the NSHE is operated at multiple layers. The protection of network and assets at the state and federal levels are also provided by the NSHE System Computing Services; however, the primary purpose is to protect NSHE

4. Information Only-NSHE Chief Information Security Officer – *(continued)*

information and its information systems.

Regent Del Carlo welcomed CISO Semmens. She asked if the NSHE had a policy in place regarding hackers and paying ransom for stolen access and/or information. CIO Milkovich said they would not advise paying hackers a ransom for any type of data recovery. A reason for this is that once that process is started, all parties are engaging in blackmail which can be an ongoing situation. Ultimately it is at the discretion of each institution president and their legal counsel as to how to handle this type of situation should it arise. CISO Semmens added that the majority of the time stolen data is returned it is corrupted and/or incomplete. She agreed with CIO Milkovich that the decision on how to handle this type of situation should fall to the leadership of each institution.

Chair Page welcomed CISO Semmens. He asked her for further information on her professional background and how her previous work experience compares to her role within the NSHE thus far. CISO Semmens shared some information about her previous jobs at higher education institutions in North Dakota and Florida. She complimented and was impressed with the NSHE SCS staff and the information systems in place.

Chair Page asked about NSHE's cyber vulnerability. CISO Semmens answered they are in the process of implementing a new security program for threat and incident management. CISO Semmens and her team are also working on incident response planning, procedure and education, and awareness and training for the NSHE.

Chair Page said the institutional presidents and their legal counsel, along with the Chancellor, should work on a policy regarding ransom demands for data. CIO Milkovich said there is no policy in place specific to handling data ransom request/demands; however, one of CISO Semmens' projects is to review all of the existing security policies, the institutions are welcomed to review and provide feedback as well, and revise it to add hacker ransom for data. CISO Semmens added that ransomware is part of a bigger picture having to do with phishing, malware, spyware, web vulnerability and so forth. Issues such as those would need to be included in policy and procedure. The state of cybersecurity is ever-changing and to properly weather the constant changes, the NSHE will need to build flexibility into its cybersecurity policies.

5. Information Only-University of Nevada, Reno – July 5, 2019, Incident Emergency Response Overview and Security Update – University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) President Marc A. Johnson, through Amanda Windes, Manager of Organizational Resilience, and Todd Renwick, Interim Chief, University Police Services, provided an overview and discussed emergency preparations, and the immediate response and support efforts by multiple local, state, and federal entities that responded to the July 5, 2019, incidents at UNR’s Argenta and Nye Halls (*Ref. SEC-5 on file in the Board Office*).

President Johnson offered opening remarks, thanked all the first responders and reported on the Thank You Reception recently held for the first responders. He introduced Ms. Amanda Windes, Manager of Organizational Resilience, and Mr. Todd Renwick, Interim Chief, University Police Services.

Interim Chief Renwick and Ms. Windes presented an overview of the response to the UNR tragedy on July 5, 2019, which included details of the Argenta and Nye Halls incident; the incident command system; interoperable communications; the regional dispatch model; the Issues Management Team; pre-incident preparations; relationships with community partners; and professional affiliations.

Chairman Geddes asked how all the campuses work together to share emergency planning and response information with each other. Interim Chief Renwick answered from a police services perspective, they train with other campuses just as they train with UNR. A recent tabletop exercise was just completed at TMCC, there is one scheduled for WNC and they are currently working with GBC to schedule an exercise in the near future.

Regent Lieberman asked if there is a need or desire to do a Systemwide education or training as a result of the UNR tragedy. Ms. Windes said in October 2018, UNR offered an all-day FEMA course which all of the northern Nevada institutions attended. More recently, UNLV representatives met with Ms. Windes to discuss the UNR incident and emergency planning. They are also working on a statewide exercise that will be held in November and most of the NSHE institutions have an involvement with the exercise. Ms. Windes thought going forward it would be a good opportunity to hold training for the System. Regent Lieberman added that the System training could be something for Board leadership and the Chancellor’s office to get involved in.

Chair Page expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

6. Information Only-Southern Command Campus Security Activities – Adam Garcia, Associate Vice President and Director, Southern Command Police Services, presented an update of campus security activities and progress on the police services consolidation.

Associate Vice President and Director Garcia commented that he and members of his team met recently with UNR regarding the July incident and are working

6. Information Only-Southern Command Campus Security Activities – *(continued)*

on communicating that information to the southern institutions. He praised the work of his former team regarding the July 5, 2019, UNR incident.

Associate Vice President and Director Garcia provided an update which included: standardization of uniforms, badges and police vehicles for the purpose of consistency across southern Nevada; central command and dispatch, including the union/patrol sectors and regional division, and how each serve southern NSHE institutions; the Crisis Action Team (CAT) list for all the NSHE institutions in the Southern Command and System Office; an outline of goals for the consolidated department, including combining dispatch centers; the status of grant funding; the deployment of body cameras to all officers in southern Nevada; the appointment of two new chiefs; the upgraded radio system; an emergency alert test which will take place on Thursday, September 12, 2019, for all four southern Nevada campuses; and the southern police services successfully hosted the Department of Homeland Security's multi-asset and system assessment representatives who completed site visits and identified 55 buildings that need enhanced safety upgrades and discussed the plan to address those issues.

Associate Vice President and Director Garcia thanked each of the four southern institution presidents for their support, understanding and leadership. He also thanked Mr. Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, for his assistance with the police services consolidation.

Regent Del Carlo asked for more information about enhancing security for the 55 buildings previously mentioned. Associate Vice President and Director Garcia answered that they are gathering recommendations that will influence how the enhanced security will be deployed. That report will be available very soon which will enable them to move forward with the security enhancements.

Dr. Marta Meana, President, UNLV, commented that UNLV is very pleased with what Associate Vice President and Director Garcia and his team have accomplished in a short period of time. UNLV is looking forward to further improvements.

On behalf of the NSHE and the southern institutions, Dr. Thom Reilly, Chancellor, thanked Associate Vice President and Director Garcia and his staff for their work.

Chairman Geddes mentioned that a few meetings ago, there were students who spoke of issues with lighting, cameras and so forth, on the UNLV campus. He asked how those issues have been addressed. Associate Vice President and Director Garcia said they have moved forward with installing new lighting and cameras and have increased police presence on campus. He will provide a full report at the December Board meeting.

6. Information Only-Southern Command Campus Security Activities – *(continued)*

Chair Page offered his thanks to Associate Vice President and Director Garcia and the southern Nevada presidents for moving forward on the police services consolidation. He asked if there is anything that the Board could do to assist with their work. Associate Vice President and Director Garcia said that leadership has been very supportive of the security initiatives and their work, and the continued support would be the most helpful.

Considering the progress that has been made since the consolidation, Chair Page asked if the process is as far along as expected at this point in time. Assistant Vice President and Director Garcia said it is a complex answer; however, they are near where he expected them to be, but not where he would like to be.

Regent Del Carlo asked for a six-month follow-up report on the consolidation and thanked Associate Vice President and Director Garcia for all of his efforts. Associate Vice President and Director Garcia said at the December meeting he will present the implementation plan that is currently being created.

7. Information Only-New Business – None.

8. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson  
Special Assistant and Coordinator to the Board of Regents

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 its March 5-6, 2020, meeting.**