

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its  
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Student Union, Ballroom A  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas  
Thursday, December 5, 2019

Members Present: Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Chair  
Mr. Rick Trachok, Vice Chair  
Dr. Patrick R. Carter  
Mr. Sam Lieberman  
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Others Present: Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs  
Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief General Counsel  
Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, Academic & Student Affairs  
Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and  
Director of Student Affairs  
Mr. Theo Meek, Research Scholar  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI  
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, President, GBC  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Dr. Arnold Bell, CSN; Mr. George Kleeb, GBC; Dr. Serge Ballif, NSC; and Ms. Anne Flesher, TMCC. Ms. Gabrielle Clark, Student Body President, WNC, was also in attendance.

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

Chair Cathy McAdoo called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the following consent items:
  - (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the September 5, 2019, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).
  - (2b.) Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Elimination, Nevada Center for Advanced Computational Methods – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request to eliminate the Nevada Center for Advanced Computational Methods due to the successful integration of advanced computational method into research programs at UNLV. The goals of the Center have been met and the need for continued development of computational tools has declined (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).

2. Approved-Consent Items – (continued)

- (2c.) Approved-Handbook Revision, Deletion of Organizational Units – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy concerning the elimination of departments and other technical corrections to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14*). In December 2018, the Board revised its policy to provide that the creation and elimination of departments would not require Board approval (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7*). Certain sections of the *Handbook* were overlooked in the initial policy revision and it is requested that those sections be revised to align with the Board's previous action (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Lieberman moved approval of the consent items. Vice Chair Trachok seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/Academic Master Plan – Revisions – The Committee recommended approval of additions to the [2019-23 Planning Report](#) previously approved at the November 29-30, 2018, meeting and revised at the June 6-7, 2019, meeting. Current proposed revisions include additional academic programs that may come forward for Board approval within the 2020 or 2021 calendar years (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office*).

Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Student Affairs, presented the proposed revisions to the 2019-23 Planning Report.

Regent Perkins asked if any of the listed degree programs are available completely online. Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, answered the list for the Planning Report are programs that are not currently in place. The list gives the Board an indication of programs that the institutions are considering for development in the future and includes a term of implementation. Dr. Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President and Provost, UNR, added that UNR does have plans to bring existing programs online and to bring several new additional degree programs online, as well.

Regent Carter suggested adding a column to the Planning Report that would justify why each program is needed. Vice Chancellor Abba replied when the program proposals come forward for Board approval, industry demands and other needs the program will meet are included.

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of the additions to the 2019-23 Planning Report. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

4. Approved-TMCC – Organizational Unit Change, Division of Sciences – The Committee recommended approval of TMCC’s request for the split of the Division of Sciences into two separate divisions: the Division of Life Sciences, Allied Health, and Public Safety, and the Division of Math and Physical Sciences. The split will distribute the current disciplines and faculty into reasonably sized units and logically grouped disciplines (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC, provided a brief overview of the organizational unit change request.

Regent Perkins moved approval of TMCC’s request for the split of the Division of Sciences into two separate divisions: the Division of Life Sciences, Allied Health, and Public Safety, and the Division of Math and Physical Sciences. Regent Carter seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, Ph.D. School Psychology – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request for a Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology that is rooted in training that emphasizes cultural diversity, a systems perspective, and the integration of science and practice. Doctoral students with training to be health services psychologists (HSPs), with a specialization in school psychology, address psychological concerns through both scholarly research and the application of psychological knowledge and skills in practice (*Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Chris Heavey, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, UNLV, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Trachok asked if the graduates of the proposed program will have to obtain the same licensing that a school psychologist/counselor must have. Dr. Heavey answered yes and said the level of licensure required for the graduates is higher than a school counselor’s licensure and will be eligible to fulfill the requirements to become a fully licensed psychologist once the program is accredited by the American Psychological Association. The program focuses on the mental health needs of students and it also meets the requirements to become a licensed psychologist to practice within the state of Nevada.

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of a Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology at UNLV. Regent Perkins seconded.

Regent Perkins shared her support for this program.

Motion carried.

6. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, MS Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology – The Committee recommended approval of UNR’s request for a Master of Science in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, an interdisciplinary program that will bring together students and faculty from multiple departments and colleges at UNR; faculty at DRI; and members of the Great Basin Institute. The program provides a solid foundation in research methods and experimental design. The addition of this program to the existing doctoral program will broaden the educational impact of the Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology program by allowing students to pursue a more specific degree, tailored to their interests and environmental issues (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Carman provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of a Master of Science in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology at UNR. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

7. Approved-WNC – Program Proposal, BAS Organization and Project Management – The Committee recommended approval of WNC’s request for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organization and Project Management that provides advanced education in business, organization, and project management courses. This degree is designed for students with a technical/skills background, typically acquired through an AAS, who are promoted into management and leadership positions or that desire to prepare for these positions. Upon completion, degree holders will possess skills to communicate across an organization, be consumers of data and information for decision making, and be able to oversee a variety of projects (*Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Kyle Dalpe, Vice President of Instruction and Institutional Effectiveness, WNC, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Lieberman moved approval of a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organization and Project Management at WNC. Vice Chair Trachok seconded. Motion carried.

8. Information Only-Corequisite Policy Implementation – Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba and Research Scholar Theo Meek presented a status report of the September 26 and November 21, 2019, meetings of the NSHE Corequisite Implementation Task Force, and the site visit to Citrus College on September 30, 2019. The Task Force was created to support NSHE institutions in the implementation of the corequisite and college-ready gateway policy adopted by the Board at its June 6-7, 2019, regular meeting. Effective Fall 2021, the policy requires corequisite support for students placing below college level in mathematics and/or English (*Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Perkins asked if Regents could attend future NSHE Corequisite

8. Information Only-Corequisite Policy Implementation – *(continued)*

Implementation Task Force meetings. Vice Chancellor Abba said Regents are welcome to attend and will be included in the meeting announcements going forward.

Chair McAdoo mentioned she had participated in many of the early corequisite implementation meetings and greatly appreciates the ongoing collaboration and teamwork for this. She thanked Vice Chancellor Abba and Mr. Meek for the report.

9. Information Only-New and Existing Program Review – Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, Academic and Student Affairs, presented the first, third and fifth-year new academic program reviews and the report on institutional reviews of existing programs as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 5*). In addition, representatives of UNLV and GBC presented the reviews conducted for at least one program at their respective institutions. The presentations included the process for evaluating existing programs generally, indications of quality, whether programs are meeting employer expectations, improvements in student learning outcomes, and any action steps identified based on the review of programs and the status of action steps (*Refs. ARSA-9a, ARSA-9b, ARSA-9c and ARSA-9d on file in the Board Office*).

In addition to Ms. Caserto's reports, UNLV's Dr. Heavey and GBC's Mr. Jake Hinton-Rivera, Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs, provided in-depth presentations on their respective institution's existing program review process. Dr. Heavey then highlighted the review of UNLV's B.A. in Communication Studies, and Mr. Hinton-Rivera highlighted the review of GBC's Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs and Computer Technology.

Regent Carter asked if the estimates shown in the third and fifth-year reports are the original estimates that were included at the time the programs were proposed. Vice Chancellor Abba said yes and added when the program proposal comes to the Board, the information in the original proposal is available along with any updated information.

Regent Perkins asked for more information on UNLV's curricular coherence process. Dr. Heavey said with all of the high enrollment courses, the D, F, Withdraw and Incomplete rates are focused on. If those rates are high, all aspects of the course are then thoroughly examined.

Regent Lieberman shared his support for UNLV's B.A. in Communication Studies.

Regent Carter asked what the 4-6 year graduation rate is for the B.A. in Communication Studies. Dr. Heavey said he did not currently have that specific information; however, that data is tracked and the general number is around 42.9 percent which is in line with where the general 6-year graduation rates are.

9. Information Only-New and Existing Program Review – (continued)

Regent Carter thought the six-year graduation rates for programs would be a great addition to the System's report on institutional reviews of existing programs. Vice Chancellor Abba agreed; however, she was unsure if all of the institutions tracked graduation rates by program-level. If that data is available, Vice Chancellor Abba said they will certainly add it to the report.

Vice Chancellor Abba commented that the meeting agenda reflects the full charge of the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee as the Committee is responsible for overseeing the lifecycle of programs.

Regarding GBC's ECE programs, Vice Chair Trachok asked if the enrollment rates reflect students enrolled in an ECE program, or in a course within one of the programs. Mr. Hinton-Rivera answered the enrollment numbers in the report count for enrollment in a course contained within a program. Vice Chair Trachok said the data is concerning as it shows high program enrollment rates, but low graduation rates. Mr. Hinton-Rivera said high enrollment and low graduation rates is an issue they are currently focusing on. He clarified for Vice Chair Trachok that the numbers on the report are duplicated enrollment which is the same student enrolled in multiple courses in a program.

Regent Carter asked what the six-year graduation rates are for the ECE programs. Mr. Hinton-Rivera said he will send that information to the Committee.

Regent Perkins asked if the ECE programs are covered by the Pell Grant. Mr. Hinton-Rivera answered yes.

Regent Carter asked if the Starfish program has helped with tracking data for GBC's degree programs. Mr. Hinton-Rivera said Starfish is still being implemented at GBC and is a work in progress.

10. Approved-Handbook Revision, Regents' Researcher Rewards – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy to include Nevada State College as a four-year institution eligible to submit candidates for consideration of the Regents' Researcher Awards. Specifically, the policy revision provides for NSC to select a Regents' Rising Researcher recipient and submit faculty candidates for the Regents' Researcher Awards in both Mid-Career and Distinguished Career categories (*Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18*). (Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board Office.)

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the proposed policy revision.

Regent Lieberman moved approval of the proposed *Handbook* revision. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

11. Information Only-New Business – None.

12. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 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.**