

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ad hoc UNR PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union, Ballroom A
87 West Stadium Way, Reno
Friday, January 31, 2020

Members Present: Regents' Committee
Mr. Rick Trachok, Chair
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Mr. Sam Lieberman
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo
Mr. Kevin J. Page
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Other Regents Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chairman

Members Present: Institutional Advisory Members
Dr. Kristen Clements-Nolle, Faculty Senate Representative
Ms. Maria Doucettperry, Director Equal Opportunity and Title IX
Office (*Ex-officio*)
Dr. Melanie Duckworth, Administrator
Dr. Dana Edberg, Faculty Senate Representative
Ms. Tamara Guinn, GSA President
Dr. Mae Gustin, Faculty Senate Representative
Ms. Savannah Hughes, ASUN Speaker of the Senate
Mr. Vincent M. Keller, Staff Employee Council Chair
Dr. Albert Lee, Faculty Senate Representative
Mr. Anthony Martinez, ASUN President
Mr. Chuck Price, Faculty Senate Representative
Mr. Vic Redding, Administrator
Mr. Alfredo Alonso, Community Member
Ms. Carolyn Barbash, Community Member
Dr. Dana Bennett, Community Member
Mr. Paul Bible, Community Member
Mr. Joe Bradley, Community Member
Mr. Randy Brown, Community Member
Dr. Mick Hitchcock, Community Member/UNR Foundation Chair Elect
Dr. Marsha Read, Community Member
Mr. Rick Reviglio, Community Member
Ms. Ann Silver, Community Member
Dr. Angie Taylor, Community Member

Members Absent: Institutional Advisory Members
Mr. Joe Nannini, Alumni Association President
Dr. Melissa Piasecki, Administrator
Ms. Dagny Stapleton, Community Member

Others Present: Dr. Thom Reilly, Chancellor
Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board

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

Chair Trachok called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with all members present except Dr. Dana Edberg, Dr. Mae Gustin, Mr. Joe Nannini, Dr. Melissa Piasecki, Mr. Alfredo Alonso, Ms. Carolyn Barbash, Mr. Joe Bradley, and Ms. Dagny Stapleton.

1. Information Only – Public Comment – Dr. Brian Frost, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Faculty Senate Chair, thanked the Committee for taking part in this process. In discussions with faculty, there are concerns with the potentially limited number of candidates that could be brought to campus and the lack of transparency in reviewing applications. He appreciated that the search for a President is very different from any other search on campus, but University faculty are interested in campus representatives having earlier input to the process. He proposed that faculty members work with the Chancellor and the search firm once the semi-finalists are identified to alleviate faculty concerns and provide additional transparency. He also recommended that at least four candidates be brought to campus.

Ms. Jean Jeon, UNR Faculty, stated the Committee should strive to find a President that is committed to excellent communication, transparency, and shared governance. Higher education is a unique industry, and shared governance is critical at UNR. It is essential that the System strives to select a new leader that puts a high priority on fostering a culture that allows the core principles and values of higher education to flourish at UNR.

Mr. John Nolan, UNR Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA), stated the NFA expressed hope that this Committee and the overall search process strive for the selection of an academic leader that results from a competitive national search. NFA hopes that the final candidates chosen for campus visits will be vetted and represent the highest standards of professional excellence. Mr. Nolan stated he also supports faculty members being included for input earlier in the process.

Mr. Ian Hartshorn, UNR NFA, expressed his thanks to the Committee for taking on this crucial task. He asked the Committee to conduct its work conscientiously and to take input from faculty seriously. It is essential to select an academic leader, one who is ready to lead a world-class faculty that has been assembled, one that understands the realities of the classroom, the challenges of research, and the critical role of a research university.

Mr. Kent Ervin, UNR NFA, stated the NFA supports candidates with strong academic credentials and experience. The draft President Leadership Statement states there are high standards for this search. It says the President should be skilled at managing a highly complex organization and possess deep knowledge and understanding of a mission-focused, research and land grant university. This will require deep

1. Information Only – Public Comment – (Continued)

experience and a background in academia. Ideally, the new president will be from a nationally recognized University and would have served at all levels during his/her career. UNR needs an academic leader that has fundamental respect and understanding for academic freedom, tenure, and shared governance and how the principles lead to diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Joanna Trieger, UNR Faculty, stated bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities on campus are inconvenient or nonexistent. The University Campus Master Plan is clear that a priority is to reduce car trips to campus and to encourage employees and students to bike, walk, or take transit. This is not a priority of the current administration. She urged the Committee to prioritize someone that understands the importance of this issue and who is willing to create a suite of safe, convenient options to get to campus.

2. Information Only – Chair’s Report and Introductions – Chair Trachok provided general remarks and updated Committee members regarding the president search process. The Regents and institutional advisory members introduced themselves.

3. Information Only – Open Meeting Law – The Committee heard a presentation on and discussed the Open Meeting Law (OML) as it relates to the president search procedure.

Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board Dean J. Gould stated the intent of the OML is that the business of a public body is to be conducted in a duly noticed public meeting. Violations of the OML can result in criminal penalties, and actions taken at a meeting where the OML is not followed can be voided. Guidelines of the OML include:

1. Applies to all public bodies, which includes this Committee.
2. All materials provided to the Committee are part of the public record and will be made available to the public.
3. All discussions should occur in the open meeting forum to avoid OML violations.
4. A quorum of the Regents’ Committee is four of the six members.
5. The Committee cannot discuss the attributes of a candidate without first giving them prior notice of the discussion to be had, and the candidate must sign a waiver.
6. The search consultant handles all candidate information to allow the information to stay confidential as long as possible.
7. Candidate information becomes public information once sent to the Committee.

4. Information Only – President Search Process – Organization and Procedure – Chancellor Thom Reilly and Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board Gould led a discussion on the president search process and specific search procedures. (Ref. UNR PSC-4 on file in the Board Office.)

Chancellor Reilly stated the draft timeline is as follows:

- Finalist candidates to visit campus on April 27 & 28.
- The Committee will interview the finalists on April 29 & 30 (if needed) and make a recommendation to the full Board of Regents.
- The full Board of Regents will hold a special meeting on April 30 to determine the next President of UNR.

4. Information Only – President Search Process – Organization and Procedure –
(Continued)

In response to a question from Dr. Angie Taylor, Chancellor Reilly clarified that he and the search consultant would participate in the video interviews of the semi-finalists in order to keep the names of the candidates confidential.

Mr. Chuck Price was concerned that only one person, the Chancellor, will be determining the finalists. He believed it puts an undue burden on the Chancellor and suggested adding a faculty member, Dr. Frost, to provide input. Mr. Price preferred a deep pool of candidates for on-campus interviews.

Regent Lieberman noted that all faculty have the option to nominate people for the position of president. The search firm will then reach out and garner their level of interest in the position.

5. Approved – President Leadership Statement and Related Materials – The Committee recommended approval of the President Leadership Statement and to have the Chancellor work with the search consultant to make appropriate revisions based on the comments. *(Ref. UNR PSC-5 on file in the Board Office.)*

The Committee, advisory members, and Search Consultant Suzanne Teer, WittKiefer, reviewed the preliminary draft of the proposed leadership profile for the UNR President Search and offered comments and revisions. Chair Trachok suggested that additional comments and revisions be sent to Search Consultant Teer or Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board Gould by the end of business Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

Regent McAdoo moved approval of the President Leadership Statement and to have the Chancellor work with the search consultant to make appropriate revisions based on the comments. Regent Lieberman seconded. Motion carried.

6. Approved – Advertising Options – The Committee recommended approval of the advertisement and publications in which to place the UNR President advertisement without a print option. *(Ref. UNR PSC-6 on file in the Board Office.)*

Search Consultant Teer discussed the advertisement and publications in which to place the UNR President advertisement.

In response to a question from Regent Page, Search Consultant Teer clarified the dates listed with the Chronicle of Higher Education are for print options.

Search Consultant Teer stated a print option is not necessary and eliminating it would save the institution money.

6. Approved – Advertising Options – (Continued)

Regent Page moved approval of the advertisement and publications in which to place the UNR President advertisement without a print option. Regent Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried. Regent Perkins was absent.

7. Information Only – New Business – None.

8. Information Only – Public Comment – Ms. Alexandra Patri, TMCC SGA President, hoped the new president supports incoming transfer students and looks into the possibility of implementing specific advising for the transfer students. Many students, including herself, have had difficulties enrolling in classes due to incorrect advisement.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Prepared by:

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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 December 3-4, 2020, meeting.