

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
HEALTH SCIENCES SYSTEM COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

College of Southern Nevada
Student Union, Room 126-130
700 College Drive, Henderson
Thursday, March 5, 2020

Video Conference Connection from the meeting site to:
Desert Research Institute, Reno
2215 Raggio Parkway, Stout Conference Rooms A & B
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mr. Kevin J. Page, Chair
Ms. Amy J. Carvalho, Vice Chair
Mr. Sam Lieberman
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo
Mr. Rick Trachok

Members Absent: Mr. John T. Moran

Other Regents Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chairman
Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Vice Chairman
Dr. Patrick R. Carter
Mr. Trevor Hayes
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Others Present: Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff & Special Counsel to the Board
Dr. Thom Reilly, Chancellor
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. Zelalem Bogale, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. Caleb Cage, Assistant Vice Chancellor,
Workforce Development & Community Colleges
Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, Academic & Student Affairs
Ms. Joi Holliday, Senior Policy Analyst
Mr. James Martines, Deputy General Counsel for Real Estate
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President, CSN
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, President, GBC
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC

Others Present: Dr. Marta Meana, President, UNLV
Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR
Dr. Vincent R. Solis, President, UNR

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Dr. Arnold Bell, CSN; Dr. Amanda Keen-Zebert, DRI; Mr. George Kleeb, GBC; Dr. Serge Ballif, NSC; Ms. Brigette Glynn, System Administration; Ms. Anne Flesher, TMCC; Dr. Janis McKay, UNLV; Dr. Brian Frost, UNR; and Dr. Bob Morin, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Ms. Melanie Dodson, GBC; Ms. Hannah Patenaude, UNLV-CSUN; Mr. Eric Noonan, UNLV-GPSA; Mr. Anthony Martinez, UNR-ASUN; Ms. Tamara Guinn, UNR-GSA; and Ms. Gabrielle Clark, WNC.

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

Chair Kevin J. Page called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with all members present except for Regent Moran.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Anthony Slonim, President and CEO, Renown Health, shared his support for TMCC’s proposed RN to BSN program. He noted that Nevada, especially northern Nevada, suffers from a nursing shortage and that TMCC’s proposed program would help meet the demand. Dr. Slonim said that Renown Health would be happy to partner with TMCC and others to assist in nursing and training education.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2019, meeting (*Ref. HSS-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice Chair Carvalho moved approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2019, meeting. Regent Trachok seconded. Motion carried. Regent Moran was absent.

3. Information Only-Chair’s Report – No report provided.
4. Information Only-UNR School of Medicine Report – Dr. Thomas L. Schwenk, Dean of the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, provided a report on the Medical School and Practice Plan, and offered general remarks which included information relating to accreditation, programs, funding and financial status (*Ref. HSS-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Schwenk’s report included: faculty recruitments; the partnership with the Sierra Nevada VA Health Center in Reno as related to Graduate Medical Education (GME); strategic planning; admissions; clinical network development; and research. He noted the recent hire of Dr. Mark Pandori as Director of the State Public Health Laboratory is timely since Dr. Pandori has expertise in microbiology and infectious diseases, which will be vital due to COVID-19. Additionally, Dean Schwenk highlighted the Practice Plan’s budget.

4. Information Only-UNR School of Medicine Report – *(continued)*

Vice Chair Carvalho asked how many applicants were from in-state and how many were from out-of-state regarding the medical school and the Physician Assistant (PA) program admissions. Dean Schwenk answered that with the medical school students it is about 90+ percent in-state and 6-8 percent out-of-state. For the PA program, there was a decrease in in-state applicants; however, there has been an increase in applicants from California in which 58 percent of those had a rural background.

5. Information Only-UNLV School of Medicine Report – Dr. John Fildes, Interim Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine, provided a report on the Medical School and Practice Plan, and offered general remarks which included information relating to accreditation, programs, funding and financial status *(Ref. HSS-5 on file in the Board Office)*.

Interim Dean Fildes's report included: remarks about the first case of COVID-19 being identified in southern Nevada at a VA hospital; Announcements: faculty recruitment and the inaugural awards ceremony for faculty and staff on March 12; Education: 2024 class admissions, all 4-year classes will be filled totaling 240 students and the charter class' graduation will be in May 2021; GME: critical care medicine (expansion begins 2020), geriatrics (begins 2020) and pediatric emergency medicine (begins 2020); and the medical education building.

Vice Chairman Doubrava thanked Dr. Fildes for serving as Interim Dean and for all the work he accomplished within the role.

Dr. Michael Gardner, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, provided an update on clinical affairs and finance which included: the Practice Plan; network development; community partnerships; and financial performance and metrics. He highlighted the \$1 million grant reimbursement provided by the Grant A Gift Autism Foundation and increased cash collections, which he noted was directly related to an increase in patients due to the severe flu.

6. Information Only-Nursing Workforce Development in Nevada – Caleb Cage, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges, NSHE, and Amber Donnelly, Ph.D., Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services, Great Basin College, presented information on how nursing education fits into NSHE's overall workforce development plan *(Ref. HSS-6 on file in the Board Office)*.

Chair Page left the meeting.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Cage and Dean Donnelly's report included: nursing education as it relates to the NSHE's Strategic Goal 4: Workforce; licensed Registered Nurses (RN) per 100,000 population in Nevada: 2008-2018; health workforce in Nevada and what it takes to meet the national average; challenges, deliverables and the methodology for the NSHE Workforce Development

6. Information Only-Nursing Workforce Development in Nevada – *(continued)*

Education Initiative; GBC's work on building a Nevada nursing workforce: the education desert defined as access to college that is greater than a 30-minute drive and information including population, geography and financial ability; student outreach; future plans for nursing scholarships; synchronize learning using distant education; pass rates, job placement rates and graduates leaving Nevada; and programs by the numbers.

Regent Trachok asked what the greatest need for the nursing workforce in Nevada is: RNs or BSNs. Assistant Vice Chancellor Cage answered that according to data sources the needs for additional RNs are significant in the state of Nevada. Dean Donnelly added that associate-prepared and bachelors-prepared nurses get the same skill training and take the same NCLEX exam to become nurses and work within a hospital setting. She clarified there is more focus on leadership, community and informatics with continuing education for RN to BSN. In a recent report from the Future of Nursing Institute of Medicine (IOM), data showed that statistically patients have better outcomes with nurses that graduate with a bachelor's degree. That is a reason why there has been a big push to encourage all associate degree nursing graduates to be enrolled or plan to be enrolled in an RN to BSN program by 2020.

Chair Trachok requested that Assistant Vice Chancellor Cage provide to the Committee a data report that shows the demands for both RNs and BSNs in Nevada by county, and to also include information on the NSHE institutions that are best suited to provide the education for both RN and BSN programs.

Regent McAdoo commented that there is an overarching concern about the shortage of nurses in Nevada and across America. Just as every other profession, the more education a person has, the stronger and more skilled the workforce will be.

7. Information Only-TMCC Proposed RN to BSN Program – TMCC representatives presented information on its proposed RN to BSN program, including how the proposed program will provide a pathway to the BSN for graduates of TMCC's RN/ADN program. The proposed RN to BSN program will be considered for approval at a future date when it is presented to the Board's Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (ARSA) Committee. In addition, a representative from the University of Nevada, Reno, presented information on how the Orvis School of Nursing is currently meeting workforce demand for nurses across the State. A representative from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, also presented information concerning its BSN program (*Refs. HSS-7a and HSS-7b on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC, provided opening comments related to TMCC's current associate degree program in nursing, the nursing shortage in Nevada and the need for additional programs to better meet the need of the nursing shortage.

7. Information Only-TMCC Proposed RN to BSN Program – (continued)

Julie Ellsworth, Ph.D., Dean of Sciences, TMCC, provided an overview of TMCC's RN to BSN program proposal: TMCC nurses are not accessing or completing NSHE BSN programs; 2013-2018 data of where TMCC nursing students complete their BSN; flat growth in Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs; how the need will be met for highly qualified nurses in northern Nevada; TMCC proposes to up-skill 60 nurses per year; the pathway comfort level – students to obtain an advanced degree in an environment that meets their comfort level; TMCC's RN to BSN program will create revenue stream to help fund more RN/ADN spots, increasing the pipeline for all NSHE schools; the need to up-skill future educators; TMCC's nursing graduates' desire to continue their education; and the TMCC RN to BSN program would provide a needed service to the community, build the pipeline which would benefit all of the NSHE institutions and keep students in Nevada and in the NSHE.

Debera Thomas, DNS, RN, ANP/FNP, Dean and Professor, UNR Orvis School of Nursing, provided a report which included: the nursing shortage in Nevada; the UNR Orvis School of Nursing's response to workforce demands; how community needs are being met; the state of UNR's RN to BSN program; issues regarding associate degree graduates going out of state to pursue their RN to BSN; and response to cost, customer service, curriculum, online courses and competitive admission.

Dr. Marta Meana, President, UNLV, offered comments regarding UNLV's BSN program and reiterated the importance of the NSHE having a strategic approach to duplicating degree programs across the System with a focus on revenues and distributions of available resources.

Regent Trachok commented that the System should focus its limited resources on the programs and institutions that can best serve all student populations. He emphasized the importance of data-driven decisions before adding and/or duplicating programs.

8. Information Only-New Business – None.

9. Information Only-Public Comment – Angela Amar, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Professor and Dean, UNLV School of Nursing, spoke about the shortage of not only nurses, but nursing faculty. She addressed the need to have students at every level and increasing programs to meet the needs of Nevada.

Mr. Luis Ortega, CSN, thanked those who were involved in the collective bargaining regarding faculty salary and also thanked the Regents for responding to concerns.

Dr. Sara Hunt, UNLV School of Medicine, stated she was grateful for attention given to nursing education and workforce development; however, she stressed

9. Information Only-Public Comment – *(continued)*

that nursing practitioners will come up against barriers as there are not enough mental health professionals in Nevada. She encouraged the Regents to add a fourth career pathway for mental health professions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.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 June 11-12, 2020, meeting.