

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, May 8, 2020

This meeting was held via videoconference and teleconference pursuant to Section 1 of the Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 ("Directive 006), and extended by Directive 016, issued by the State of Nevada Executive Department. There were no physical locations for this meeting.

Members Present:

- Dr. Jason Geddes, Chairman
- Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Vice Chairman
- Dr. Patrick R. Carter
- Ms. Amy J. Carvalho
- Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
- Mr. Trevor Hayes
- Mrs. Cathy McAdoo
- Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
- Mr. John T. Moran
- Mr. Kevin J. Page
- Ms. Laura E. Perkins
- Mr. Rick Trachok

Others Present:

- Dr. Thom Reilly, Chancellor
- Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
- Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board
- Mr. Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges
- Mr. Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel
- Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President, CSN
- 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; Mr. George Kleebe, GBC; Dr. Janis McKay, UNLV; Dr. Brian Frost, UNR; and Dr. Robert Morin, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Ms. Suman Randhawa, NSSA President, NSC; Ms. Alexandra Patri, SGA President, TMCC; Mr. Joshua Padilla, CSUN President, UNLV; and Ms. Tamara Guinn, GSA President, UNR. Classified council chairs in attendance were: Mr. Joseph Micke, GBC; and Ms. Julia Bledsoe, TMCC.

Chairman Geddes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with all members present except

Regents McAdoo and Moran. Regent Del Carlo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Information Only – Public Comment – Public Comment from Ms. Cindy Nash, UNLV Parent, requested that the Summer term be online for safety purposes and that in-person classes be postponed until fall. *(Ref. Nash.Cindy5.8.20 on file in the Board Office.)*

Regent Moran entered the meeting.

Public Comment from Ms. Katherine Durante requested progressive cuts, in line with other state systems, that would be more equitable to help assure that NSHE employees and their families can afford living expenses. *(Ref. Durante.Katherine5.8.20 on file in the Board Office.)*

Public Comment from Dr. Robert Manis, CSN Nevada Faculty Alliance, noted that CSN faculty approved a contract with NFA and that it includes a pay equity adjustment. The contract will allow CSN faculty to face the upcoming budget crisis on an equivalent footing with other NSHE schools. In 2009, faculty received a 4.6 percent salary reduction, and during that time, the reserves at NSHE schools nearly doubled according to audited financial reports. NSHE must devote some of the funds to help faculty, and salary reductions should only happen after the reserves are used. *(Ref. Manis.Robert5.8.20 on file in the Board Office.)*

Public Comment from Mr. Kent Ervin, UNR Nevada Faculty Alliance, noted that if furloughs are mandated, NSHE should be prepared with policies that are fair for all faculty and consistent with the NSHE mission. Increases in PEBP healthcare premiums will affect lower-paid employees the most. At major universities where salary cuts and furloughs have been announced, upper management executives and coaches have voluntarily taken more significant percentage cuts. A similar policy at NSHE would show goodwill. Many of the more highly paid employees are willing to sacrifice if furloughs are implemented to protect the lower-paid faculty. *(Ref. Ervin.Kent5.8.20 on file in the Board Office.)*

Public Comment from Ms. Greta de Jong, UNR Nevada Faculty Alliance, called on academic leaders to make a case for reinvestment in the state's higher education system to ensure that colleges and universities are adequately funded and prepared to function during the pandemic. Such an approach serves the health, safety, and economic security of all Nevadans. *(Ref. deJong.Greta5.8.20 on file in the Board Office. Numerous faculty members are listed in the reference material, which is available upon request.)*

Public Comment from Mr. Adrian Havas, President, Nevada Faculty Alliance, requested progressive or sliding-scale furloughs so that higher-paid faculty are affected at a higher percentage than lower-paid faculty. He also asked that System and administrative staff be the first to bear any such cuts. *(Ref. Havas.Adrian5.8.20 on file in the Board Office.)*

2. Information Only – Board Chairman’s Report – Chairman Geddes reported since the UNLV and UNR President Searches were extended, Chancellor Thom Reilly has signed a no-cost extension with both search firms through December 31, 2020. Regent Lieberman will be honored at the June 2020 Board of Regents’ meeting for his commitment to NSHE and the students. Chancellor Reilly and Board leadership have been meeting with the Governor’s staff and the federal delegation related to the flexible use of CARES Act dollars as well as CARES Act II dollars.

Regent McAdoo entered the meeting.

Chancellor Reilly has led the communications to the Board during this time, but Board leadership will take a more active role in the future.

3. Information Only – Chancellor’s Report – Chancellor Reilly reported the Cabinet and Council of Presidents continue to meet weekly to discuss an array of issues surrounding the pandemic. Limited reopening plans are being reviewed for the second half of summer, along with reopening plans for the fall. Each institution has a workgroup that is meeting daily to discuss reopening plans that will be shared with the Board as they are available. A Systemwide task force is looking at ways to implement COVID testing and how emerging technology may be used. The Governor indicated that state and local governments were not a part of phase 1 reopening. Chancellor Reilly requested permission from the Governor’s Office that career and technical labs be a part of phase 1. Many students were required to take an incomplete when Nevada’s stay at home order was instituted. NSHE continues to be very active in the community during the pandemic. Conversations with the federal and state delegations are ongoing. NSHE hosted a very well attended virtual town hall meeting related to DACA students.

Regent Page asked that campus experts be included on the Systemwide task force.

4. Approved – Minutes – The Board approved the minutes from the January 30, 2020, Board of Regents’ special meeting. (*Ref. BOR-4 on file in the Board Office.*)

Regent Del Carlo moved approval of the minutes from the January 30, 2020, Board of Regents’ special meeting. Regent Carvalho seconded. Motion carried.

5. Information Only – FY 2020 and FY 2021 NSHE Operating Budget Update – Chancellor Reilly and Chief Financial Officer Andrew Clinger discussed the impact of COVID-19 on FY 20 and FY 21 NSHE operating budgets and actions taken to date including the hiring freeze, spending restrictions and budget reduction scenarios submitted to the Governor’s Finance Office on April 13, 2020. (*Ref. BOR-5 and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office.*)

Chancellor Reilly stated NSHE has been in discussion with the Governor’s Office, but no specific directions have been received.

5. Information Only – FY 2020 and FY 2021 NSHE Operating Budget Update –
(Continued)

Chief Financial Officer Clinger reiterated NSHE had not received any direction from the Governor's Office related to budget reductions. Chief Financial Officer Clinger clarified that the System does not have rainy day funds. There are funds in various self-supporting activities.

Chief Financial Officer Clinger noted the *Supplemental Material* summarizes the distribution of the CARES Act funds. The System has received additional allocations for a total of \$63 million and is seeking guidance on whether the funds can be used to offset the budget reduction.

In response to a question from Regent Page related to progressive furlough cuts, Chancellor Reilly stated NSHE submitted across the board cuts that were approved by the Board of Regents. There have been discussions on different scenarios.

6. Approved – 2020 Space Study Inventory and Utilization Reports – The Board approved the 2020 Space Study Inventory and Utilization Reports. *(Ref. BOR-6 on file in the Board Office.)*

Chief Financial Officer Clinger presented the 2020 Space Study Inventory and Utilization Reports. The Space Study is used to support future capital planning and budgeting cycles, specifically for the Capital Improvement Program for the 2021-23 biennium.

Vice Chairman Doubrava moved approval of the 2020 Space Study Inventory and Utilization Reports. Regent McMichael seconded.

Regent Trachok observed low usage of space on Friday and no usage on Saturday. He stated it is incumbent of the institutions to use the space. He urged the institutions to focus on when the students need class time and not when it may be convenient for the faculty and staff.

Regent Hayes did not understand why community colleges have low usage on Friday when their students need the most flexibility. GBC Pahrump's small amount of space is not being used. CSN Henderson has very low utilization compared to the other campuses.

President Helens stated mining students on a scholarship provided by a mine are required to go to school four days a week and then are required to work on Friday at the mine.

President Zaragoza stated low utilization of space on the weekends is a national trend. For example, many of the students are parents, and they are with their children on the weekends. It is not always a facility issue. Other elements also must be addressed to increase utilization on nights and weekends.

6. Approved – 2020 Space Study Inventory and Utilization Reports – (Continued)

Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Nate Mackinnon pointed out the evening utilization at the community colleges, which is meeting the needs of the part-time student population.

Regent Carvalho believed the utilization of space would change in the fall because of the different landscape that NSHE will be entering.

Regent Page stated UNR and UNLV have concentrated on their space utilization and have done a great job. He believed Fridays could be better utilized. The reality is that budgets will continue to decrease, and the System will have to be more efficient with the space that it has.

Motion carried.

7. Approved – 2021-23 NSHE Institution Capital Construction, Planning and Deferred Maintenance Requests – The Board approved the construction and planning project proposals from NSHE institutions to be submitted as prioritized lists to the State Public Works Board as follows – Construction Projects: 1) UNLV Engineering Academic & Research Building; 2) GBC Welding Lab Expansion, Construction (*Tie for 2*); 2) WNC Marlette Hall Renovation (*Tie for 2*); 4) NSHE Deferred Maintenance; 5) GBC Winnemucca Health Sciences & Technology Building; 6) NSC Academic Village for Student Support; 7) CSN Sahara West Renovation; 8) UNLV Interdisciplinary Science & Technology Building; 9) WNC Fernley Campus Center; and 10) NSC Campus Infrastructure; – Planning Projects: 1) TMCC & DRI Science Commons & Research Experience Center; 2) NSC STEAM Academic Building; 3) UNLV Business College Building; 4) UNLV Fine Arts Building; 5) CSN Northwest Campus Planning & Programming; 6) DRI Advance Planning Rogers Science & Technology Building, Atomic Testing Museum Space; 7) GBC Pahrump Valley Campus Planning; and 8) UNR Life Sciences Building. (*Refs. BOR-7a, BOR-7b, and BOR-7c*)

Chancellor Reilly reminded the Regents that typically when NSHE receives planning dollars in one biennium, construction dollars are received in the next biennium. He stated an item was included that relates to critical deferred maintenance.

Chairman Geddes pointed out Chief Financial Officer Clinger did reach out to the Governor's Office surrounding the unknown budget landscape, and they still asked that the projects be ranked and presented.

Chief Financial Officer Clinger noted the first 137 pages of *Ref. BOR-7a* are the narratives of the projects. Page 138 is a list of the various projects with a column that includes prior planning money received. *Ref. BOR-7b* is a listing of the deferred maintenance projects throughout the System and *Ref. BOR-7c* shows the current allocation of the HECC/SHECC for the current biennium.

7. Approved – 2021-23 NSHE Institution Capital Construction, Planning and Deferred Maintenance Requests – (Continued)

Chief Financial Officer Clinger presented a PowerPoint titled, “2021-23 Capital Improvement Project Proposals.”

The NSHE Presidents presented their respective projects.

President Solis presented WNC’s construction projects.

- Marlette Hall Renovation
- Fernley Campus Center

President Helens presented GBC’s construction projects.

- Welding Lab Expansion – Construction
- Winnemucca Health Sciences and Technology Building

President Helens presented GBC’s planning project.

- Development of Pahrump Valley Campus

President Zaragoza presented CSN’s planning project.

- Northwest Campus

President Zaragoza presented CSN’s construction project.

- Sahara West Renovation

President Acharya presented DRI’s planning projects.

- DRI-TMCC Science Commons and Research Experience Center
- Advance Planning Rogers Science and Technology Building, Atomic Testing Museum Space

President Hilgersom presented TMCC’s planning project.

- DRI-TMCC Science Commons and Research Experience Center

President Patterson presented NSC’s planning project.

- STEAM Academic Building

President Patterson presented NSC’s construction projects.

- Academic Village for Student Support
- Campus Infrastructure

President Johnson presented UNR’s planning project.

- Life Sciences Building

President Meana presented UNLV’s construction projects.

- Engineering Academic and Research Building
- Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building

7. Approved – 2021-23 NSHE Institution Capital Construction, Planning and Deferred Maintenance Requests – (Continued)

President Meana presented UNLV's planning projects.

- Business College Building
- Fine Arts Building

In response to a question from Regent Page, President Helens stated there is a precise timeline for the Winnemucca Health Sciences and Technology Building matching grant. One extension was already received, so GBC needs to move forward in the next six months. Chairman Geddes asked what happens to the project if the funds are not available for another year. President Helens stated GBC must show good faith to continue with the project, or the funds must be returned to the Pennington Foundation.

In response to a question from Vice Chairman Doubrava, Chairman Geddes stated in the past HECC/SHECC funds were used to address deferred maintenance issues. In Fall 2018, the State Public Works Board expressed its interest in the System moving forward with some deferred maintenance projects, although it did not fund the projects. By making this a separate project, it is an attempt to receive funding to be used for life safety, health, and ADA projects.

Regent Carter disclosed he was previously a student in the Gaming Innovation course at UNLV, where he developed a casino game. If the game is marketed and sold, he will be required to pay remuneration to UNLV in the form of shared royalties pursuant to a standard contract that all students in the course were required to sign. He will receive no remuneration from UNLV. He disclosed the relationship under NRS Chapter 281A, as recommended by the Nevada Commission on Ethics. He will vote on the item.

Each Regent ranked the eight planning and ten construction project proposals. *(The individual rankings are on file in the Board Office.)*

The meeting recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 12:34 p.m. with all members present except Regent Moran.

Chief Financial Officer Clinger announced the planning projects in ranked order.

1. TMCC & DRI Science Commons & Research Experience Center
2. NSC STEAM Academic Building
3. UNLV Business College Building
4. UNLV Fine Arts Building
5. CSN Northwest Campus Planning & Programming
6. DRI Advance Planning Rogers Science & Technology Building, Atomic Testing Museum Space
7. GBC Pahrump Valley Campus Planning
8. UNR Life Sciences Building

7. Approved – 2021-23 NSHE Institution Capital Construction, Planning and Deferred Maintenance Requests – (Continued)

Chief Financial Officer Clinger announced the construction projects in ranked order.

1. UNLV Engineering Academic & Research Building
2. GBC Welding Lab Expansion, Construction (*Tie for 2*)
2. WNC Marlette Hall Renovation (*Tie for 2*)
4. NSHE Deferred Maintenance
5. GBC Winnemucca Health Sciences & Technology Building
6. NSC Academic Village for Student Support
7. CSN Sahara West Renovation
8. UNLV Interdisciplinary Science & Technology Building
9. WNC Fernley Campus Center
10. NSC Campus Infrastructure

Regent McAdoo moved approval of the construction and planning project proposals from NSHE institutions to be submitted as prioritized lists to the State Public Works Board as follows – Construction Projects: 1) UNLV Engineering Academic & Research Building; 2) GBC Welding Lab Expansion, Construction (*Tie for 2*); 2) WNC Marlette Hall Renovation (*Tie for 2*); 4) NSHE Deferred Maintenance; 5) GBC Winnemucca Health Sciences & Technology Building; 6) NSC Academic Village for Student Support; 7) CSN Sahara West Renovation; 8) UNLV Interdisciplinary Science & Technology Building; 9) WNC Fernley Campus Center; and 10) NSC Campus Infrastructure; – Planning Projects: 1) TMCC & DRI Science Commons & Research Experience Center; 2) NSC STEAM Academic Building; 3) UNLV Business College Building; 4) UNLV Fine Arts Building; 5) CSN Northwest Campus Planning & Programming; 6) DRI Advance Planning Rogers Science & Technology Building, Atomic Testing Museum Space; 7) GBC Pahrump Valley Campus Planning; and 8) UNR Life Sciences Building. Regent Page seconded.

Regent Carvalho stated all the projects have merit, and she appreciated the effort that was put forward by everyone.

Regent Hayes commended Chancellor Reilly and his staff for the presentations and for letting the Regents make the ranking decisions.

Chairman Geddes appreciated all the information as it is never easy to choose between projects when the need is so great.

7. Approved – 2021-23 NSHE Institution Capital Construction, Planning and Deferred Maintenance Requests – (Continued)

The motion carried via a roll call vote. Chairman Geddes, Vice Chairman Doubrava, and Regents Carter, Carvalho, Del Carlo, Hayes, McAdoo, McMichael, Page, Perkins, and Trachok voted yes. Regent Moran was absent.

8. Information Only – New Business (Agenda Item 8) – None.

9. Information Only – Public Comment (Agenda Item 9) – None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Prepared by:

Angela R. Palmer
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 July 23, 2020, meeting.