

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

Videoconference/Teleconference
Thursday, June 11, 2020

- Members Present: Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Chair
Mr. Rick Trachok, Vice Chair
Dr. Patrick R. Carter
Ms. Lisa C. Levine
Ms. Laura E. Perkins
- Other Regents Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chairman
Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Vice Chairman
Ms. Amy J. Carvalho
Mr. Trevor Hayes
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael, Sr.
- Others Present: Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
Mr. Michael Flores, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor
Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief General Counsel
Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and
Director of Student Affairs
Mr. James R. McCoy, Assistant Vice Chancellor and
Director of Corequisite Implementation
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President, CSN
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
Dr. Marta Meana, President, UNLV
Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR

Chair Cathy McAdoo called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present except for Regent Perkins.

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 March 5, 2020, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).

2. Approved-Consent Items – (continued)

- (2b.) Approved-GBC – Program Elimination, BA Natural Resources – The Committee recommended approval of GBC’s request to eliminate the Bachelor of Arts in Natural Resources due to low enrollment (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).
- (2c.) Approved-UNLV – Program Elimination, BS Nuclear Medicine – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request to eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine due to low enrollment (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office*)

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of the consent items. Regent Carter seconded. Motion carried. Regent Perkins was absent.

3. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/Academic Master Plans, Revisions – The Committee recommended approval of additions to the [2019-23 Planning Report](#) originally approved at the November 29-30, 2018, meeting and revised most recently at the December 5-6, 2019, meeting. The proposed revisions included additional academic programs that may come forward for Board approval within the 2020 calendar year (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office*).

Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Student Affairs, provided a brief overview of the revisions.

Regent Carter moved approval of the revisions to the NSHE Planning Report/Academic Master Plans. Vice Chair Trachok seconded. Motion carried. Regent Perkins was absent.

4. Approved-NSC – Program Proposal, BA Early Childhood Education – The Committee recommended approval of NSC’s request for a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education. The program prepares teacher candidates to work in various educational settings including mental health agencies, developmental programs, family resource programs, childcare referral agencies, childcare settings, and preschool through second grade classrooms (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Vickie Shields, Provost and Executive Vice President, NSC, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Perkins entered the meeting.

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education at NSC. Regent Carter seconded.

4. Approved-NSC – Program Proposal, BA Early Childhood Education – (continued)

Motion carried.

5. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Chambers-Grundy Center for Transformative Neuroscience – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV's request for the Chambers-Grundy Center for Transformative Neuroscience. The Center will provide an academic platform for research and learning opportunities regarding the study of drug development for Alzheimer's disease and other brain disorders. The Center will engage students in drug development-related activities, acquainting them with career opportunities in pharmaceutical and biotechnology research (*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 funds donated by the Chambers-Grundy family will be sufficient for the operation of the Center, or will additional funds be necessary and if so, what will be the source of the additional funds. Provost Heavey said the funds donated by the Chambers-Grundy family are sufficient. The scientists, chair of the department and endowed professor are in state-funded lines and there is already research space allocated as part of the typical campus processes. The Center is prepared with the funding to move forward.

Vice Chair Trachok asked if there are also state-allocated funds for the Center. Dr. Heavey answered yes and that the salaries of the two faculty members who will work for the Center are on state-funded lines. Essentially the Center is working with the department chair and faculty members who are on state-funded lines. Also, the Center funds will be utilized to hire a postdoctoral researcher and to fund additional research activities. In response to a follow up question from Vice Chair Trachok, Provost Heavey answered that he believes the current proposed budget cuts will not impact the Center staffing.

Provost Heavey confirmed for Regent Levine that there is a strong collaborative partnership between the Center and the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

Regent Carter moved approval of the Chambers-Grundy Center for Transformative Neuroscience at UNLV. Vice Chair Trachok seconded. Motion carried.

6. Approved-UNR – Organizational Unit Proposal, Honors College – The Committee recommended approval of UNR’s request for the Honors College. The Honors College will provide unique intellectual, professional, and personal development opportunities to highly motivated students across the curriculum and co-curriculum (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President and Provost, UNR, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Trachok asked if the total under FY20 in the presentation materials is the current cost of the program. Provost Carman said it is; however, there is an error in the numbers and the grand total should be \$653,305.00.

Vice Chair Trachok asked for more information on the MPO/W-S salaries under FY21. Mr. Matt Means, Director of the Honors Program, answered that the MPO/W-S salaries stand for Marketing Publicity Outreach which refers to the recruitment team for the honors program. Vice Chair Trachok asked a follow up question regarding the \$70,000 cost for operations in FY21 and what portion of that cost is anticipated to be covered by the state. Director Means said a fundraising plan has been put in place that will hopefully identify most of the additional costs from the source of private donations; however, UNR is prepared to move forward with the honors college in the event that the funds do not materialize. There are also contingency plans in place if there are budget cuts to the honors college. Director Means added that when the proposal for the honors college was created, pre-pandemic, they had operated under the assumption that the additional costs would primarily be covered by student resources. As the pandemic progressed, the prioritization of funding moved to donations and external sources.

Regent Levine asked why propose an honors college now and not a year from now when the economy may be more stable. Provost Carman said the budgets presented are aspirational and the fundamental program being proposed in terms of providing on-ramps for students, multiple opportunities for transfer students, thesis and non-thesis students, all of these can be accomplished without additional revenue. The current aim is to raise the visibility of the program and invest in additional marketing if resources are available. Only the enhancements to the program would come with additional costs, but the fundamental transition from honors program to honors college will not require more funding.

Vice Chair Trachok asked for clarification that the honors program itself will continue to operate based on the funding currently available, and if the additional state and private funds are not forthcoming, the honors program can still transition to an honors college be operable. Provost Carman confirmed that is true.

Regent Carter commented that he thinks it is a fantastic idea to transition the honors program to an honors college. He shared his hope that the program enhancements will come in time as the economy stabilizes.

6. Approved-UNR – Organizational Unit Proposal, Honors College – (continued)

Regent Carter moved approval of an Honors College at UNR. Vice Chair Trachok seconded. Motion carried.

7. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Engineering Education – The Committee recommended approval of UNR's request for a Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Education that prepares graduates for successful research, academic, and other careers in engineering education from pre-Kindergarten to workforce development. The program promotes the integration of theoretical, experimental, and applied aspects of engineering, education, and psychology to study the ways engineers are taught and trained (*Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office*).

Provost Carman provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Trachok asked if there were six students currently enrolled and what are the additional costs for the program. Provost Carman confirmed the student enrollment and answered there are no additional costs for the program at this time other than the two faculty members who were hired.

Regent Carter asked if the program had already been approved by the accrediting body. Provost Carman said the program first needs to be approved by the Board of Regents before it can be presented for accreditation.

Chair McAdoo asked what the plan is for the six students if the program is not approved. Provost Carman answered that transferring to the same program at a different major university is most likely the main option for the six students. Chair McAdoo followed up by asking how long the students have been enrolled in the program. Provost Carman said he did not currently have that data available and will send it to the Committee after the meeting. He believed the program is in its first year.

Regent Carter asked if there is any policy that would prevent a school from launching a program before it is approved by the Regents and accredited. Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, said there is no specific provision in the Code or in Title 4 that concerns prohibiting enrollment into a program prior to Board approval. For the accrediting body, it is typical to seek approval of the governing body prior to seeking accreditation. Vice Chancellor Abba added that she is confident that the program will be accredited especially because of UNR's strong engineering college.

Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR, said he is a member of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and at an upcoming meeting they will be reviewing a similar program seeking accreditation at a different institution. He noted the institution must prove to the Commission that there is an interest in the proposed program.

7. Approved-UNR – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Engineering Education – (continued)

This is the typical accreditation process and there are many examples of it at institutions across the country.

Regent Carter expressed his support for the program; however, he has concerns with programs enrolling students without approval or being accredited first.

Chairman Geddes said when he was earning his doctorate at UNR, he was in the same situation. The Regents approved the doctoral program two months before his dissertation defense. He added there was not an issue of accreditation because there were other departments in UNR that were willing to assist him with completing his degree if the program was not approved. There has been a long history of the program approval/accreditation process currently in place.

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of a Ph.D. in Engineering Education at UNR.

In response to a question from Regent Levine, Provost Carman said recruiting graduate students can be expensive and one of the best practices to recruit high achieving applicants (that typically have offers from other institutions) is to bring them to Nevada to tour the campus and surrounding area, and to meet with faculty.

Chair McAdoo seconded. Motion carried.

(Provost Carman provided the following clarification to the Committee after the meeting: The six students associated with the proposed Engineering Education Ph.D. program are all admitted and enrolled in other existing Engineering graduate programs, but plan to transfer to the Engineering Education program when it is approved.)

8. Approved-Handbook Revision, NC-SARA Policy on Student Complaints and Institutional Appeals Process – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy concerning student complaints and institutional appeals for institutions participating or applying to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 25 and new Section 26*) established through the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) and the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). Nevada is a member state of SARA and as such must establish through policy a means to hear and address appeals from institutions for which SARA participation is denied (*Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board Office*).

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

Vice Chair Trachok moved approval of the proposed *Handbook* revision. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

9. Approved-2020 Nevada Science and Technology Plan – The Committee recommended approval of the NSHE Research Affairs Council’s 2020 Nevada Science and Technology Plan. This Plan is designed to be a blueprint for both the State and public higher education in setting priorities in science and technology research (*Refs. ARSA-9a and ARSA-9b on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Fred Harris Jr., Nevada State EPSCoR Director, and Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, UNR, presented the NSHE Research Affairs Council’s 2020 Nevada Science and Technology Plan which included: the importance, process and structure of the plan; land and natural resources; integrated health and wellness; digital technologies; infrastructure and industrial technology; and strategies for success.

Regent Carter moved approval of the NSHE Research Affairs Council’s 2020 Nevada Science and Technology Plan. Regent Levine seconded. Motion carried.

Regent Carter thanked everyone who had worked on updating the plan.

10. Information Only-Corequisite Policy Implementation – Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Corequisite Implementation James McCoy presented a status report on the work of the NSHE Corequisite Implementation Task Force. 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-10 on file in the Board Office*).

Assistant Vice Chancellor McCoy’s status report included: a policy review and the approved policy; NSHE funding received to support corequisite implementation; the Corequisite Implementation Taskforce representatives from the seven NSHE teaching institutions; corequisite implementation timeline; and major accomplishments.

Chairman Geddes offered his compliments on the corequisite policy implementation and thanked Vice Chancellor Abba, Assistant Vice Chancellor McCoy and team for their work.

11. Information Only-New Business – Regent Carter would like the Committee to have an in-depth discussion about NSHE institutions establishing programs and operating before Board approval and accreditation.
12. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 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 September 10-11, 2020, meeting.