

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

Videoconference/Teleconference
Friday, December 4, 2020

Members Present: Mr. Kevin J. Page, Chair
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Vice Chair
Ms. Amy J. Carvalho
Ms. Lisa C. Levine
Mr. John T. Moran

Other Regents Present: Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Board Chair
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Board Vice Chair
Dr. Patrick R. Carter
Dr. Jason Geddes
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Others Present: Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor
Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Michael Flores, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor
Mr. Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges
Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief General Counsel
Mr. Zelalem Bogale, Deputy 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. Keith E. Whitfield, President, UNLV
Mr. Brian Sandoval, President, UNR
Dr. Vincent R. Solis, President, WNC

Faculty Senate Chairs in attendance were: Dr. Maria Schellhase, CSN; Dr. Laura Naumann, NSC; Dr. Theo Meek, System Administration; Ms. YeVonne Allen, TMCC; Dr. Vicki Rosser, UNLV; Dr. Amy Pason, UNR; and Dr. Bob Morin, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Ms. Katie Dempsey, GBC; and Ms. Alyssa Fromelius, TMCC.

Chair Kevin J. Page called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2020, meeting (*Ref. HSS-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice Chair McAdoo moved approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2020, meeting. Regent Carvalho seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Kevin J. Page noted that this is his final Chair's report, and thanked System, institution, and Board staff for all of their hard work.
4. Information Only-COVID-19 Update – Dr. Cheryl Hug-English, Director, UNR Student Health; Amber Donnelly, Ph.D., RN, CNE, Dean, Health Science Human Services, GBC; and Adam Garcia, Director, University Police Services, Southern Command, each gave an update on recent COVID-19 developments and responses involving NSHE campuses and communities in Washoe, Elko and Clark Counties.

Dr. Hug-English provided an update on recent COVID-19 developments and responses involving NSHE campuses, communities, and counties. It was noted that there is a continuing surge in case numbers and labs have been under pressure to process tests. The highest cases continue to be in the 20-29 age group. Decisions have been made to put mitigation strategies in place, including remote instruction after Thanksgiving and having spring semester start a week later. Dr. Hug-English shared that after every holiday there is a spike in COVID-19 cases in the community and on campus and stressed the importance of how critical it is to follow the Governor's and state guidance for gatherings and travel.

Dr. Donnelly provided an update regarding rural areas, the contract tracing teams and tracing efforts. Specifically noted was the age group most affected in all the northern counties is still 20-29. Dr. Donnelly also noted challenges with resource allocation regarding testing and spiking cases in all groups in the communities and that second year nursing students are stepping in to help. She also discussed the mental health and burnout concerns with increased cases and contact tracing efforts.

Director Garcia gave an update on COVID-19 for the Southern Nevada institutions, including COVID-19 mitigation practices in classes and on campuses. UNLV continues to support Clark County with testing and efforts to keep the community safe during the pandemic. Director Garcia also spoke about DRI developing a rapid response tool kit to assist Native American communities and provided an update on coordinating with the Southern Nevada Health District to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

4. Information Only-COVID-19 Update – *(continued)*

In response to a question from Board Chair Doubrava, Dr. Hug-English confirmed that it is still important for people to get flu shots.

5. 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 offered general remarks which included information relating to programs, funding and financial status (*Refs. HSS-5a and HSS-5b on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Schwenk provided a report which included: general topics involving a COVID-19 update, The Lancet publication of reinfection study, NSPHL performance, vaccine involvement, faculty and staff mental health and well-being workplace planning and adaptation, awards and highlights and Renown Health integration; Undergraduate Medical Education; Graduate Medical Education; clinical network development; research; partnership opportunities; highlights of health students honored as Healthcare Heroes and their work with community outreach; and a clinical financial summary.

Chair Page asked a question regarding capacity related to internal medicine and tele-medicine. Dean Schwenk answered they will be doing prescription refills and urgent requests and try to keep people out of the emergency room as much as possible. The goal is to maintain patients as best they can for the next ten days; however, it will be very scant compared to a full operation.

6. Information Only-UNLV School of Medicine Report – Dr. Marc J. Kahn, Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine, provided a report on the Medical School, and offered general remarks which included information relating to accreditation, programs, funding and financial status (*Ref. HSS-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Kahn provided his report which included: announcements regarding the groundbreaking for the Medical Education Building on October 29, the full accreditation visit which took place on October 26-28, partnership with the Southern Nevada Health District's Federally Qualified Health Center and others, ongoing development of MD programs, recruitment of the new Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the upcoming first graduation and match; academic affairs; Graduate Medical Education; faculty affairs; research; and the development of fundraising priorities.

Dr. Michael Gardner, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, provided a report on clinical affairs and finance which included: a recent external audit conducted by Grant Thornton; final financial results for FY20; consolidation of all practice plan operation facilities; Nevada Business Magazine recognized members of UNLV SOM faculty as Healthcare Heroes for 2020; and the consolidated financials as of July 2020.

6. Information Only-UNLV School of Medicine Report – *(continued)*

Board Chair Doubrava commended both medical school deans and their teams for their efforts in healthcare delivery during these challenging times.

7. Information Only-UNLV School of Dental Medicine Report – Dr.

Lily T. Garcia, Dean, UNLV School of Dental Medicine, provided a report and offered general remarks on activities involving the Dental School, including activities that have occurred under new leadership, best practices, mission alignment within UNLV and vision moving forward (*Ref. HSS-7 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Garcia provided a report which included: COVID-19 response and impact; student success; and faculty recruitment. She noted how critical it is in keeping operations ongoing for the students and patients, and specifically the safety protocols for operations. Dean Garcia also expressed her gratitude for diversity and leadership in the School of Dental Medicine.

8. Information Only-New Business – None.

9. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson
Special Assistant and Coordinator to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Interim Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents

Approved by the Board of Regents at its March 4-5, 2021, meeting.