

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

Videoconference/Teleconference
Thursday, March 4, 2021

Members Present:

Dr. Jason Geddes, Chair
Dr. Patrick R. Carter, Vice Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Other Regents Present:

Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Board Chair
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Board Vice Chair
Mr. Byron Brooks
Ms. Amy J. Carvalho
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Others Present:

Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and
Director of Student Affairs
Ms. Yvonne Nevarez-Goodson, Deputy General Counsel
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, GBC President
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President
Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President
Dr. Vincent R. Solis, WNC President

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Dr. Maria Schellhase, CSN; Mr. Glenn Heath, System Administration; Ms. YeVonne Allen, TMCC; Dr. Vicki Rosser, UNLV; and Dr. Amy Pason, UNR. Student body presidents in attendance were: Ms. Alyssa Fromelius, TMCC; and Mr. Will Carrasco, UNR-GSA.

Chair Jason Geddes called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Special Assistant and Coordinator Winter Lipson read into the record public comment submitted by Dr. Vicki Rosser, UNLV, who spoke in support of the following proposals: UNLV – National Institute for the Advancement of Education (Agenda Item 4); and UNLV – M.Ed. Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management (Agenda Item 5).
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 December 3, 2020, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).

(2b.) Approved-Handbook Revision, State College Requirements for Graduation – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy changing the residency requirement level for the College from 32 hours to 30 hours (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 36*). The credit threshold was not reduced after Board policy was revised reducing the total number of credits necessary for graduation to 120 credits. This change aligns with the structure of the current majors which adhere to the 120-credit protocol (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Perkins moved approval of the consent items. Regent McAdoo seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-Regents' Awards – The Committee recommended approval of the following individuals nominated for 2021 Regents' awards:
(*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office*)

a. Nevada Regents' Creative Activities Award

Erin Frock, TMCC – (Community College)

Joe Nathan Bynum, UNLV – (University, State College)

b. Nevada Regents' Teaching Award

Ronald Gonzalez, CSN – Tenured Track (Community College)

Dr. Pamela Sandstrom, UNR – Non-Tenured/Tenured Track (Universities, State College & DRI)

Dr. Geoffrey Smith, UNR – Tenured/Tenured Track (Universities, State College & DRI)

c. Nevada Regents' Academic Advisor Award

Lauren Stevens, WNC – (Community College)

Janita Ethridge, UNR – (Undergraduate – Universities, State College)

Dr. Kwang J. Kim, UNLV – (Graduate – Universities, State College & DRI)

3. Approved-Regents' Awards – (continued)

d. Nevada Regents' Researcher Award

Dr. Ian Buckle, UNR - (Distinguished)

Dr. Scott Earley, UNR - (Mid-Career)

e. Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award

Dr. Javon Johnson, UNLV

Dr. Daniel McEvoy, DRI

Dr. Jennifer Pearson, UNR

Dr. Kyra E. Stull, UNR

Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, read the names of the Regents' Awards nominees into the record.

Regent McAdoo moved approval of the individuals nominated for the 2021 Regents' Awards. Regent Boylan seconded.

At the request of Chair Geddes for the benefit of the new Regents on the Committee, Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the Regents' Awards process.

Motion carried.

4. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, National Institute for the Advancement of Education – The Committee recommended approval of establishing the National Institute for the Advancement of Education, an institute built on the foundation of innovation and research intended to identify and disseminate next generation practices in urban education and educator preparation (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Executive President and Provost, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Perkins requested more information regarding the patents that are included on the balance sheet for the return on investments and asked about such returns if the institute did not secure any patents. Dr. Heavey answered that the vision of these institutes is to become self-sufficient, but they begin with substantial contributions from anonymous donors that lay the foundation for the work. The goal is to create innovation in the educational technology space that will hopefully lead to patents. Over time, different revenue streams will need to be created in order to support and grow the impact of the institute. Dr. Danica Hays, Interim Dean of the College of Education, UNLV, added that securing patents is a potential goal and revenue stream; however, there are other revenue streams available through external funding, philanthropy and other programs such as state scholarships.

4. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, National Institute for the Advancement of Education – (continued)

Regent Perkins asked how the success of the institute will be measured. Dr. Heavey answered that UNLV has a Council for Centers, Institutes, Museums and Laboratories (“Council”), which is a group that does ongoing reviews of all independent centers and institutes each year, and an in-depth study of effectiveness every three years. The Council will review annual reports to be submitted by the institute.

Regent Perkins moved approval of establishing the National Institute for the Advancement of Education at UNLV. Regent McAdoo seconded.

Vice Chair Carter disclosed that 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. However, Vice Chair Carter confirmed that the agenda item does not affect his private interests, and he would therefore vote on this matter.

Motion carried.

5. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, M.Ed. Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management – The Committee recommended approval of a Master of Education in Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management. This program will provide specialized education in the leadership and management of sport organizations. The program includes administrative opportunities in youth and intercollegiate athletics with specialization areas such as diversity in sport leadership, sport analytics, and governance. (Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board Office)

Chair Geddes included the same disclosure and abstention analysis provided by Vice Chair Carter for agenda item 5, confirming that Vice-Chair Carter would be participating and voting in this matter.

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent McAdoo moved approval of a Master of Education in Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management at UNLV. Vice Chair Carter seconded. Motion carried.

6. Approved-Handbook Revision, New Program Proposals – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy clarifying that while developing new degree programs institutions must consult with other NSHE institutions that have the same or similar programs (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7*). Existing policy states that the format for consideration of new programs shall be provided by the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. Consulting other institutions during the program development process is intended to ensure that the institution developing the new degree program leverages the expertise of other NSHE institutions that have the same or similar programs. (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*)

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the policy proposal.

Vice Chair Carter moved approval of the policy proposal. Regent Boylan seconded.

Vice Chancellor Abba said a section will be added to the new program proposal form for institutions to document consultations with other institutions.

Motion carried.

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, NSHE Planning Report – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy to specify which degree programs are required in the NSHE Planning Report and to clarify that new degree program plans absent from the Planning Report must be disclosed to the Chancellor's Office prior to new program proposal submissions (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3*). Existing Board policy provides for the planning of degree programs to be disclosed in the NSHE Planning Report. The proposed revision specifies that plans for new associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral programs must be included in the Planning Report for Board approval, as such plans for new skills certificates and certificates of achievement do not require prior disclosure. (*Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office*)

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the policy proposal.

Vice Chair Carter moved approval of the policy proposal. Regent McAdoo seconded.

Chair Geddes encouraged the new Committee members to read the Planning Report as it gives insight to upcoming projects and plans, and it is part of a partnership with the Nevada Legislature by showing what the NSHE is working on.

Motion carried.

8. Approval-Handbook Revision, Transfer and Articulation – The Committee recommended approval of a policy revision to clarify that upper division coursework (300-400) shall not be included in the first two years of the transfer agreement’s year-by-year course outline, unless otherwise approved by the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 15*). The Committee also recommended approval of a revision to require that a transfer agreement must disclose to the student when lower division courses that are required for the major are not offered at the community college and must indicate the four-year institution where such courses must be taken for the purpose of meeting the associate degree through reverse transfer (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 15*). Existing Board policy provides that a transfer agreement must include a year-by-year outline of course requirements in which the course of study leading to the baccalaureate degree includes the first two years of coursework that will result in an associate degree. These policy revision recommendations come from challenges identified in the 2019 Transfer and Articulation Audit. At the September 2020 Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee meeting, the Committee approved the 2019 Transfer and Articulation Audit report and recommendations for clarifying Board policy. (*Ref. ARSA-8*)

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the policy proposal.

Regent McAdoo moved approval of the policy proposal. Regent Boylan seconded.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Carter, Vice Chancellor Abba said there is no logical reason for 300 or 400 level courses to be in the first two years of a degree program outline.

Motion carried.

9. Information Only-Silver State Opportunity Grant – Assistant Vice Chancellor Renee Davis presented an update on the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG), a need-based financial aid program. The state supported financial aid program was created by the 2015 Legislature pursuant to Senate Bill 227 (Chapter 387, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*). Under the SSOG program, need-based grants are awarded to eligible low-income students who are college-ready to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community or state college within NSHE. The presentation included general information on how grants are awarded under the shared responsibility model, outcomes for students who have received an SSOG award, and the impact of program revisions adopted by the 2019 Session of the Nevada State Legislature. (*Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board Office*)

Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Student Affairs, provided a report which included: program background; eligibility requirements; program changes from the 2019 Legislative Session; award calculation; historical award and persistence data; and COVID-19 impact to program budget.

Chair Geddes commented on the previous year’s Special Session and associated budget reductions due to the pandemic, and reminded the Committee that the

9. Information Only-Silver State Opportunity Grant – *(continued)*

Board voted to allocate funds from a reserve account which was distributed to all of the NSHE campuses. There was an excess of \$352,000 which was invested back into the SSOG program.

Vice Chair Carter asked if the simplified FAFSA will affect the SSOG program. Vice Chancellor Abba said the simplified FAFSA will go into effect in 2023 and there will be some impacts to the SSOG. Ms. Davis said the impacts from the simplified FAFSA will most likely mean that there will be more eligible students for SSOG, which unfortunately means there may be more unfunded students in the program due to lack of sufficient funding for the higher demand.

Regent McAdoo shared her hope for more funding for the SSOG program as it is need-based and the program greatly contributes to elevated completion rates. Chair Geddes added that SSOG funds go toward more than just tuition and books, it can also be used for food security and housing. He hopes the program can be expanded in the future.

10. Information Only-UNR NevadaFIT Program – UNR Acting Provost Jeffrey Thompson and UNR Director of NevadaFIT Felicia DeWald presented information on the NevadaFIT program. NevadaFIT (Freshman Intensive Transition) is a one-credit academic bootcamp for incoming freshmen at the University of Nevada, Reno designed to expose students to the rigor and pacing of college classes prior to the start of the fall semester. NevadaFIT increases retention and graduation rates for participants including Pell, first-generation, and minority students. The 2021 program will be the first year the course is required of all incoming freshmen. The presentation included a summary and history of the program, student success data, and plans for the future of the program (*Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Thompson and Ms. DeWald provided an overview of the NevadaFIT Program which included: the freshmen intensive transition: five days, the week before fall semester, 1 credit, and early move-in; program components; the evolution of NevadaFIT; retention increases; and spikes in graduation rates. Ms. DeWald also summarized the TransferFIT Program tested for transfer students, which included a 2-day, early move-in program for 33 participants, and which is intended to continue after the pandemic and has proven a 5% retention increase from Fall to Spring. In the future, the NevadaFit 2021 will be mandatory for Freshmen and will offer remote options as necessary.

Regent Boylan asked if the NevadaFIT program came at any cost to the students. Ms. DeWald answered that the NevadaFIT program is a one-credit class which includes a registration fee and a course fee of \$250 which covers course materials, meals and lectures. There is fundraising to help cover the course fee for low-income students and most students can include the program in their existing financial aid package.

10. Information Only-UNR NevadaFIT Program – *(continued)*

Regent Carvalho asked if there were any other support services for the students in the current academic year given the remote learning environment that was similar to the NevadaFIT program provided in previous years. Dr. Thompson answered that each college at UNR implemented a remote NevadaFIT program; however, it was not as robust as previous years due to the quick transition to a virtual platform, but will be ready for the next year, if a remote program is necessary.

11. Information Only-New Business – Vice Chair Carter asked for an overview of the simplified FAFSA and the impacts it will have on students.

12. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 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 June 10-11, 2021, meeting.