

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

Videoconference/Teleconference

Friday, March 5, 2021

Members Present: Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Chair  
Ms. Amy J. Carvalho, Vice Chair  
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan  
Mr. Byron Brooks  
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Members Absent: Mr. John T. Moran

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

Others Present: Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs  
Mr. Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges  
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board  
Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief General Counsel  
Mr. Joseph Sunbury, Chief Internal Auditor  
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President  
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, GBC President  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President  
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, NSC 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; Dr. Eric Wilcox, DRI; Mr. Brian Zeiszler, GBC; Mr. Glenn Heath, 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; Ms. Alyssa Fromelius, TMCC; and Mr. Will Carrasco, UNR-GSA.

Chair Cathy McAdoo called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. with all members present except for Regent Moran.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2020, meeting (*Ref. HSS-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice Chair Carvalho moved approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2020, meeting. Regent Boylan seconded. Motion carried. Regent Moran was absent.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Cathy McAdoo expressed her appreciation and gratitude to all meeting participants and guests for their care of those within NSHE and their families and neighbors. She also thanked health care providers for their service.
4. Information Only-COVID-19 Update – Cheryl Hug-English, M.D., 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.

The report included: an update on recent COVID-19 developments and responses involving NSHE campuses, communities, and counties; COVID-19 cases in Washoe County continue to decrease, currently at 5.5 percent, down from 20 percent in December 2020; decreasing case numbers on UNR campus; testing continues to be offered and now testing is being provided to residential housing individuals; student health center assisting in PODS/distribution; variant strains and the importance of continuing to be diligent and vigilant with masks, social distancing and hand washing; an update regarding rural areas and efforts related to COVID-19 and the positive impacts now being seen; contact tracing and caseloads currently reduced to 90 from 700; vaccination PODS and the Great Basin College nursing students primarily providing the vaccination shots; an update on COVID-19 for the Southern Nevada institutions, including COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and demographics; case numbers in southern Nevada; police services partnering with the health district, UNLV and CSN PODS; and thanks to those on the campuses that have contributed to the success of getting PODS and vaccines in place.

Regent Perkins asked if there is a way to notify the public when there are extra vaccines that must be used in the same day. Director Garcia answered that vaccinations are distributed by appointment and it is generally known how many vaccines will be administered throughout the day. Dr. Michael Gardner, Vice Dean of Clinical Affairs, UNLV School of Medicine, added the distribution of vaccines is conducted very carefully and a single dose has not been thrown away, thus far.

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

Dr. Hug-English and Dr. Donnelly confirmed that similar methods of caution regarding vaccine distribution are used in northern Nevada, including the rural areas.

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, research and partnerships (*Ref. HSS-5 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Schwenk provided a report which included: a COVID-19 update; awards and highlights; Renown Health integration; undergraduate medical education; Graduate Medical Education; clinical network development; research; and partnership opportunities including a Veterans Affairs update.

Board Chair Doubrava asked for more information on the GME state funding and how UNR Med has benefitted from it. Dean Schwenk said the GME state funding is set up as start-up funding on a competitive grant basis for expanding programs and/or creating new programs. UNR Med benefitted from the state funding both in family medicine as well as in establishing a new primary care internal medicine track and the psychiatry program. There has been discussion to utilize future state funds, if granted, to create a pediatrics program which would be in partnership with Renown Health.

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 Practice Plan, and offered general remarks which included information relating to programs, funding and financial status (*Ref. HSS-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Kahn provided a report which included: Medical Education Building expected to open in the summer of 2022; LCME meeting in regard to UNLV SOM's full accreditation; this spring's upcoming first graduation and MATCH; COVID-19 vaccination distribution; beginning new clinical programs: medical oncology and cardiology; appointment of new Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; academic affairs regarding upcoming events and new program developments; admissions report; Graduate Medical Education; faculty affairs; research; diversity and inclusion; and philanthropy.

Dr. Gardner provided an update which included: clinical affairs; curbside testing; network development; partnerships; a financial performance and overview; and an outline of post COVID-19 financial concerns and the specific challenges that will continue regarding Practice Plan finances. He highlighted the generous donation for new lab equipment and machines and remarked that the main focus of COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, and serving specific groups in the community, is being accomplished while still running clinics and working in the hospitals. Dr. Gardner shared concerns related to the extra work and stress on frontline workers, and his gratitude to all involved.

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

Board Chair Doubrava congratulated Dean Kahn and team on obtaining full accreditation for the UNLV SOM. He asked for more information on the Practice Plan with respect to the original loan that was borrowed for it. Dr. Gardner answered that the UNLV SOM started with \$7 million and a credit card which was unprecedented in starting a medical school. A line of credit of \$19 million was taken out to assist with the start-up of the school. There is a current agreement to pay the line of credit off over the course of ten years. No extra debts have been taken since the medical school opened.

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.

Dean Garcia provided the report which included: COVID-19 response and impacts related to student success and faculty recruitment; the dental school is operating at 75 percent capacity due to the pandemic; grants and scholarships; concerns related specifically to those without medical insurance; the expansion to the children's free care to clinical operations, and continued safety measures in place; and the upcoming accreditation visit (which was rescheduled due to COVID-19).

Chair McAdoo thanked Dean Garcia and her team for their work.

8. Information Only-New Business – None.

9. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 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.**