

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ad hoc NSC PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Nevada State College
Rogers Student Center Ballroom
1300 Nevada State Drive, Henderson
Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Members Present:

Regents' Committee

Ms. Amy J. Carvalho, Chair
Dr. Patrick R. Carter
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Other Regents Present:

Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Board Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Dr. Jason Geddes
Mr. John T. Moran

Members Present:

Institutional Advisory Members

Ms. Hannah Brown, Community Member
Mr. Glenn Christenson, Community Member
Dr. Jennifer Edmonds, Faculty
Mr. Ken Evans, Community Member
Dr. Edith Fernandez, Administrator
Mr. Eric J. Gilliland, Affirmative Action (*Ex-officio*)
Mr. Peter Guzman, Community Member
Ms. Janice Le-Nguyen, Faculty
Ms. Penny Morris, Administrator
Mr. Scott Muelrath, Community Member
Dr. Lori Navarrete, Faculty
Dr. Jamie L. Palmer, Faculty
Ms. Cheryl Perna, Faculty
Dr. Gregory Robinson, Administrator
Ms. Dalia Rodriguez, NSSA Senator
Ms. Carmen Royce, Classified Staff
Ms. Crosby Volker, Graduate Clinician

Members Absent:

Dr. Mike Barton, Community Member
Dr. Tymeeka Davis, Alumnus
Mayor Debra March, Community Member
Mr. Sonny Vinuya, Community Member

Others Present:

Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
Mr. Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel

Chair Amy J. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. with all Regents' Committee members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Laura Naumann shared her preference and supporting reasons for the next president of Nevada State College, Dr. Susan E. Borrego.

Special Assistant and Coordinator Winter Lipson entered into the record public comment submitted by J. Tyler Ballance expressing concerns about the recruitment process and final candidate pool.

Ms. Lipson also entered into the record public comment submitted by Clark Ervin expressing concerns regarding Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard's candidacy and her travel spending history in her current position.

2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the March 26, 2021, meeting minutes (*Ref. NSC PSC-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Del Carlo moved approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2021, meeting. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Chancellor's Report – Chancellor Melody Rose reported on the search and semi-finalist interview process and announced the names of the final candidates:

- Hubert Benitez, D.D.S, Ph.D. (*Ref. NSC PSC-3a on file in the Board Office*)
- Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D. (*Ref. NSC PSC-3b on file in the Board Office*)
- Shari G. McMahan, Ph.D. (*Ref. NSC PSC-3c on file in the Board Office*)
- DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D. (*Ref. NSC PSC-3d on file in the Board Office*)

4. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Amy J. Carvalho acknowledged the hard work from System staff and AGB Search that led up to the final candidate pool. She provided an overview of the finalist interview process and the format for deliberation of the finalists among the Regents' Committee and advisory members.

At the request of Chair Carvalho, Mr. Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel, provided an overview of the president search process as it relates to the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

5. Information Only-Discussion of Interview Questions – Chair Amy J. Carvalho, Chancellor Melody Rose, and AGB Search led a discussion on the questions and topics to be covered during the candidate interviews.

Chair Carvalho asked for volunteers from the Regents' Committee and advisory members to ask the interview questions (*Questions on file in the Board Office*).

6. Information Only-Campus Visit Reports and Candidate Interviews – AGB Search reported on the campus visits and forums held with each final candidate. The report included a summary of the survey responses from each final candidate's campus forums. AGB Search reviewed the curriculum vitae and background information of each final candidate just prior to each final candidate's interview. The Committee interviewed the final candidates for the position of Nevada State College (NSC) President.

Dr. Vance Peterson, AGB, presented his report on Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Chair Carvalho welcomed Dr. Benitez and outlined the interview process. Dr. Benitez responded to the interview and follow-up questions.

The meeting recessed at 10:11 a.m. and reconvened at 10:34 a.m. with all Regents' Committee members present.

Dr. Peterson presented his report on Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D.

Chair Carvalho welcomed Dr. Borrego and outlined the interview process. Dr. Borrego responded to the interview and follow-up questions.

The meeting recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 12:51 p.m. with all Regents' Committee members present.

Dr. Peterson, presented his report on Shari G. McMahan, Ph.D.

Chair Carvalho welcomed Dr. McMahan and outlined the interview process. Dr. McMahan responded to the interview and follow-up questions.

The meeting recessed at 2:02 p.m. and reconvened at 2:32 p.m. with all Regents' Committee members present.

Dr. Peterson, presented his report on DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.

Chair Carvalho welcomed Dr. Pollard and outlined the interview process. Dr. Pollard responded to the interview and follow-up questions.

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:21 p.m. with all Regents' Committee members present.

Chair Carvalho reopened Agenda Item 1, Public Comment.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Laura Naumann shared results of internal polling of the academic and administrative senators. Academic faculty gave more support for Dr. Borrego's candidacy, and split support for Dr. Pollard and Dr. McMahan. The administrative faculty overwhelmingly supported Dr. Pollard. On behalf of NSC's academic and administrative senators, Dr. Naumann shared concerns regarding a recently discovered article on Dr. Pollard's travel spending in her current position.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – *(continued)*

Nicola Opfer (audio played) expressed support of Dr. Pollard as the next president of NSC.

Ms. Lipson entered into the record public comment submitted by Shantal Marshall expressing her support of Dr. Borrego as the next president of NSC.

Phil LaMotte expressed support of Dr. Pollard as the next president of NSC.

7. Information Only-Advisory Members' Open Session regarding Final Candidates for NSC President – An open session for the advisory members was held to discuss the final candidates for the position of NSC President. The advisory members provided the Regents' ad hoc NSC President Search Committee with their assessment of the final candidates.

Advisory members provided the Regents' Committee with their assessment of the candidates by sharing their first and second choices for the next president of the Nevada State College.

Chair Carvalho expressed her thanks and appreciation to the advisory members for their feedback. She emphasized that their input and recommendations will be taken into very strong consideration by the Regents' Committee.

Chair Carvalho opened the floor to any Regents present, not on the Committee, to share their input on the candidates.

Chair Doubrava thanked the Regents' Committee and advisory members for their time and effort in being a part of the NSC President Search and Chair Carvalho for chairing the committee

Regent Geddes thanked Chair Carvalho, Chancellor Rose and AGB Search for their work on the search. He also expressed his sincere gratitude for the advisory members' participation and invaluable guidance. Regent Geddes ranked Dr. Borrego as his first choice and Dr. Pollard as his second choice.

8. Approved-Decision by the Regents' ad hoc NSC President Search Committee – The Regents' ad hoc NSC President Search Committee discussed and assessed the final candidates for the position of NSC President. The Committee recommend Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard for appointment as the next president of NSC for consideration by the full Board of Regents at its April 29, 2021, special meeting.

Regent Del Carlo ranked Dr. Pollard as her first choice and Dr. Benitez as her second choice.

Regent McMichael ranked Dr. Pollard as his first choice and Dr. McMahan as his second choice.

8. Approved-Decision by the Regents' ad hoc NSC President Search Committee –
(continued)

Regent Carter ranked Dr. Pollard as his first choice and Dr. Borrego as his second choice.

Regent Perkins moved approval of recommending Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard as the next president of NSC for consideration by the full Board of Regents at its special meeting on April 29, 2021. Regent Del Carlo seconded.

Chair Carvalho ranked Dr. Pollard as her first choice and Dr. Borrego as her second choice.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Chair Carvalho, Regent Carter, Regent Del Carlo, Regent McMichael and Regent Perkins voted yes.

9. Information Only-New Business – None.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – Ms. Lipson entered into the record public comment submitted by Susan Gearling on behalf of the NSC Classified Council Executive Board expressing its overwhelming support of the candidacy of Dr. Pollard.

Chris Garrett expressed his support of Dr. Pollard as the next president of NSC. He also spoke to the importance of implementing professional evaluations for individuals in executive leadership roles to create and maintain a positive culture on campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.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 July 23, 2021, meeting.