

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

System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room
Thursday, June 10, 2021

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room

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. John T. Moran
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Others Present:

Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
and Community Colleges
Mr. Caleb Cage, Vice Chancellor, Workforce Development and
Chief Innovation Officer
Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel
Ms. Marcie Jackson, Director, System Sponsored Programs and
EPSCoR Office
Ms. Tina Russom, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. Rhett Vertrees, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, GBC President
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, NSC 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; Dr. Eric Wilcox, DRI; Mr. Brian Zeiszler, GBC; Dr. Laura Naumann, NSC; Mr. Glenn Heath, System Administration; Ms. YeVonne Allen, TMCC; Ms. Shannon Sumpter, UNLV; Dr. Amy Pason, UNR; and Mr. Jim Strange, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Mr. Zachary Johnigan, CSN; Ms. Katie Dempsey, GBC; Ms. Caren Yap, UNLV-CSUN; Ms. Nicole Thomas, UNLV-GPSA; Mr. Austin Brown, UNR-ASUN; and Mr. Matthew Hawn, UNR-GSA.

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

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the consent items with the exception of Item 2d which was withdrawn.
 - (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the March 4, 2021, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).
 - (2b.) Approved-UNLV – Program Change, MEd School Counseling – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request for a program change to the M.Ed. School Counseling to meet new accreditation requirements for the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) updating the curriculum with an additional twelve credits (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).
 - (2c.) Approved-UNLV – Program Elimination, MA Criminal Justice Professional – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request to eliminate the Master of Arts – Criminal Justice Professional due to continued decline in student interest. Courses will be integrated into the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice degree as a track (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office*).
 - (2e.) Approved-GBC – Program Elimination, BAS Graphic Communications – The Committee recommended approval of GBC’s request to eliminate the Bachelor of Applied Science in Graphic Communications program due to low graduation numbers (*Ref. ARSA-2e on file in the Board Office*).
 - (2f.) Approved-GBC – Program Change, AS Radiologic Sciences – The Committee recommended approval of GBC’s request for a program change of Associate of Applied Science in Radiology Technology to an Associate of Science in Radiologic Sciences with the corresponding curriculum changes (*Ref. ARSA-2f on file in the Board Office*).

2. Approved-Consent Items – (Continued)

(2g.) Approved-WNC – Program Eliminations – A review of the NSHE Academic Program Information System (APIS) indicated a number of degree programs that are no longer active; therefore, the Committee recommended approval of WNC’s request to eliminate the following inactive programs:

- Early Childhood Education, AAS (*Ref. ARSA-2g1 on file in the Board Office*)
- Geographic Information Systems, AAS (*Ref. ARSA-2g2 on file in the Board Office*)
- Web Technology, AAS (*Ref. ARSA-2g3 on file in the Board Office*)

Regent McAdoo moved approval of the consent items with the exception of Item 2d. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried. Regent Boylan was absent.

(2d.) Withdrawn-CSN – Program Elimination, AA LatinAmerican and Latina/o Studies – This item was withdrawn (*Ref. ARSA-2d on file in the Board Office*).

3. Approved-GBC – Program Proposal, BA Early Childhood Education – The Committee recommended approval of GBC’s request for a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education (ECE), Non-Licensure. This program is designed to prepare students to assume teaching and/or leadership positions in licensed childcare and preschool programs, Head Start programs, non-public school settings, and agencies supporting early childhood education (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office*).

Mr. Jake Hinton-Rivera, Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs, GBC, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent McAdoo moved approval of a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education (ECE) at GBC. Vice Chair Carter seconded.

Regent Perkins asked if a student chooses to pursue the non-certificate program, is there an option for the student to become certified should they decide to. Mr. Hinton-Rivera answered that there is a pathway from the non-certificate program to the certificate program in-state. If the student is from out-of-state, they would have to check their state requirements.

Chair Geddes requested that more information be sent to the Committee as a follow-up to Regent Perkins’ inquiry.

3. Approved-GBC – Program Proposal, BA Early Childhood Education – (continued)

Motion carried. Regent Boylan was absent.

4. Information Only-Corequisite Implementation – Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges Crystal Abba presented an update on the work of the NSHE Corequisite Implementation Task Force charged with supporting institutions in the implementation of the corequisite and gateway policy adopted by the Board at its June 6-7, 2019, meeting. Effective Fall 2021, the policy requires corequisite support for the students placing below college level in mathematics and/or English. The update included an overview of *No Room for Doubt*, a report published by Complete College America (Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided highlights from the Complete College America Report, *No Room for Doubt*, which included: the evidence is clear: corequisite support works; corequisite at scale: a student success and equity imperative; going deeper with corequisite: building programs that work for all students; shifting policy; creating conditions for change; implementing and refining proven strategies; and a new normal: corequisite support.

Regent Boylan entered the meeting.

Chair Geddes commented that corequisite implementation started as a priority when he was a UNR undergraduate student in 1988 and the current corequisite model is the first time the System is moving the needle to support the students in remediation. He thanked faculty across the System for their acceptance and assistance with developing and implementing the corequisite model.

5. Information Only-FAFSA Simplification: Implications for Student Financial Aid – Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Renee Davis presented information on the simplified Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that is effective for academic year 2023-24. The presentation included information on the Student Aid Index that will replace the Expected Family Contribution, factors that will impact the Total Cost of Attendance, and implications for student eligibility for need-based aid, including the Pell grant (Refs. ARSA-5a and ARSA-5b on file in the Board Office).

Ms. Davis provided a report which included: Consolidation Appropriations Act, 2021; overview of the FAFSA changes; Student Aid Index (SAI) versus Expected Family Contribution (EFC); Pell Grant eligibility determination; Cost of Attendance (COA) changes; and the impact on students and aid programs.

Chair Geddes asked if the FAFSA is still tied to the IRS database. Ms. Davis confirmed that it is.

Chair Geddes asked if a bill recently passed that aids students filling out the FAFSA. Ms. Davis said it did pass, but it is mostly a K-12 targeted bill.

5. Information Only-FAFSA Simplification: Implications for Student Financial Aid
– (continued)

In response to a follow-up question regarding COA, Ms. Davis answered that currently there is very little guidance from the Department of Education regarding Cost of Attendance; however, within the financial aid community a lot of best practices are available which range from surveying students to reviewing the market. Also, each campus may have a slightly different approach and there is also collaboration among some of the NSHE institutions; however, going forward there will be more guidance available for COA.

Vice Chair Carter thanked Ms. Davis for the presentation and the work that went into it.

6. Approved-Handbook Revision, Requirements for Admission to the Universities – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy to remove the standardized test requirement from the university admission criteria. Existing Board policy provides university admission requirements (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4*) in which students applying to an NSHE university must, among other criteria, take the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) prior to admission. The alternate admission pathway using standardized test scores will remain in place (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*).

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

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

Regent Arrascada commented that standardized tests do not measure a student's true potential. A student's potential is internal and there is great success that can be accomplished without having to be subjected to standardized tests.

Motion carried.

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, In-State Tuition for Certain Veterans – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3*) regarding in-state tuition for certain veterans living in Nevada, which was originally adopted by the Board in 2014 to ensure Nevada's compliance with Section 702 of the federal Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act"). Recently, Congress revised the provisions of the Choice Act. Specifically, under Section 1005 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315), the three-year time period in which a covered individual must enroll in an institution from the date of discharge to receive in-state tuition is removed. Board policy must be revised before August 1, 2021, to remain compliant with federal law and ensure that NSHE institutions do not risk the loss of federal veteran educational assistance dollars (*Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office*).

7. Approved-Handbook Revision, In-State Tuition for Certain Veterans – *(continued)*

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

Regent Boylan moved approval of the policy proposal. Regent Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

8. Approved-Handbook Revision, Eliminating the Excess Credit Fee – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 4*) that removes the requirement for institutions to charge a fee to students who accrue attempted credits equal to 150 percent of the credits required for the student's program of study. Periodically or upon the request of the Board, institutions will report on the number of students who accrue credits equal to 150 percent of the program requirement and address what efforts the institution is employing to mitigate such cases (*Ref. ARSA-8 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 with the expectation that the fee balances be fully expended by the end of FY23. Regent Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

9. Approved-Handbook Revision, National Guard Fee Waiver (AB156) (Agenda Item 10) – The 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 156, revising provisions governing the fee waiver for certain active members of the Nevada National Guard allowing such benefits to be transferred to a spouse or dependent child upon each term of reenlistment. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12*) intended to comply with the amendatory provisions of Assembly Bill 156 (*Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board Office*).

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

Regent Perkins exited the meeting.

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

Regent Arrascada recommended that for future legislative sessions the Board should adopt a position to oppose any fee waivers as he considers those unfunded mandates.

Motion carried. Regent Perkins was absent.

10. Approved-Handbook Revision, In-State Tuition for Certain Veterans (AB165) (Agenda Item 11) – The 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 165, revising provisions governing in-state tuition for veterans who are honorably discharged within five years of matriculation. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3*) intended to comply with the amendatory provisions of Assembly Bill 165 (*Ref. ARSA-11 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice Chancellor Abba thanked her staff for their diligence and good work. She provided a brief overview of the policy proposal.

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

Regent Arrascada recommended that for future legislative sessions the Board should adopt a position to oppose any fee waivers as he considers those unfunded mandates.

Chair Geddes commented that he supports the fee waiver for veterans and appreciates what is being done for the veterans as they have given America a great service. He believes it is the Board's position to serve the veterans in return and emphasized that the System must ensure that the fee waivers are budgeted for appropriately.

Motion carried. Regent Perkins was absent.

11. Approved-Handbook Revision, Tuition and Fee Waiver Native Americans (AB262) (Agenda Item 12) – The 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 262 mandating the granting a waiver of registration fees, laboratory fees, and all other mandatory fees for certain Native American students. Members of any federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which are located within the boundaries of Nevada, or individuals who are certified by the enrollment department of such a tribe or nation or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant of an enrolled member of such a tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada, regardless of membership status. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 17, new Section 15*) intended to comply with the amendatory provisions of Assembly Bill 262 (*Ref. ARSA-12 on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Perkins entered the meeting.

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

Chair Geddes moved approval of the policy proposal. Regent Arrascada seconded.

Chair Geddes asked to correct the spelling of "waiver" on page four of the policy proposal before it is codified. He commented that the Nevada Native Americans

11. Approved-Handbook Revision, Tuition and Fee Waiver Native Americans (AB262) (Agenda Item 12) – (continued)

have given the NSHE a tremendous amount with the land that all of its institutions are on and the System has a service to give back to them. Chair Geddes said the fiscal note is concerning; however, he believes it is something that can be worked on.

Regent Arrascada asked regarding agenda items 10, 11 and 12, what is the cumulative dollar amount that will be absorbed by the NSHE. Vice Chancellor Abba said the fiscal impact notes for each item are very conservative estimates based on the information provided. There is an annual fee waiver report presented to the Board and the Regents will be receiving that information regularly. Regent Arrascada recommended that for future legislative sessions the Board should adopt a position to oppose any fee waivers as he considers those unfunded mandates.

Vice Chair Carter asked if the preliminary breakdown was done by institution. Vice Chancellor Abba answered that an aggregate number was used. She shared that proportionally, GBC has the greatest percentage of Native American students.

Regent McAdoo asked if there was any provision that would allow or not allow the NSHE to seek funding from the federal delegation for AB262. Vice Chancellor Abba said there are no provisions that would preclude the NSHE from seeking federal funding.

Chair Geddes added that he believes it is stated in Section 9 that the NSHE can get waiver funding from gifts, grants, donations and federal sources. Chair Geddes has been having conversations with local Native American tribes regarding the tuition and fee waiver implementation and he will report back to the Board as the dialogue develops.

Vice Chancellor Abba said that across the System, enrollment for Native American students is low and the tuition and fee waiver would provide better access to those students. The Legislature requested that over time the NSHE report the number of students that receive the waiver and what the aggregate dollar value is. The Board will receive regular reports that indicate the figures associated with the provisions.

Chair Geddes said the Board launched an initiative to improve the access, retention, and graduation rates of the Nevada Native American students some years ago. Unfortunately, the initiative was stalled due to the Great Recession. He thought this may be an opportunity to restart that initiative.

Board Vice Chair Del Carlo asked if there are other states that have done this type of legislation. Vice Chancellor Abba answered there are provisions that exist in Colorado and Oregon which are not fee waivers. For Colorado, its tribes that are

11. Approved-Handbook Revision, Tuition and Fee Waiver Native Americans (AB262) (Agenda Item 12) – (continued)

located in or historically tied to the state, those Native Americans are deemed residents for tuition purposes. It is similar for Oregon which also includes some bordering tribes. Vice Chancellor Abba added that she is not aware of a state that is waiving resident tuition to the extent of AB262. Board Vice Chair Del Carlo expressed her support of AB262 although she was concerned about the fiscal impact.

Motion carried.

12. Approved-Handbook Revision, Admission General Policy (SB327) (Agenda Item 13) – The 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature passed Senate Bill 327, prohibiting certain types of discrimination in the admission of students by defining “race” to include ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and traits historically associated with race, including, without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to Board policy (Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 5, 18 and 26) intended to comply with the amendatory provisions of Senate Bill 327 as amended at the meeting (Ref. ARSA-13 on file in the Board Office).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the proposal and read the amendments into the record:

Section 5. University Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person’s age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, **color**, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. ***As used in this section:***
 - a. **“Race” includes ~~ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and~~ traits ~~[historically]~~ associated with race, including without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.**
 - b. **“Protective hairstyle” includes, without limitation, hairstyles such as natural hairstyles, afros, bantu knots, curls, braids, locks and twists.**

Section 18. Community College Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person’s age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, **color**, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. ***As used in this section:***

12. Approved-Handbook Revision, Admission General Policy (SB327) (Agenda Item 13) – (continued)

- c. “Race” includes ~~ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and~~ traits ~~[historically]~~ associated with race, including without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.
- d. “Protective hairstyle” includes, without limitation, hairstyles such as natural hairstyles, afros, bantu knots, curls, braids, locks and twists.

Section 26. State College Admission – General Policy

- 2. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person’s age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, *color*, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. *As used in this section:*

- e. “Race” includes ~~ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and~~ traits ~~[historically]~~ associated with race, including without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.
- f. “Protective hairstyle” includes, without limitation, hairstyles such as natural hairstyles, afros, bantu knots, curls, braids, locks and twists.

Vice Chair Carter moved approval of the policy proposal as amended. Regent Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

13. Approved-Handbook Revision, Residency and Financial Aid Programs (SB347) (Agenda Item 14) – The 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature passed Senate Bill 347, which revises provisions regarding tuition for certain members of the armed forces, removes the requirement to certify the applicant is a citizen to receive a Millennium Scholarship, and removes the Nevada Promise Scholarship award disbursement priority. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3; Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 9 and 11*) intended to comply with the amendatory provisions of Senate Bill 347 (*Ref. ARSA-14 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 Arrascada seconded.

In response to an inquiry from Chair Geddes, Vice Chancellor Abba answered that in general the NSHE institutions have constant discussions with K-12 on the FAFSA application and going forward, those dialogues will also include the recent changes with FAFSA.

13. Approved-Handbook Revision, Residency and Financial Aid Programs (SB347) (Agenda Item 14) – *(continued)*

Motion carried.

14. Information Only-2019-20 NSHE Sponsored Funding Report (Agenda Item 9) – Marcie Jackson, Director of Nevada System Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR, presented highlights from the *2019-20 NSHE Sponsored Funding Annual Report*. The report included information on sponsored programs awards and expenditures for all NSHE institutions (*Refs. ARSA-9a and ARSA-9b on file in the Board Office*).

Ms. Jackson provided a report which included: how Sponsored Funding supports the NSHE Strategic Goals; FY 2016-2020 Total Awarded; Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES); funding distribution of NSHE 2019-2020; total awarded: UNLV, UNR, DRI, NSC, CSN, GBC, TMCC and WNC; intra-system collaborations – FY 2020; proposals submitted and received – FY 2020; and distribution of state special projects matching funds – FY 2020.

Chair Geddes asked for more information about the funding DRI received in 2019-2020. Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President, answered that the funding provided to DRI was for four different projects related to COVID-19 research.

Vice Chair Carter commented that the NSHE community colleges and Nevada State College are doing very well with the percentage of accepted applications. He hoped that would be motivation for the institutions to apply for more grants since the success rate is very high on gaining approval for these types of projects.

Chair Geddes offered two comments: 1) regarding intra-System collaboration, he encouraged the institutions and presidents to continue to work together at every opportunity; and 2) for next year's report, he requested the CARES Act dollars be clearly footnoted in the presentation.

Board Vice Chair Del Carlo observed a significant difference between UNR and UNLV's funding and asked for additional information. Ms. Jackson answered that historically, UNR has always had a higher level of money because of the size of the institution. UNLV has some new leadership coming in and there may be changes in the future.

15. Information Only-New Business – Regent Perkins asked, regarding AB262, if there can be a checkbox on the college applications that delineates tribe affiliation to help track the number of Native American college students in Nevada. She also requested a discussion on students in need of funding on the community college level for immediate recertifications.

Vice Chancellor Abba said a systemwide form will be developed for the Native American fee waiver.

15. Information Only-New Business – *(continued)*

Chair Geddes requested updates on the foster youth fee waiver and corequisite instruction.

16. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 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 September 9-10, 2021, meeting.