

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

Desert Research Institute
Frank H. Rogers Science & Technology Building, Rotunda
755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
Friday, September 10, 2021

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present:

Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Chair
Ms. Amy J. Carvalho, Vice Chair
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Mr. Byron Brooks
Mr. John T. Moran
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Other Regents Present:

Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Board Chair
Dr. Patrick R. Carter, Board Vice Chair
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Dr. Jason Geddes
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Others Present:

Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
and Community Colleges
Dr. Constance Brooks, Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs
and Advancement
Mr. Caleb Cage, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development
and Chief Innovation Officer
Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief General Counsel
Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, Academic & Student Affairs
Ms. Renee Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor and
Director of Student Affairs
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, NSC President
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Dr. Julian Smit, CSN; Dr. Dave Rhode, DRI; Dr. Samantha Jewell, NSC; Mr. Glenn Heath, System Administration; Dr. Virginia Irintcheva, TMCC; Ms. Shannon Sumpter, UNLV; Dr. Amy Pason, UNR; and Mr. Jim Strange, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Ms. Lauren Porter, NSC; Ms. Darian Richards, TMCC; Mr. Austin Brown, UNR-ASUN; Mr. Matthew Hawn, UNR-GSA; and Ms. Andrew Sanchez De Loza, WNC.

Chair Mark W. Doubrava called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present except for Regent Brooks.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the June 11, 2021, meeting (*Ref. HSS-2 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice Chair Carvalho moved approval of the minutes from the June 11, 2021, meeting. Regent Boylan seconded. Motion carried. Regent Brooks was absent.

3. Information Only-UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine Report (Agenda Item 4) – Dr. Marc J. Kahn, Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Kirk Kerkorian 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-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Kahn provided a report which included: announcements regarding the strategic planning for the UNLV Academic Health Center and the collaboration among the five health sciences schools in the community; academic affairs; admissions report; Graduate Medical Education (GME); faculty affairs; research; diversity and inclusion; and development.

Regent Brooks entered the meeting.

Dr. Michael Gardner, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs provided a report which included: UNLV Medicine now conducting business as “UNLV Health”; COVID-19 vaccines and NSHE PODs; clinical affairs; the Practice Plan; network development; partnerships; financial performance; patient satisfaction and employee culture surveys; the implementation of “MyChart”; and payments from UNLV Health to UNLV are current for the first time.

Vice Chair Carvalho asked about the uncompensated care at UMC and if it included the mission support that hasn’t been given to UNLV in the past few years from the federal government. Dr. Gardner said yes and added that funding was cut in July 2018.

3. Information Only-UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine Report (Agenda Item 4) – *(continued)*

Vice Chair Carvalho offered her compliments regarding the current admissions report and asked what the career prospects are for students who complete the Master of Science in Medical Science (MSMS) program. Dean Kahn answered that it is recognized that there are a number of people who have aspirations to become physicians; however, because of factors such as personal circumstances regarding family, finances, etc., those individuals may not have the grades to be eligible for medical school. The MSMS program is designed as an enrichment program to make those particular individuals more competitive in the health sciences industry.

Chair Doubrava provided comments regarding uncompensated care sharing his hope that the NSHE's partners on the Clark County Commission and Hospital Advisory Board will continue to work with the UNLV Kirk Kerkorian School of medicine on this. He also was encouraged by the philanthropic activity and thanked the administration for their work on the \$13.1 million working capital forgiveness.

Regent Perkins asked for more information on the elementary school program that Dean Kahn briefly touched on during his presentation. Dean Kahn said the UNLV School of Education has been leading the charge along with the dental school, nursing school and school of medicine, by reaching out to CCSD to see if assistance is needed with enrichment programs for healthcare. Two elementary schools were chosen to participate in the after-school programs which include science, STEM, STEAM and so forth.

Regent Moran asked who supervises the fellows at UMC and other emergency facilities partnered with the medical school at UNLV. Dr. Gardner confirmed that the supervision of the medical students, fellows and residents falls under the full-time faculty and community faculty at the medical school. All of those supervisors are board certified and Nevada licensed physicians. Regent Moran shared his appreciation for the school of medicine report and commended the ongoing collaboration between the NSHE schools of medicine.

4. Information Only-UNLV School of Dental Medicine Report (Agenda Item 6) – Dr. Lily T. Garcia, Dean, UNLV School of Dental Medicine, provided a report and offered general remarks on activities involving the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, including activities that have occurred under new leadership, best practices, mission alignment within UNLV, and vision moving forward.

Dean Garcia provided updates which included: the May 2021 commencement ceremony held at the Las Vegas Ballpark; clinic activity; Regents who recently toured the school of dental medicine; the July 2021 white coat ceremony and the upcoming white coat ceremony in September 2021; the 20-year anniversary of the dental school in 2022; faculty recruitment efforts; research involving grant submissions and funding; and the admissions report.

5. Information Only-UNR School of Medicine Report – Dr. Melissa Piasecki, Acting Dean of the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, provided a report and offered general remarks on the Medical School (*Ref. HSS-5 on file in the Board Office*).

Dean Emeritus Schwenk thanked the Health Sciences System Committee for the support and good working relationship over the past ten years, and introduced Dr. Melissa Piasecki, Acting Dean of the UNR Med.

Acting Dean Piasecki provided a report which included: general topics regarding COVID-19 updates, awards and highlights, department chair recruitment plans and Renown Health integration issues; Undergraduate Medical Education; GME; clinical network development; research; and partnership opportunities including a VA update.

Vice Chair Carvalho; Regent Del Carlo; Regent Geddes; Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor; and Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President, thanked Dean Emeritus Schwenk for his many years of leadership at the UNR Med and congratulated him on his retirement.

6. Information Only-Chair's Report (Agenda Item 3) – Chair Doubrava mentioned that there were two very important items for the Chair's Report. One is an update on the NSHE and the COVID-19 response which will be provided in Agenda Item 7. The other important item is the recognition of the retirement of Dr. Schwenk. Chair Doubrava publicly expressed gratitude for Dr. Schwenk's ten years of service to the State of Nevada. He also thanked Dr. Schwenk for his dedication and hard work to improve medical education and healthcare in Nevada. Chair Doubrava concluded that all of Nevada, not just UNR, benefitted from Dr. Schwenk's wisdom, leadership, and professionalism.
7. Information Only-NSHE COVID-19 Guidance Overview and Information Update – NSHE COVID-19 Task Force Co-Chair Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel, and Co-Chair Caleb Cage, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Chief Innovation Officer, provided an overview of COVID-19 directives, guidance, and pending issues applicable to NSHE. Additionally, Cheryl Hug-English, M.D., Director, UNR Student Health; Sonja Sibert, Vice President for Business Affairs, 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.

Regent Moran exited the meeting.

Chief General Counsel Reynolds stated he would focus on three things: the timeline overview; a by-the-numbers update on current statistics and also the overall state of play. There have been 50 emergency directives by Governor Sisolak; NSHE transitioned to remote instruction for all eight institutions and to remote work, which was a remarkable feat. He also discussed the emergency

7. Information Only-NSHE COVID-19 Guidance Overview and Information Update
– (continued)

implementations and measures taken by the Board of Regents. Further information was provided related to graduations, new ideas regarding virtual formats, COVID-19 capacity restrictions, testing and the resurgence of the Delta variant. Chief General Counsel Reynolds also provided data by the numbers, self-reporting, COVID-19 Task Force meetings and working with the State on the Web ID program and integration.

Dr. Cheryl Hug-English, Director, UNR Student Health, gave an update on recent COVID-19 developments and responses involving NSHE campuses, communities, and counties. In the 18 months after the first COVID-19 case, the virus continues to challenge and frustrate the global community. Since the update last June, there has been many changes with the Delta variant, surges in case numbers, hospitalizations, deaths, daily cases at 300 percent were seen following Labor Day compared to last year's numbers, and the daily deaths are twice as high as last year. Washoe County continues to be in a high-risk category. Dr. Hug-English noted that on a positive note the vaccination numbers are increasing and that UNR makes every effort to mitigate the spread of the virus with daily vaccinations and PODs. The "Vax the Pack" campaign is one of the many efforts to help increase vaccination as student health and safety is the primary goal. Dr. Hug-English concluded that there is great hope, the means are available and vaccination is the most successful tool.

Sonja Sibert, Vice President, Administration, Great Basin College, provided a brief update on behalf of Dr. Amber Donnelly. Ms. Sibert provided information related to contact tracing, the steady incline of cases in rural counties, after a relatively stable summer, noting that hospitals have seen the overwhelming majority of patients are those that are unvaccinated and community announcements continue to be made to promote getting vaccinated. Additional information was provided regarding transfers to hospitals, tax charges for rural hospitals, straining resources, limited testing, and the 29-39 age group is still the group with the highest rates of the COVID-19 virus.

Adam Garcia, Director, University Police Services, Southern Command, also provided an update on COVID-19 for the Southern Nevada institutions, including COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, the operations and current trends, noting that the 25-49 age group are reporting the highest numbers, followed by the 5-17 age group. Further, Director Garcia provided information about the NSHE as a key partner with the Clark County Health District to support testing and vaccination across the region. The NSHE currently operates four testing sites. Although conditions are improving slowly in Clark County, Director Garcia does anticipate seeing an increase in infection rates after Labor Day gatherings

Chief General Counsel Reynolds clarified on the record about the fluidity of the NSHE employee COVID-19 vaccination rates: earlier in the week,

7. Information Only-NSHE COVID-19 Guidance Overview and Information Update
– (continued)

the vaccination numbers overall were an improvement and the numbers at UNR increased to 64.2 percent for all employees.

Chancellor Rose thanked the experts who presented the COVID-19 update and commended the professionalism, commitment, and care across the NSHE regarding the efforts to fight COVID-19.

Chief General Counsel Reynolds discussed topics and addressed questions from Board Vice Chair Carter, Regent Brooks and Regent Del Carlo regarding: NSHE employee vaccination data; vaccination exemption procedures including updating the forms through the State Board of Health, accessibility to the forms and financial responsibility for weekly COVID-19 testing for the exempt; potential impact on the NSHE community of vaccination mandates; and liability in relation to adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccines.

8. Information Only-New Business – None.

9. Information Only-Public Comment – Kent Ervin, UNR/ Nevada Faculty Alliance, thanked everyone for the information presented and expressed his appreciation for the communication.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 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 3-4, 2022, meeting.