

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ad hoc CHIEF OF STAFF AND SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD
SEARCH COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room
Thursday, September 30, 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. Patrick R. Carter, Chair
 Dr. Jason Geddes, Vice Chair
 Mr. Byron Brooks
 Mr. John T. Moran
 Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Members Absent: Mrs. Carol Del Carlo

Other Regents Present: Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
 Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
 Ms. Amy Carvalho
 Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Board Chair

Others Present: Ms. Yvonne Nevarez-Goodson, Deputy General Counsel
 Ms. Keri Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
 Ms. Sherry Olson, Director of Human Resources
 Ms. Tina Russom, Deputy General Counsel

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m. with all members present except Regent Del Carlo.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

The following individuals provided written public comment in support of Neil A. Rombardo:

- Peter Etchart (*Etchart.Peter09.30.21 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Paul LaMarca (*LaMarca.Paul09.30.21 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Keith Marcher (*Marcher.Keith09.30.21 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Colleen Platt (*Platt.Colleen09.30.21 on file in the Board Office.*)

2. Approved – Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the August 16, 2021, meeting. (*Ref. COS-2 on file in the Board Office.*)

Regent Perkins moved approval of the August 16, 2021, meeting minutes. Regent Brooks seconded.

Regent Moran stated that page five of the minutes created a scenario that the search was failed and not that it was expanded. If the search was failed, he would be in favor of approving the minutes as written. He asked if the search was failed or do the minutes describe the expansion of the search.

Deputy General Counsel Tina Russom clarified there was a motion to fail the search, the search was not expanded, and then the search was reopened, but the parameters were not extended. Chair Carter agreed.

Motion carried. Regent Del Carlo was absent.

3. Information Only – Chair’s Report – Chair Carter stated the search received applicants from across the state representing several different areas. He believed the Committee has a great pool of highly qualified candidates to select from. Chair Carter noted he had staff send out the criteria to look at when ranking candidates. He will ask each Committee member to provide their top three candidates in no particular order.
4. Approved – Review of Semi-Finalist Candidates and Selection of Finalists – The Committee selected Lisa V. Logsdon, James J. Martines, Debra L. Pieruschka, and Neil A. Rombardo as finalists for interview by Committee at a future meeting.

At the June 30, 2021, meeting, the Committee charged Chair Carter, in consultation with Committee staff, to bring seven to 10 semi-finalist candidates to the Committee for review and consideration. The semi-finalist candidates are:

- Chris Davis (*Ref. COS-4a on file in the Board Office.*)
- Lisa V. Logsdon (*Ref. COS-4b on file in the Board Office.*)
- James J. Martines (*Ref. COS-4c on file in the Board Office.*)
- Debra L. Pieruschka (*Ref. COS-4d on file in the Board Office.*)
- Neil A. Rombardo (*Ref. COS-4e on file in the Board Office.*)
- Stephen F. Smith (*Ref. COS-4f on file in the Board Office.*)
- Phil W. Su (*Ref. COS-4g on file in the Board Office.*)
- Marla Zlotek (*Ref. COS-4h on file in the Board Office.*)

Chair Carter requested each Committee member provide three candidates they would like to move forward for interviews.

Regent Moran asked if the six semi-finalists’ applications from the previous search came in after submitting the new job announcement. If the six semi-finalists submitted their materials under a failed search, not under the current search, the process would be tainted. Regent Moran did not feel it was appropriate to consider candidates that did not submit their applications after the new notification period. As a result of a tainted process, he believed the only thing that the Committee could do was fail the search

4. Approved – Review of Semi-Finalist Candidates and Selection of Finalists – (Continued)

again, re-notice the search and allow all applicants to submit after the new notification date. It is important that the Committee not violate its codes, regulations, and procedures.

Regent Moran moved to discontinue the search as a result of it being tainted and fail the search. In addition, he moved that the search be re-noticed.

Chair Carter noted that the motion to fail the search at the last meeting did include moving the six candidates forward. As a result, the six candidates moved forward, and additional candidates were added to the list.

Deputy General Counsel Russom stated a dialogue with Director of Human Resources Sherry Olson on page six of the minutes of the August 16, 2021, meeting reflects that if the search failed, the status of the semi-finalists would be maintained in the new search. She did not believe the process had been tainted. It was her understanding that Open Meeting Law waivers were received from all the semi-finalists and they were noticed appropriately.

Regent Moran disagreed. He believed the Committee was violating the public's trust by moving forward.

Chair Carter stated there was a motion on the floor and asked if there was a second.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Regent Moran believed the individuals' time had been wasted. He could not participate in something that was tainted. Therefore, he would recuse himself from the matter and not vote.

Chair Carter asked if a quorum of the Committee was still present. Interim Chief of Staff Keri D. Nikolajewski responded yes.

Vice Chair Geddes provided his top three semi-finalists:

- James J. Martines
- Debra L. Pieruschka
- Neil A. Rombardo

Regent Brooks provided his top three semi-finalists:

- Lisa V. Logsdon
- James J. Martines
- Debra L. Pieruschka

Regent Perkins provided her top three semi-finalists:

- Debra L. Pieruschka
- Stephen F. Smith
- Phil W. Su

4. Approved – Review of Semi-Finalist Candidates and Selection of Finalists – *(Continued)*

Chair Carter provided his top three semi-finalists:

- Lisa V. Logsdon
- Debra L. Pieruschka
- Neil A. Rombardo

Special Assistant and Coordinator Angela R. Palmer provided the tabulation results:

(Tabulation chart on file in the Board Office.)

- Lisa V. Logsdon – 2 votes
- James J. Martines – 2 votes
- Debra L. Pieruschka – 4 votes
- Neil A. Rombardo – 2 votes
- Stephen F. Smith – 1 vote
- Phil W. Su – 1 vote

Chair Carter asked if the Committee preferred to move the top four semi-finalists forward or reduce the number to three semi-finalists.

Regent Brooks stated that since the tabulation was so close, he would like to see the top four be invited to interview.

Regent Brooks moved to approve Lisa V. Logsdon, James J. Martines, Debra L. Pieruschka, and Neil A. Rombardo as finalists for interview by the Committee at a future meeting. Regent Perkins seconded.

Regent Brooks clarified that all applicants understand that they will work out of the System Administration, Las Vegas Office no matter where they live.

Regent Moran left the meeting.

Chair Carter stated that was his understanding.

Interim Chief of Staff Nikolajewski stated Director Olson had spoken with the candidates with respect to the location of the position.

Director Olson stated each of the semi-finalists did indicate they would be willing to relocate to Las Vegas.

Motion carried via a roll call vote. Chair Carter, Vice Chair Geddes, and Regents Brooks and Perkins voted yes. Regents Del Carlo and Moran were absent.

5. Information Only – New Business – Regent Perkins stated all the semi-finalist candidates had excellent qualifications and she appreciated the hard work that was done to bring these candidates forward to the Committee.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Geddes about tentative meetings dates, Chair Carter stated the tentative meeting date is October 21, 2021. As soon as the date is finalized, the Regents will be notified.

Chair Carter agreed that the candidate pool was excellent.

6. Information Only – Public Comment

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Prepared by:

Angela R. Palmer
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 December 2-3, 2021, meeting.