

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

Nevada State College
Rogers Student Center, Ballroom
1300 Nevada State Drive #300, Henderson
Thursday, March 3, 2022

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. Jason Geddes, Chair
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Vice Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Dr. Mark W. Doubrava
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Other Regents Present:

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

Others Present:

Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
and Community Colleges
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
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, Associate Vice Chancellor for
Academic & Student Affairs
Ms. Yvonne Nevarez-Goodson, Deputy General Counsel
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, GBC President
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, NSC President
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President

Others Present: Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President
Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, WNC Officer in Charge

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Dr. Julian Smit, CSN; Dr. Dave Rhode, DRI; Dr. Kevin Seipp, GBC; 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: Mr. Zachary Johnigan, CSN; Mr. Zachary Stamp, GBC; Ms. Lauren Porter, NSC; Ms. Darian Richards, TMCC; Ms. Caren Yap, UNLV-CSUN; Ms. Nicole Thomas, UNLV-GPSA; Mr. Austin Brown, UNR-ASUN; Mr. Matthew Hawn, UNR-GSA; and Ms. Andrea Sanchez De Loza, WNC.

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

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Nicole Thomas, UNLV-GPSA, and Amber Williams offered comments and support regarding graduate assistantship and stipends (Agenda Item 13).
2. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the consent items.
 - (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2021, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board Office*).
 - (2b.) Approved-NSC – Program Deactivation, BS Psychology – The Committee recommended approval of NSC’s request to deactivate the Bachelor of Science in Psychology due to significant course overlap with the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. The Bachelor of Arts in Psychology will be retained. During the five-year deactivation period the institution will consider if the Bachelor of Science program can be redesigned to better fit the original intention of preparing students for graduate school and/or research-focused careers (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board Office*).
 - (2c.) Approved-CSN – Program Elimination, AAS Facility Maintenance and Manufacturing – The Committee recommended CSN’s request to eliminate the Associate of Applied Science in Facility Maintenance and Manufacturing due low student enrollment (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board Office*).

Regent Perkins moved approval of the consent items. Regent Arrascada seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-Regents' Awards – Pursuant to Board policy, Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 17-20, the Committee recommended approval of the following individuals nominated for the 2022 Regents' Awards (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board Office*).
 - a. Nevada Regents' Creative Activities Award
Stephanie Espinoza Villamor, CSN – (Community College)
Michael Branch, UNR – (University, State College)
 - b. Nevada Regents' Teaching Award
Dr. Rebecca Bevans, WNC – Tenured Track (Community College)
Heather Lang-Cassera, NSC – Non-Tenured/Tenured Track
(Universities, State College and DRI)
Dr. Matthew Leone, UNR – Tenured/Tenured Track
(Universities, State College and DRI)
 - c. Nevada Regents' Academic Advisor Award
Courtney Schachter, TMCC – (Community College)
Le Quanda Cole, UNLV – (Undergraduate – Universities, State College)
Dr. Wilfredo de Ráfols, UNR – (Graduate – Universities, State College and DRI)
 - d. Nevada Regents' Researcher Award
Dr. Steven Hayes, UNR – (Distinguished)
Dr. Jamie Voyles, UNR – (Mid-Career)
 - e. Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award
Dr. Katherine Durante, NSC
Dr. Benjamin Hatchett, DRI
Dr. Allyson Hindle, UNLV
Dr. Elizabeth Koebele, UNR
Dr. Feng Yan, UNR

Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges, presented the Regents' Awards nominees and provided a brief overview of the policy regarding the Regents' Rising Researcher Award.

Regent Perkins moved approval of the nominees for the Regents' Awards including authorization to exceed the limitation on nominations for the Rising Researcher Award currently provided in Board policy. Regent Arrascada seconded.

Chair Geddes noted for clarification that the institutions will fund the stipend for its additional Regents' Rising Researcher awardees.

Motion carried.

4. Approved-Handbook Revision, Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18, Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards. Currently, Board policy provides for an annual Regents' Rising Researcher Award to be given to one NSHE faculty at UNLV, UNR, NSC and DRI in recognition of early-career accomplishments and potential for future advancement and recognition in research. The proposed policy revision will provide for up to three awards per institution to allow for recognition of early career research in various disciplines. Funding for the Regents' Rising Researcher Awards is provided by the individual institution (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the proposal.

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

Regent Arrascada inquired about the institutions having the means to fund the Regents' Rising Researcher awards. Vice Chancellor Abba confirmed that it is discretionary, so the institutions would bring forward what they can afford.

Motion carried.

5. UNR – Program Proposals, Sierra Nevada University Program Teach Out – The Committee recommended approval of UNR's request of the following program proposals related to the teach out of Sierra Nevada University (SNU) students resulting from the UNR acquisition of SNU.

- a) Bachelor of Arts in Education (*Ref. ARSA-5a on file in the Board Office*);
- b) Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T), Education (*Ref. ARSA-5b on file in the Board Office*); and
- c) Master of Education (M.Ed), English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD) (*Ref. ARSA-5c on file in the Board Office*).

These proposals meet the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) requirements to teach out SNU students. No additional students will be admitted to these programs. These programs will not be subject to the first, third, and fifth year program review required pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 6.

Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, UNR Executive Vice President and Provost; and Dean, College of Science, provided a brief overview of the program proposals.

Regent Arrascada moved approval of the program proposals regarding the Sierra Nevada University Program Teach Out.

5. UNR – Program Proposals, Sierra Nevada University Program Teach Out –
(continued)

Regent Perkins seconded.

Regent Arrascada and Dr. Thompson discussed the following topics: SNU leasing spaces in Reno and Henderson for students in the proposed degree programs (options to attend classes virtually and in-person) and the 2024 expiration date for those leases which UNR will not renew; UNR's commitment to meet the demands for teachers in the Clark and Washoe counties, and the ongoing planning with UNR, other NSHE institutions and the two counties; and the currently enrolled students having a path forward to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

Regent Perkins commended Dr. Thompson and his team for their work on the presentation and program proposals.

Motion carried.

6. Approved-CSN – Program Proposal, BAS Environmental Conservation – The Committee recommended approval of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Conservation at CSN. The BAS in Environmental Conservation will provide a distinctive baccalaureate degree pathway for students who attained an Associate of Applied Science. The program is a non-calculus and non-graduate school track that is focused on technician level skills. Graduates will attain skills for employment as a technician in support of a qualified biologist within this growing field (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board Office*).

Mr. James McCoy, CSN Vice President of Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair McAdoo moved approval of a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Conservation at CSN.
Regent Perkins seconded.

Regent Perkins asked about student enrollment expectations and what the growth opportunity is for the degree. Dr. Douglas Sims, Dean for the School of Math and Science, CSN, said currently there is a pipeline degree, an AAS in Environmental Management, and there are 167 students presently enrolled in the program. There is also a list of 186 students (information obtained through student interviews at CSN), who are interested in the proposed BAS in Environmental Conservation.

Motion carried.

7. Approved-CSN – Program Proposal, BAS Environmental Laboratory Sciences – The Committee recommended approval of CSN’s request for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Laboratory Sciences. The BAS in Environmental Laboratory Sciences will provide technician level credentials so that graduates attain skills for employment in a commercial environmental laboratory setting (*Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board Office*).

Vice President McCoy provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Chair Geddes moved approval of a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Laboratory Sciences at CSN. Vice Chair McAdoo seconded.

Chair Geddes shared his appreciation for the program and commented that there is a large need for it in the Nevada communities.

Regent Perkins inquired about student enrollment for the program. Dr. Sims answered that in addition to the 167 students in the pipeline, there are also an additional 96 students showing interest.

Regent Arrascada asked if there will be opportunities for increasing the size of enrollment should there be a great number of students interested in taking the program. Dr. Sims and Vice President McCoy confirmed that currently the program is limited entry; however, if the demand should grow and dependent on the resources, faculty and space on campus, the opportunity to expand the program would be discussed with CSN leadership.

Motion carried.

8. Approved-TMCC – Program Proposal, AS Data Science – The Committee recommended approval of TMCC’s request for an Associate of Science in Data Science. The AS in Data Science is a general transfer degree that includes curriculum in mathematics, science, data literacy and analysis, programming, and general education for transfer to a four-year institution. The degree will prepare students for entry-level data analyst positions (*Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Jeffrey Alexander, TMCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Perkins moved approval of an Associate of Science in Data Science at TMCC. Vice Chair McAdoo seconded.
Motion carried.

9. Approval-TMCC – Program Proposal, Bachelor of Architecture (B.ARCH) – The Committee recommended approval of TMCC’s request for a Bachelor of Architecture. The B.Arch degree combines the knowledge and depth of both STEM and CTE fields of study. The degree builds upon an existing skills certificate, an AAS in Architecture aligning with the accreditation requirements as defined by the National Architectural Accrediting Board and state requirements for licensure (*Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. Alexander provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent Arrascada moved approval of a Bachelor of Architecture at TMCC. Vice Chair McAdoo seconded.

Regent Carvalho asked if differential fees are considered when program proposals are presented to the Committee. Vice Chancellor Abba answered that differential fees do not come to the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee for consideration, those are presented to the full Board. She clarified that the Committee focuses on the academic program itself and differential fees are considered within a separate purview. Dr. Alexander added that at this time, TMCC has no plans for differential fees for the B.ARCH program.

Motion carried.

10. Approved-WNC – Program Change, AAS Paramedicine – The Committee recommended approval of WNC’s request to change the current Certificate of Achievement in Paramedicine to an Associate of Applied Science in Paramedicine. This change will allow WNC to meet industry requirements of an associate degree or higher for job placement around the country, advancement within EMS agencies, and to meet National EMS Educational Standards (*Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board Office*).

Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, Officer in Charge, WNC, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Chair Geddes commented about a similar program being closed at TMCC due to low enrollment and asked if the leadership teams at WNC and TMCC have touched base about this. Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President, answered that TMCC and WNC have discussed and collaborated on the program proposal and TMCC fully supports it.

Chair Geddes asked a follow-up question regarding how the program at WNC differentiates from the program at TMCC. WNC Officer in Charge Dalpe answered that WNC is a rural-serving institution supporting six counties and there is a great need for public safety and allied health programs such as the currently proposed program.

10. Approved-WNC – Program Change, AAS Paramedicine – (continued)

Chair Geddes requested to include the three- and five-year reviews for this program in the motion.

Regent Arrascada moved approval of changing the Certificate of Achievement in Paramedicine to an Associate of Applied Science in Paramedicine at WNC, and to include the program in the three- and five-year reviews. Regent Perkins seconded.

Vice Chancellor Abba clarified that although a program change typically would not be subject to the three- and five-year reviews in which Chair Geddes is requesting, there is no language that would preclude the proposed program from being subject to the reviews per Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 6, with respect to regular review within the next ten years.

Motion carried.

11. Approved-WNC – Program Proposal, AAS Fire Science – The Committee recommended approval of WNC’s request for an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science. The program is designed to meet the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) and National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards. The program will train and prepare entry-level firefighters for local, regional, and national fire agencies (Ref. ARSA-11 on file in the Board Office).

WNC Officer in Charge Dalpe provided a brief overview of the proposal and confirmed that discussions between WNC and TMCC have taken place with regard to the program proposal.

Vice Chair McAdoo moved approval of an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

12. Information Only-History of the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program – The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program is a state-supported, merit-based program established in 1999. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Renee Davis presented a history of the program, including changes over the program’s history in initial and continuing eligibility requirements, award distribution, and program outcomes (Ref. ARSA-12 on file in the Board Office).

Associate Vice Chancellor Davis’ GGMS presentation included: history and background of the program, program funding, eligible institutions, initial and continuing student eligibility, utilization, award amounts and distribution,

12. Information Only-History of the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program – (continued)

and program outcomes.

Vice Chair McAdoo, Regent Carvalho and Associate Vice Chancellor Davis discussed the six-year timespan for the GGMS students and GGMS eligibility applying to undergraduate students only.

13. Information Only-Graduate Assistantships and Stipends – UNLV Vice Provost of Graduate Education Kate Korgan and UNR Vice Provost of Graduate Education David Zeh presented information on graduate student assistantships. Information included graduate enrollment trends, diversity impacts, graduate assistant roles, funding, rental costs, and stipend comparisons against peer and aspirant institutions (*Ref. ARSA-13 on file in the Board Office*).

The Committee; Regent Del Carlo; Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President; Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Executive President and Provost; UNLV Vice Provost Korgan; UNR Vice Provost Zeh; and Nicole Thomas, UNLV-GPSA, discussed and addressed the following topics: exploring external resources to fund the stipends for graduate assistants such as grant writing workshops to aid in grant applications, donor support and paid internship opportunities; the importance of R1 status in terms of maintaining and growing graduate students; funding for DRI graduate students; improvements that can be made on a policy-level to assist with increasing funding; and the history of graduate student funding at the legislative level.

Chair Geddes requested additional information be sent to the Board as a follow-up regarding the budgets for the UNLV and UNR graduate assistant stipends.

14. Information Only-New Business – None.

15. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Kent Ervin, UNR; Taissa Lytchenko, UNR-GSA; and Kingkini Sengupta, UNR-GSA, shared their concerns regarding the minimal funding for graduate students and supported an increase in graduate student stipends.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 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 9-10, 2022, meeting.