

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

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Ballroom
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas
Thursday, December 1, 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. Carol Del Carlo, Vice Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Other Regents Present:

Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Board Vice Chair
Mr. Byron Brooks
Dr. Mark W. Doubrava
Mr. John T. Moran
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Others Present:

Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board
Ms. Renée Davis, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic &
Student Affairs and Community Colleges
Mr. James Martines, Chief General Counsel and
Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs
Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, Academic & Student Affairs
Ms. Danielle Donato, Senior Learning Concierge,
Academic & Student Affairs
Ms. Lynda King, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director of Government Relations
Mr. David Singleton, Academic and Transfer Policy Analyst
Ms. Rosalie Bordelove, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, NSC President
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President
Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, WNC Interim President

Others Present:

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Ms. Tracy Sherman, CSN; Dr. Brittany Kruger, DRI; Mr. Kevin Seipp, GBC; Dr. Christine Beaudry, NSC; Mr. Ed Boog, System Administration; Dr. Amy Cavanaugh, TMCC; Dr. Rhonda Montgomery, UNLV; Dr. Eric Marchand, UNR; and Mr. Jim Strange, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Ms. Yvette Machado, CSN; Ms. Tessa Espinosa, NSC; Mr. John Fenton, TMCC; Ms. Nicole Thomas, UNLV-GPSA; Ms. Dionne Stanfill, UNR-ASUN; Mr. Matthew Hawn, UNR-GSA; and Ms. Suzanna Stankute, WNC.

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

1. Approved-Consent Items (Agenda Item 2) – The Committee recommended approval of the consent items.
 - (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the September 8, 2022, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board office*).
 - (2b.) Approved-Handbook Revision, Disclosure of Student Education Records and Directory Information – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 28*) to include System Administration units as “school officials” under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC Sec. 1232g (FERPA) to align with current practice (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board office*).

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of the consent items. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried.
2. Information Only-Public Comment (Agenda Item 1) – None.
3. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, MA Teaching Elementary Education (M.A.T.E.E.) – The Committee recommended approval of a Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (M.A.T.E.E.) at UNLV. The M.A.T.E.E. degree is designed for prospective teachers who are not yet licensed. The current M.Ed. program will remain and continue to prepare licensed content teachers. The M.A.T.E.E. degree moves an existing sub-plan of the M.Ed. into a new separate degree to better support and prepare students for professional licensing in elementary education (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board office*).

Dr. Chris Heavey, UNLV Executive Vice President and Provost, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of a Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education at UNLV. Regent McAdoo seconded.

3. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, MA Teaching Elementary Education (M.A.T.E.E.) – (continued)

In response to an inquiry from Chair Geddes, UNLV College of Education Dean Danica Hays, said part of the efforts in establishing this program is to facilitate the teacher pathways in terms of looking at options that allow for initial licensure pathways that do not require a lot of barriers. Currently, the masters programs offered at UNLV are excellent for those seeking advanced practice; however, there is not a clear pathway for those seeking initial licensure that do not come from education as a background – the goal is to continue to streamline so that teaching becomes an attractive degree program. Dr. Heavey added that the program proposal also allows students to return if they want additional advancement in the profession.

Regent Arrascada was impressed with the proposal, specifically how having the M.A.T.E.E. and M.Ed. separate will allow each program to focus more on its unique student populations (pre-service vs. in-service teachers).

Motion carried.

4. Approval-UNLV – Program Proposal, MA Teaching Secondary Education (M.A.T.S.E.) – The Committee recommended approval of a Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Education (M.A.T.S.E.) at UNLV. The M.A.T.S.E. degree is designed for prospective teachers who are not yet licensed. The current M.Ed. program will remain and continue to prepare licensed content teachers. The M.A.T.S.E. degree moves an existing sub-plan of the M.Ed. into a new separate degree to better support and prepare students for professional licensing in secondary education (Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board office).

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Regent McAdoo moved approval of
a Master of Arts in Teaching
Secondary Education at UNLV.
Regent McMichael seconded.

Regent Arrascada asked for more information on the program's FTE in 2023 and moving forward. Dr. Heavey answered although there is the staffing capacity to accommodate a larger number of students, there is currently a small number of students pursuing the concentration; however, there are outreach plans in place to increase the demand for the program. Dean Hays added that part of the program proposal is to reduce the barriers to secondary education and there is a strong belief that the program will attract the many students who do not fit in the current boxes for the existing master's program.

Motion carried.

5. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, Ph.D. Water Resources – The Committee recommended approval of a Doctor of Philosophy in Water Resources, an interdisciplinary degree to be housed in the Graduate College at UNLV. The purpose of the proposed Ph.D. program is to prepare students from a wide range of academic backgrounds to address water-related issues of local, national, and global importance. The program will be a technically and scientifically based program that blends the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of water resources with public health, policy, and management. The program will incorporate the existing M.S. Water Resources Management degree (*Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board office*).

Dr. Heavey and Dr. Rama Venkat, UNLV Dean of Engineering, provided a brief overview of the program proposal.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of a Doctor of Philosophy in Water Resources at UNLV. Regent McAdoo seconded.

In response to an inquiry from Chair Geddes, Dean Venkat confirmed there is a professor available on campus who specializes in Water Law and there will be courses offered on policy and law pertaining to water resources. Dr. Heavey and Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President, highlighted UNLV and DRI's collaboration and partnership on the proposed program.

Vice Chair Del Carlo and Regent McAdoo shared their experiences with prayers for rain from members of Native American tribes at community events and NSHE events. They commended the collaboration among the NSHE institutions and community partners in creating the program proposal and noted the critical need for such a program as the water shortage crisis persists.

Motion carried.

6. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/Academic Master Plan – The Committee recommended approval of the 2023-2027 *Planning Report* that highlights the institutional plans for the next four years for each NSHE institution, including plans for new academic programs, student services and research initiatives (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board office*).

Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, presented the 2023-2027 *Planning Report* – Institutional Academic, Research, and Student Services Plans.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of the 2023-2027 *Planning Report*. Regent McAdoo seconded.

Regent Arrascada offered his compliments on the report.

Motion carried.

7. Information Only-New and Existing Program Review – Senior Analyst for Academic and Student Affairs Terina Caserto presented the first, third and fifth year new academic program reviews and the report on institutional reviews of existing programs as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 5*). In addition, representatives of UNLV and CSN presented reviews conducted for at least one program at their respective institutions. The presentations included the process for evaluating existing programs generally, indications of quality, whether programs are meeting employer expectations, improvements in student learning outcomes, and any action steps identified based on the review of programs and the status of such action steps (*Refs. ARSA-7a, ARSA-7b, ARSA-7c and ARSA-7d on file in the Board office*).

Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst, presented the annual first, third and fifth year new academic program reviews and the annual report on institutional reviews of existing programs.

Chair Geddes asked for information on when a program becomes low yield. Ms. Caserto answered that the low yield program report is released annually, and the institutions are contacted to determine if there is a plan to bring the program up to par.

Dr. Heavey presented on UNLV's existing program review process in the context of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Dr. James McCoy, CSN Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, accompanied by Ms. Maria Schellhase, CSN Business Administration Department Chair, presented on the CSN program review process through the lens of the Real Estate Program.

Chair Geddes, Regent McAdoo, Regent Perkins and Dr. Heavey addressed and discussed the following topics: the high retention rate for UNLV's BA in Psychology and how that is attributed to active retention campaigns and heavy engagement from UNLV leadership with students; the inclusion of "strengths" and "growth improvement" information and how those pieces are essential to a review process; and the students' request for more statistics courses.

Regent Del Carlo, Regent McMichael, Regent Perkins, Regent Carvalho, Ms. Caserto, Dr. McCoy and Ms. Schellhase addressed and discussed the following topics: the issue of students being unable to declare a skills certificate as a program of study in Nevada and one of the main reasons being those skills certificates are not financial-aid eligible programs; the Real Estate Skills Certificate is a pre-licensing skills certificate that prepares students to sit for the Nevada Real Estate Division test; and the amount of work and hours that go into the program reviews to improve the student learning experience.

8. MGM College Opportunity Program – Adopted by the Board of Regents in September 2018, with initial enrollment beginning in Fall 2019, the MGM College Opportunity Program (MGM COP) allows eligible MGM Resorts International employees from across the United States to enroll in select online degree programs at NSHE institutions.

8. MGM College Opportunity Program – *(continued)*

- (8a.) Information Only-NSHE Report – NSHE Senior Learning Concierge Danielle Donato presented a report on the MGM College Opportunity Program (MGM COP) including background information; the number and characteristics of participants in the program since its inception; and information on persistence and degree/certificate completion (*Refs. ARSA-8a1 and ARSA-8a2 on file in the Board office*).
- (8b.) Information Only-UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs Research – Representatives from UNLV’s Greenspun College of Urban Affairs presented a program evaluation of the MGM COP carried out by the MGM Resorts Public Policy Institute. The presentation focused on participant survey results, including perceptions about the COP; personal and work-related benefits of the program; and recommendations (*Ref. ARSA-8b on file in the Board office*).
- (8c.) Approved-Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Adopted by the Board of Regents in September 2018, the original MOU has reached its expiration date. The Committee recommended approval of a new MOU that retains the basic terms of the original agreement and adds a provision to continue coverage for Mirage employees once ownership of that property transitions from MGM Resorts International to Hard Rock International.

Acting Chancellor Erquiaga introduced a collaborative presentation highlighting the MGM College Opportunity Program (MGM COP).

Ms. Danielle Donato, Senior Learning Concierge, provided a status report on the MGM COP which included: background; implementation; NSHE Senior Learning Concierge; participant enrollment – Fall 2019 to Spring 2022; participant residency status in Fall 2021; participant race/ethnicity and gender in Fall 2021; degrees pursued and persistence rates; graduates; revenue report; and goals for the upcoming year.

Regent Arrascada inquired about the COP participants’ work schedules and if there is any change to it once enrolled in the program. Ms. Donato answered that MGM employees can pursue up to three classes or ten credits per semester for a work and school balance as set forth by the employer. She added that all the degree programs are completely online.

Dr. Robert Ulmer, UNLV Dean of the College of Urban Affairs, and Dr. E. Lee Bernick, UNLV Public Policy and Leadership, provided a program evaluation of the MGM COP which included: overview of the program at UNLV; information sources; perceptions about the COP; personal and work-related benefits; and recommendations.

8. MGM College Opportunity Program – *(continued)*

Chair Geddes asked for information regarding counseling and program pathways for MGM employees participating in the COP. Ms. Donato shared that she connects the COP students with the learning concierges available on their campuses for curriculum guidance.

Ms. Donato confirmed for Vice Chair Del Carlo that there is a learning concierge available at each institution and that the institutions fund those positions.

Ms. Renée Davis, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges provided an overview of the MOU.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of the MOU renewal with the NSHE and MGM Resorts International for the College Opportunity Program. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried.

9. Information Only-New Business – Vice Chair Del Carlo requested an update on the me3 Career Exploration Tool. Regent McAdoo recommended that me3 be presented to the full Board at a future meeting since there will be five new Regents starting in 2023.

Regent Perkins requested staff to investigate graduating fees for the MGM COP – more students, more discounts offered.

Chair Geddes requested staff to look into streamlining MOUs among the NSHE institutions.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – Vice Chair Del Carlo commented that Chair Geddes' heart and soul have been in the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee for many years. She thanked him for his commitment and dedication on the Committee and as a Regent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 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 10, 2023, meeting.