

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

System Administration, Las Vegas  
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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:

Mr. Byron Brooks, Chair  
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Vice Chair  
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan  
Mrs. Susan Brager  
Ms. Heather Brown  
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho  
Dr. Michelee Cruz-Crawford  
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo  
Mr. Jeffrey S. Downs  
Ms. Stephanie Goodman  
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.  
Ms. Laura E. Perkins  
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Others Present:

Mr. Dale A.R. Erquiaga, Acting Chancellor  
Dr. Natalie Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Workforce  
Development and Community Colleges  
Ms. Patty Charlton, Acting Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student  
Affairs and Community Colleges  
Mr. Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. James J. Martinez, Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel  
Ms. Keri Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board  
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President, CSN  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI  
Ms. Joyce M. Helens, President, GBC  
Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President, NSC  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC  
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President, UNLV

Others Present: *(Continued)*  
Mr. Brian Sandoval, President, UNR  
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President, WNC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Ms. Tracy Sherman, CSN (*Chair, Council of Faculty Senate Chairs*); Dr. Christine Beaudry, NSC; Mr. Ed Boog, SA; Dr. Amy Cavanaugh, TMCC; Dr. Eric Marchand, UNR; and Ms. Rachelle Bassen, WNC. Student body president in attendance was Mr. Kevin Osorio Hernández, NSSA President, NSC.

Deputy Attorney General Chricy Harris was also in attendance.

*Land Acknowledgment*

*Before beginning, we take a moment to recognize that here in Nevada we stand on the land of the Wa She Shu – Washoe; Numu – Northern Paiute; Nuwe – Western Shoshone; and Nuwu – Southern Paiute. We take a moment to recognize and honor their stewardship that continues into today. With this recognition, we state an intention to rightfully include their voice and respect them as the 27 sovereign tribal nations of Nevada.*

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all members present except Regents Cruz-Crawford and Perkins. Regent Brager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

The following individual provided written public comment in favor of equity, diversity, and inclusion for all:

- Angela Brown (*Brown.Angela05.16.23 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individuals provided in-person or written public comment related to Agenda Item 2, 2023-25 Biennial Budget Briefing, including the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and other faculty compensation for NSHE employees:

- Kent Ervin (*Ervin.Kent05.16.23 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Linda Gannon (*Gannon.Linda05.16.23 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Shantel Marshall
- Jim New
- Doug Unger (*Unger.Doug05.16.23 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individual provided in-person public comment related to pandemic budget restorations, increases in graduate student stipends, faculty Cost of Living Adjustments, and the utilization of student fees as a funding mechanism:

- Amanda Vaskov

2. Information Only – 2023-25 Biennial Budget Briefing – Acting Chancellor Dale A.R. Erquiaga and Chief Financial Officer Andrew Clinger provided an update on the status of the 2023-25 Biennial Budget Request, including the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) being considered during the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature. In addition, each President presented the budgetary impacts of the proposed COLA and how their respective institution would implement the COLA if it were ultimately adopted. (*Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office.*)

2. Information Only – 2023-25 Biennial Budget Briefing – (Continued)

Regent Cruz-Crawford entered the meeting.

Regent Goodman stated in 2019 the Legislature made an error that it did not correct. Now, NSHE is the only agency receiving COLA funding at 65 percent rather than the 80 percent that the other agencies are receiving. It is frustrating to discuss raising fees and implementing furloughs because of the Legislature's error.

In response to a question from Regent Carvalho related to differences between the reference material and the *Procedures and Guidelines Manual*, Chief Financial Officer Clinger responded that the numbers do not match because in the reference material he is only using the portion of the student fee that goes to the State Operating Budget.

Regent Del Carlo agreed with the Public Comment that NSHE would gain and lose simultaneously. The conversation is unsettling because the Legislature created this, which has not been fixed.

Regent Brager stated providing a united front will make a difference. Education is essential and needs to be adequately funded to show Nevada is a state that values education. Regent Brager added that placing this burden on the students is not correct.

Regent Boylan believed NSHE would be in trouble if it did not start tightening its belts. There must be an employment freeze instead of burdening the students.

Regent Perkins entered the meeting.

Each President presented the budgetary impacts of the proposed COLA and how their respective institution would implement the COLA if it were ultimately adopted.

Regent Downs stated he appreciates Governor Joe Lombardo and the Nevada Legislature for funding NSHE and the COLAs. He asked the Legislature to restore the funding as proposed by the Governor. Regardless of how the money is supplied, NSHE must fund this COLA. He has heard theories about distrust between the Legislature and NSHE, and it would be nice to find time to resolve those issues. His understanding, and he is not sure it is correct, is that this started when NSHE asked to keep its student fees rather than send them to the General Fund and have the Legislature return them to NSHE. He asked those with institutional knowledge if he was correct.

Regent Downs stated he is frustrated with the methodology of how institutions are funded. A funding formula was developed during a past session that changed how schools were funded by removing the rural factor and creating a structure through which four-year schools could get progressively compensated by offering higher-level classes. Schools like Western Nevada College and Nevada State College adjusted their course offerings and delivery methods to comply with the priorities set by the Legislature in the funding formula.

2. Information Only – 2023-25 Biennial Budget Briefing – (Continued)

The Legislature has effectively ignored the formula by reducing the Governor's proposed funding to smaller schools while larger schools receive over the Governor's recommendation. Regent Downs added that he would not advocate for any institution receiving less. Still, smaller schools do not deserve to be penalized for adhering to the formula priorities established by the Legislature.

Finally, Regent Downs suggested that at future legislative sessions, NSHE use one set of lobbyists that put forth the interests of the System to avoid the impression of individualism and show unity and a common NSHE purpose.

Regent Perkins left the meeting.

In response to Regent Downs' comments, Acting Chancellor Erquiaga stated the formula revision in 2013 is when NSHE's ability to keep its fees occurred. The COLA shift from 80 to 65 percent occurred only four years ago. Acting Chancellor Erquiaga added there will be a Bill tomorrow morning to discuss the revision of the funding formula, which he believes will address institutional disparity and the cost of higher education. He echoed the comments to work with the Legislature in the interim to discuss the vision and future of the state.

Acting Chancellor Erquiaga noted that Nevada State College lost a peer employee member in the President's Office, and he appreciated NSC President Pollard's attendance today.

Chair Brooks stated that everyone must work together to support the COLA increases. NSHE is thankful that the Governor has made the amendment. NSHE is optimistic that the legislative bodies, through the voices of the institutions, System Office, and the Regents, will clearly see that the \$26 million gap has to be supported; otherwise, there will be unintentional consequences that will reduce the quality and effectiveness of things that have to be done at the institutions. He implored the Presidents and staff to do what they can to help the Legislators understand that NSHE needs this funding and it will significantly affect higher education in Nevada if the gap cannot be closed.

Regent Goodman was unaware of issues with the Legislature, and she has been well-received anytime she has been there. She will reach out to ensure they know the students will suffer because of this disparity.

3. Information Only – New Business – None.

4. Information Only – Public Comment

Jim New provided in-person public comment that the Nevada Faculty Alliance will oppose furloughs. Due to the predictable pricing model, fee increases are based on experienced inflation but will go into effect five years from now.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.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 July 21, 2023, meeting.***