

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

Truckee Meadows Community College
Sports and Fitness Center
7000 Dandini Boulevard, Reno
Thursday, September 7, 2023

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Las Vegas
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present:

Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Chair
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Vice Chair
Dr. Michele Cruz-Crawford
Ms. Stephanie Goodman
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Other Regents Present:

Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Ms. Heather Brown
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho
Mr. Jeffrey S. Downs
Ms. Laura E. Perkins
Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Others Present:

Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board
Mr. James J. Martines, Vice Chancellor & Chief General Counsel
Ms. Lindsay Sessions, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Natalie Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor for
Workforce Development & Community Colleges
Ms. Terina Caserto, Senior Analyst
Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for
Academic and Student Affairs
Ms. Laura Obrist, Foster Youth Ambassador
Ms. Carrie L. Parker, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. José Quiroga, Research Analyst
Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director of Government Relations
Mr. David Singleton, Academic & Transfer Policy Analyst
Ms. Lauren Tripp, Interim Chief Internal Auditor
Ms. Rosalie Bordelove, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Federico Zaragoza, CSN President
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President

Others Present: *(continued)*

Ms. Joyce M. Helens, GBC President
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, NSU President
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President
Mr. Brian Sandoval, UNR President
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, WNC President

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were: Patrick Villa, CSN; David Sexton, GBC; Dr. Molly Appel, NSU; Dr. Eric “Rick” Bullis, TMCC; Dr. Bill Robinson, UNLV; Dr. Peter S. Reed, UNR; and Rachelle Bassen, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were: Pio Rejas, CSN; Zachary Stamp, GBC; Kevin Osorio Hernandez, NSU; Brayson Gomez, TMCC; Makayla Franklin, UNLV-CSUN; Nicole Thomas, UNLV-GPSA; Boris Carpio Guerra, UNR-ASUN; Matthew Hawn, UNR-GSA; and Suzanna Stankute, WNC.

Chair Joseph C. Arrascada called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with all members present. Regent McMichael led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chair Arrascada provided the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Sondra Cosgrove shared her support for agenda item 4 (UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Behavioral, Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada).
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2023, meeting. *(Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board office)*

Regent McMichael moved approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2023, meeting.
Regent Cruz-Crawford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Institute for Financial Literacy and Wellness – The Committee recommended approval to establish the UNLV Institute for Financial Literacy and Wellness (IFLW). The Institute will support financial education and empowerment to promote financial wellness for all members of the university community, with targeted programming for the southern Nevada community-at-large. The Institute will provide financial education, information, resources, and tools to help participants achieve personal short-term fiscal health and long-term financial stability and wellbeing.
(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 Char Del Carlo said she read through the material and thought it was a wonderful initiative for UNLV as there is a mental health crisis in Nevada, and the more the System can do to address it, the better.

3. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Institute for Financial Literacy and Wellness – *(continued)*

Regent Cruz-Crawford expressed her support for the UNLV IFLW partnering with Junior Achievement and other related organizations in the community. Dr. Heavey shared that Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President, is a big supporter of Junior Achievement and has been making efforts to grow the collaboration with UNLV.

Chair Arrascada, Dr. Whitfield and Dr. Heavey discussed the community involvement with developing the proposal and the potential for online and hybrid program offerings from the IFLW.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of establishing the UNLV Institute for Financial Literacy and Wellness (IFLW). Regent McMichael seconded.

Regent Perkins and President Whitfield discussed collaboration efforts between the UNLV IFLW and the UNR Extension.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Behavioral Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada – The Committee recommended approval to establish the Behavioral Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada (BeHERE NV) in accordance with Assembly Bill 37 passed during the 82nd Session of the Nevada State Legislature. This network will establish a main hub at UNLV and have regional hubs in NSHE institutions to serve the entire state of Nevada. The primary purposes of BeHERE NV are to provide outreach and education about behavioral health professions to K-12 and adult learners; expand behavioral health training programs within higher education with an emphasis on building a diverse workforce; increase post-graduate internships and the number of approved supervisors; and offer support to the existing Nevada behavioral health workforce through continuing education and technical assistance. *(Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board office)*

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal.

In response to a comment from Regent Boylan, Ms. Patrica Charlton, Interim Chancellor, said per policy and procedure organizational unit proposals are to be presented at the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee for approval and it is very timely due to deadlines for the appropriation of funds; however, the UNLV team would be delighted to present an overview of the initiative at a future Health Sciences System Committee meeting. Dr. Heavey and Dr. Sara Hunt, Director of UNLV Mental and Behavioral Health Coalition and Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences, concurred with Interim Chancellor Charlton.

4. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Behavioral Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada – *(continued)*

Chair Arrascada commended the BeHERE NV initiative as it promotes mental wellbeing for the entire state of Nevada.

Regent McMichael moved approval of establishing a Behavioral Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada (BeHERE NV) in accordance with Assembly Bill 37. Regent Cruz-Crawford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approved-UNLV – Organizational Unit Proposal, Tourist Safety Institute – The Committee recommended approval of establishing the Tourist Safety Institute (TSI) to be housed in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The TSI is designed to primarily serve Nevada, but will have implications for community resilience, tourism, and tourist safety both nationally and internationally.
(Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board office)

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal. He noted for the record that the budget submitted with the proposal will be amended. Costs for indirect expenses were added in error. Because this is a line item in the state budget, all funds allocated by the Legislature must be used for the direct activities of the TSI. Any unused funds will be returned to the state per policy.

Interim Chancellor Charlton added this has a sunset provision by the end of the biennium and any funds not expended will be returned to the state.

Regent Cruz-Crawford said the TSI is a great investment in the future of Nevada.

Regent McMichael moved approval of establishing the Tourist Safety Institute (TSI) at the UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Vice Chair Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, BA Creative Practice – The Committee recommended approval of a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Practice within the UNLV College of Fine Arts. The program is designed with a contemporary vision toward redefining how one thinks about and practices creativity and the creative arts. The program will appeal to two different types of students: those who are looking to shape the future of the arts in an entrepreneurial way as arts leaders; and those who have already achieved a number of credits toward a professional arts degree but are looking for opportunities to reframe and synthesize knowledge and experience in the arts to use in other fields as creatives.
(Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board office)

6. Approved-UNLV – Program Proposal, BA Creative Practice – (continued)

Dr. Heavey provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Del Carlo commended the collaboration between the UNLV College of Fine Arts and the Lee Business School for the work on developing the program.

Chair Arrascada requested additional information regarding the program's FTE. Dr. Heavey said there are currently over 2600 students majoring in Fine Arts, so the anticipation is that the proposed degree will attract a significant number of students immediately. The FTE numbers proposed are fairly conservative and the anticipation is students will be enrolled full-time thus resulting in the same number for the full-time equivalent count and head count.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Practice at UNLV. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approved-UNR – Organizational Unit Proposal, Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity – The Committee recommended approval of establishing the Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity within the UNR School of Public Health. The goal of the Institute is to connect community engaged research, health equity programming, academic health departments, health communications, global health, rural health capacity building, community health partnership building and the current work of the statewide training center into one cohesive unit. (Ref. ARSA-7 on file in the Board office)

Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, UNR Executive Vice President and Provost, provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Vice Chair Del Carlo commented that by establishing the Institute, it will add to the University's R1 mission. She also shared her support in naming the Institute after Dr. Trudy Larson.

Chair Arrascada added this is a great way to expand the public health community. He and Dr. Thompson discussed how the Institute is self-funded and how it will bring together and consolidate research into one location, along with creating interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students on campus.

Regent Carvalho asked for additional information regarding the partnership with the University of Arizona. Dr. Thompson said he could not comment on that particular partnership at the moment; however, he will provide the information to the Board at a later time.

7. Approved-UNR – Organizational Unit Proposal, Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity – (continued)

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of establishing the Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity at UNR. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Approved-Handbook Revision, Fee Waivers for Native Americans – The Committee recommended approval of revisions to Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 16, ensuring Board policy aligns with all provisions of Assembly Bill 150 of the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature. The revision adds clarifying language recognizing eligibility for the fee waiver to include certified members or descendants of members of federally recognized tribes or nations that are located wholly or partially within the boundaries of Nevada, whether or not they reside on tribal lands. Additionally, this proposal includes language to clarify that a 2.0 GPA is required to qualify for the fee waiver if the student has enrolled in courses for which a letter grade is awarded. *(Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board office)*

Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, provided a brief overview of the proposed policy revision.

Chair Arrascada, Vice Chair Del Carlo, Regent Goodman, Interim Chancellor Charlton and Ms. Davis addressed and discussed the following topics: further clarification on requirements for the fee waivers regarding federally recognized tribes and residency status; the fee waiver being an unfunded mandate and how NSHE should plan to present this at a future Legislative session in hopes to secure state funding for the program; and the upcoming interim study on all NSHE fee waivers requested by the Legislature.

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of the *Handbook* revision as presented. Regent McMichael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Approved-Handbook Revision, Fee Waivers for Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor – The Committee recommended approval of revisions to Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 15, expanding the fee waiver for recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor to include children of such recipients. Existing provisions remain unchanged, with the waiver covering registration fees, laboratory fees, and other mandatory fees after any federal education benefits are applied. *(Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board office)*

Ms. Davis provided a brief overview of the proposed policy revision.

9. Approved-Handbook Revision, Fee Waivers for Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor – (continued)

Vice Chair Del Carlo, Interim Chancellor Charlton and Ms. Davis discussed outreach for the program being conducted by campus veterans' offices; identifying eligible recipients (none have been identified at this time); and the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients being a limited population.

Regent McMichael moved approval of the *Handbook* revision as presented. Vice Chair Del Carlo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Information Only-Foster Youth Fee Waiver and Program Report – Foster Youth Ambassador Laura Obrist presented a report on the NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver adopted by the Board in 2018. The fee waiver policy permits qualifying NSHE undergraduate students to register for eligible courses without being charged registration or certain laboratory fees. The report provided an overview of the fee waiver, information on the requirements of the waiver, number of recipients and total fees waived, recipient demographics, and student success metrics. The presentation also included a high-level review of the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative grant-funded activities and accomplishments. (Refs. ARSA-10a and ARSA-10b on file in the Board office)

Ms. Obrist provided a report which included: the fee waiver update; background: implementation and national context; Board policy; total number of fee waiver recipients; total fees waived; 2021-2022 fee waiver recipient demographics: race/ethnicity, gender and income; fee waiver recipient metrics years 1-4: persistence, graduation and credentials earned; System-level grant support; institutional-level grant support; student voice/leadership; statewide collaboration/professional development; System-level outreach and resource development/provision; and institution-level capacity building.

Regent Cruz-Crawford and Ms. Obrist discussed outreach for the program which includes efforts from seven of the NSHE institutions, System Administration and 30 community organizations.

Regent Perkins shared her support for the program and thanked Ms. Obrist and her team for their work.

Vice Chair Del Carlo shared some historical background on the establishment of the program in 2018 and underscored the importance of including it in the Legislature's interim study on NSHE fee waivers.

11. Information Only-2021-22 NSHE Financial Aid Report – Research Analyst José Quiroga presented highlights from the 2021-22 NSHE Financial Aid Report, including data on financial aid programs, recipient attributes, and awards distributed across the System as well as NSHE total financial aid disbursed by category, source, and type. In addition, the presentation included general

11. Information Only-2021-22 NSHE Financial Aid Report – *(continued)*

information on financial aid concepts and the variety of programs available to support students. *(Refs. ARSA-11a and ARSA-11b on file in the Board office)*

Mr. Quiroga provided a report which included: the purpose of reporting financial aid; total financial aid disbursed; 2017-18 and 2021-22 total financial aid disbursed by institution (in millions); 2021-22 financial aid recipients by race/ethnicity and disability resource center registration status; annual average Pell Grant disbursements by student; NSHE total loan disbursements by all sources (in millions); 2021-22 Nevada student financial assistance programs disbursements; financial aid basics including financial aid concepts – category, source, type, cost of attendance, and FAFSA; categories of financial aid; 2021-22 NSHE financial aid by category; sources of financial aid: federal, state, institutional and private; 2021-22 NSHE financial aid by source; types of financial aid: need and non-need; 2011-12 and 2021-22 NSHE total financial aid disbursed by type; cost of attendance: 2021-22 NSHE cost of attendance off campus, 2021-22 cost of attendance with parents and 2021-22 cost of attendance on campus; FAFSA and determining need; sample financial aid offers with 4-year institutions (lower need) vs. 2-year institutions (higher need); and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III).

Vice Chair Del Carlo, Regent Cruz-Crawford, Regent McMichael, Regent Downs and Mr. Quiroga addressed and discussed the following topics: need-based vs. non-need-based numbers based on the results of FAFSA; the annual adjustment of FAFSA based on inflationary costs; ACCT's work in advocacy for increased financial aid support for students; the Higher Education in Prison Program; Nevada state funding for financial aid and how it compares to other states (additional information to be sent to the Regents); parameters for the Millennium Scholarship set in NRS and Board policy; funding mechanisms for the Millennium Scholarship versus the Nevada Promise Scholarship; and some of the reasons why students use private loan companies to attend school (e.g., the loss of eligibility for federal aid, or returning students pursuing advanced degrees who may have used all their federal aid funding to earn a previous degree).

12. Information Only-New Business – Regent Cruz-Crawford requested a report on the Millennium Scholarship and efforts made to ensure sustained funding for it.

Chair Arrascada requested a high-level introduction of the NSHE Data Dashboard and a follow-up on approved programs over the past 1-2 years, specifically with comparisons on the estimated FTE at the time of the program proposals versus the actual/current FTE.

13. Information-Public Comment – Dr. Kent Ervin expressed his support for the Native American Fee Waiver becoming a regular state budget item. He also commented on and thanked the Committee for removing an agenda item regarding the elimination of minimum degree requirements for instructors of community college courses.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson
Special Assistant and Coordinator to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents