

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the December 4-5, 2024, meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ad hoc CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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

Thursday, September 26, 2024

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:

Regents Committee
Mrs. Susan Brager, Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada, Vice Chair
Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs
Ms. Stephanie Goodman
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Other Regents Present:

Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Board Chair
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Ms. Heather Brown
Dr. Michelee Cruz-Crawford
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Advisory Members Present:

Advisory Committee
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI
Mr. Ryan Cherry, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Ms. Valerie Conner, Chair, Council of Faculty Senate Chairs
Dr. Brian Cram, Former Superintendent, CCSD
Dr. Amber Donnelly, Interim President, GBC
Ms. Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE
Mr. Eric Gilliland, Affirmative Action Officer, NSHE (*ex officio*)
Ms. Helen Harriff, President, Classified Council Executive Board
Dr. William L. Kibler, Acting President, CSN
Dr. Jane A. Nichols, Chancellor Emeritus, NSHE
Mr. Kevin Osorio Hernández, Chair, Nevada Student Alliance
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President, NSU
Mr. Brian Sandoval, President, UNR

Advisory Members Present: *(Continued)*

Dr. Lawrence Weekly, Chair, NSHE IDEA Council
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President, UNLV
Mr. Michael B. Wixom, Former Regent, NSHE

Others Present:

Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor
Ms. Elizabeth Callahan, Public Information Officer
Mr. Christopher G. Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director of Government Relations
Mr. Chris Viton, Vice Chancellor, Budget and Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Faculty senate chairs in attendance included: Dr. David Cooper, NSU. Classified council chair in attendance included: Ms. Stacy Wallace, NSU, ex-officio.

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 Brager called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. with all members present. Regent McMichael led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chair Brager read the Land Acknowledgment.

1. Information Only – Public Comment – None.
2. Welcome and Introductions – None.
3. Information Only – Nevada Open Meeting Law – Special Counsel to the Board of Regents Chris Nielsen provided an overview of the Nevada Open Meeting Law (*NRS Chapter 241*) as it relates to the ad hoc Chancellor Search Committee and the search process.
4. Information Only – Search Firm Presentations – At its May 23, 2024, special meeting, the Board of Regents approved the commencement of a national search for a Chancellor and the engagement of a search firm with expertise in higher education to aid the Search Committee. In accordance with the NSHE Code (*Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.5.4.i*), and following a competitive solicitation process, Chief of Staff Keri D. Nikolajewski, in consultation with Search Committee Chair Susan Brager and Interim Chancellor Patricia Charlton, selected four executive search firms for consideration by the Search Committee.
 - AGB Search: Dr. Kim Bobby, Dr. James H. McCormick, and Janice S. Fitzgerald presented the AGB Search proposal and answered follow-up questions related to ensuring candidates understand the unique needs of students, open forums, tenure data on past appointments, advertising plan, listening sessions, collaboration on profile criteria, past searches conducted with NSHE, and diverse candidate pools. (*Ref. CS-4a on file in the Board Office.*)

4. Information Only – Search Firm Presentations – *(Continued)*

- Greenwood Asher & Associates: Dr. Jim Johnsen, Dr. Julie Holley, and Itza Walters presented the Greenwood Asher & Associates proposal and answered follow-up questions related to ensuring candidates understand the unique needs of students, their parent company, advertising plan, past searches conducted with NSHE, how they evaluate candidates track records in fostering inclusive environments, candidate's understanding of NSHE, candidate's conflict resolution abilities, and fees and expenses. *(Ref. CS-4b on file in the Board Office.)*

The meeting recessed at 2:39 p.m. and reconvened at 2:49 p.m. with all members present.

- Anthem Executive: Scott Watson and Michael Ballew presented the Anthem Executive proposal and answered follow-up questions related to ensuring candidates understand the unique needs of students, candidate competencies, and advertising plan. *(Ref. CS-4c on file in the Board Office.)*
- WittKieffer: Suzanne Teer presented the WittKieffer proposal and answered follow-up questions related to ensuring candidates understand the unique needs of students, past placements within NSHE, and advertising plan. *(Ref. CS-4d on file in the Board Office.)*

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:15 p.m. with all members present.

5. Approved – Search Firm Selection – The Committee selected and approved Greenwood Asher & Associates to enter into negotiations with the Nevada System of Higher Education for a contract with the Board of Regents to provide executive search services and aid the ad hoc Chancellor Search Committee in the search for a permanent Chancellor.

The Advisory and Search Committee discussed the proposals from AGB Search, Greenwood Asher & Associates, Anthem Executive, and WittKieffer, including information provided in response to follow-up questions. The Advisory Committee provided their top choices and reasons for choosing.

Regent Goodman appreciated all the presentations. She was impressed with Greenwood Asher & Associates and felt they had the time and passion for this search. She appreciated WittKieffer's presentation but was concerned about their size and doing five hundred searches yearly.

Regent McMichael appreciated all the presentations.

Regent McMichael moved approval for AGB Search to enter into negotiations with the Nevada System of Higher Education for a contract with the Board of Regents to provide executive search services and aid the ad hoc Chancellor Search Committee in the search for a permanent Chancellor.

5. Approved – Search Firm Selection – (Continued)

The motion died for lack of a second.

Vice Chair Arrascada stated all firms did an excellent job. He chose Anthem Executive and AGB Search as his top two.

Regent Downs favored Anthem Executive and Greenwood Asher & Associates.

Regent Goodman moved approval for Greenwood Asher & Associates to enter into negotiations with the Nevada System of Higher Education for a contract with the Board of Regents to provide executive search services and aid the ad hoc Chancellor Search Committee in the search for a permanent Chancellor. Regent Downs seconded.

Vice Chair Arrascada asked for the motion to be restated.

Motion carried via a roll call vote. Regents Brager, Downs, and Goodman voted yes. Regents Arrascada and McMichael voted no.

Chair Brager recognized that it is always a hard decision. She appreciated the presentations and looked forward to the firms presenting during future opportunities. She thanked the Advisory Committee for participating in this crucial decision.

6. Information Only – New Business – None.

7. Information Only – Public Comment

Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. thanked each search firm for participating in the process. He was appreciative of everyone who spoke.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Prepared by:

Angela R. Palmer
Special Assistant and Coordinator
to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by:

Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents