

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the April 24, 2025, meeting.

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

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

Friday, January 31, 2025

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:

Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Chair  
Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs, Vice Chair  
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada  
Mr. Aaron Bautista  
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan  
Mrs. Susan Brager  
Mr. Byron Brooks  
Ms. Heather Brown  
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo  
Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez  
Mr. Pete Goicoechea  
Ms. Stephanie Goodman

Others Present:

Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor  
Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Mr. James J. Martines, Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel  
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  
Ms. Lauren Tripp, Chief Internal Auditor  
Dr. Marcia Turner, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences  
Mr. Chris Viton, Vice Chancellor, Budget and Finance and Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. William L. Kibler, Acting President, CSN  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, DRI  
Dr. Amber Donnelly, Interim President, GBC  
Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President, NSU

Others Present: *(Continued)*  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, TMCC  
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President, UNLV  
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President, WNC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance included the following individuals: Ms. Valerie Conner, CSN (*Chair, Council of Faculty Senate Chairs*); Dr. David Cooper, NSU; Dr. Jinger Doe, TMCC; Dr. Deborah Arteaga, UNLV; and Dr. Aaron Hill, UNR. Student body presidents in attendance included the following individuals: Mr. Kevin Osorio Hernández, NSSA President, NSU (*Chair, Nevada Student Alliance*); Mr. Allister Dias, CSUN President, UNLV; and Ms. Teresa Marie, GPSA President, UNLV. Classified council chairs in attendance included the following individual: 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 Carvalho called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with all members present. Regent Goicoechea led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chair Carvalho offered the Land Acknowledgment.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

The following individuals provided in-person, written, or telephonic public comment voicing concerns with the Governor’s budget error in the form of a structural deficit and how it might affect NSHE’s request to fund COLA increases at 80 percent in Agenda Items 3 (Governor’s Recommended Budget, 2025-27 Biennium) and 4 (2025 Legislative Session):

- Kent Ervin
- Douglas Unger (*Unger.Douglas01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individuals provided in-person or written public comment in support of Agenda Item 6 (Construction of Theatre, Eastview Phase 1, TMCC):

- Mary Bennett (*Bennett.Mary01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Eric Boudreau (*Boudreau.Eric01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Adi Cabral (*Cabral.Adi01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Adam Cates (*Cates.Adam01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Jinger Doe
- Kimberly Gibbons (*Gibbons.Kimberly01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Rod Hearn (*Hearn.Rod01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Greg Hillman (*Hillman.Greg01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Sarah Hinz (*Hinz.Sarah01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Shea King
- Ron Marsten
- Sandra Neace (*Neace.Sandra01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)
- Natalie Russell

1. Information Only – Public Comment – (Continued)

The following individual provided written public comment providing the history of funding of NSHE COLAs:

- Kent Ervin (*Ervin.Kent01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individual provided in-person public comment related to the continuation of the CSN Westside Education and Training Center innovation training programs:

- Shaundell Newsome

The following individual provided in-person public comment voicing concerns about diversifying the economy and equitable access to opportunities for all Nevadans, specifically for southern Nevadans in career preparation, workforce development, and academic preparation to provide the workforce of the future, and provided support to leadership on where the economy is headed:

- Ken Evans

The following individual provided in-person public comment reporting that PEBP chose not to change health insurance plan designs and thanking her UNLV colleagues for the tremendous number of public comments to PEBP:

- Deborah Arteaga

The following individual provided in-person public comment related to safety and security on the UNLV campus, as well as the enrollment and financial statuses of NSHE campuses:

- Bill Robinson

The following individuals provided in-person public comment in support of the proposed differential program fees at UNLV and efforts to include student leadership, as well as student organizations, and plans to use the money in the best interest of students:

- Allister Dias
- Teresa Marie

2. Information Only – State of the System Enrollment and Graduation – Interim Chancellor Patricia Charlton presented information on enrollment and graduation across the Nevada System of Higher Education. The presentation included enrollment trends at the national and NSHE levels, including historically underrepresented student populations, an overview of graduation rates over the last several decades, and the recently developed NSHE Outcomes Measure that follow students over a period of time regardless of initial enrollment status. (*Ref. BOR-2 on file in the Board Office.*)

In response to a question from Regent Boylan related to access and underrepresented populations, Interim Chancellor Charlton responded that access is defined by enrollment, the number of people who are participating. Interim Chancellor Charlton added that underrepresented means the percentage of those populations that do not have a post-secondary education or credential.

2. Information Only – State of the System Enrollment and Graduation – (Continued)

Regent Brager stated that NSHE needed to put more value on certifications because they give students the ability to be the best and the finest. She feels certifications should be a part of the graduation rate. Regent Brager believed that NSHE needs to visit those who work on the Las Vegas strip and let them know what NSHE has to offer, because that is a population that could go to school by completing online learning. She also believed that NSHE needs to look at information technology (IT), AI and medical because they are the three components that are important within Nevada.

Interim Chancellor Charlton noted that there are students who start NSHE programs and don't finish, typically because they are drawn to the labor market before they can complete. But the institutions do follow them and encourage completion. She added that stackable credentials are important and a benefit of being a System. To Regent Brager's point about the IT and medical fields, they are top industries with high workforce needs throughout Nevada. The institutions receive substantial grant funding for training programs.

Vice Chair Downs left the meeting.

In response to a question from Regent Brown related to dual enrollment, Interim Chancellor Charlton noted that dual enrollment is included in the enrollment rate, but not the graduation rates because of the cohorts.

Regent Brager left the meeting.

Regent Brown reaffirmed her concern about R1 institutions being included in the dual enrollment space. She asked for data on whether dual enrollment students are matriculating to an NSHE institution, are matriculating to the school of record, and do they stay at the school of record. Interim Chancellor Charlton stated they would have to come back with those data points. Regent Brown further asked for the percentage of GPA exceptions for dual enrollment students when enrolled at the R1 institutions, and how many stay at the R1 institutions.

Regent Brown appreciated Regent Brager bringing up the workforce because she was also curious how those students are counted. In the Workforce Committee, they will be working to streamline across the System credit for prior learning, CTE, and military service.

Regent Brager and Vice Chair Downs entered the meeting.

Interim Chancellor Charlton added that the recently approved NSHE Strategic Plan includes those components to make sure that NSHE is getting the adult population engaged.

Regent Del Carlo thanked Interim Chancellor Charlton for the presentation, which she believed was NSHE's report card. She felt like her last eight years on the Board had been very worthwhile.

2. Information Only – State of the System Enrollment and Graduation – (Continued)

Regent Del Carlo requested a joint Board meeting with K12. The key is getting high school graduates to enter higher education. Those enrollments must increase. Interim Chancellor Charlton stated NSHE does track Nevada high school graduates and whether they are in the workforce, within NSHE, or if they have gone somewhere else. She added that NSHE is working in concert with the Department of Education because it is an important pathway. NSHE is grateful for the aid that the state has provided, such as the Millennium Scholarship and the Nevada Promise.

Regent Del Carlo announced the ACCT National Legislative Summit, February 8-12, 2025, where the number one lobbying issue is Workforce Pell. She urged students to help lobby for Workforce Pell. She stated it would be a game changer for the country, and enrollment numbers would skyrocket. Interim Chancellor Charlton added that each institution will be represented and advocating at the Summit.

Regent Brooks stated this is the heartbeat of what the Board does in terms of ensuring students have access and pathways to higher education. He hoped for a new funding formula because the current one breeds competition, particularly when it relates to enrollment. Dual enrollment is a part of that competition process. There are a lot of elements that are related to a successful system of higher education in Nevada. He asked what percentage of the numbers pertain to dual enrollment and online students versus students who are physically on the campus receiving 100 percent of their education. The Board cannot escape the fact that they may be approaching an enrollment cliff because parents and students may be asking about the value proposition of higher education. Interim Chancellor Charlton stated they would get those raw numbers and percentages related to dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and online students.

Regarding the enrollment cliff, Interim Chancellor Charlton stated there will be upcoming presentations to the Board by Applied Analysis and WICHE. The culture shift is an important one, and NSHE learned a lot during COVID. The institutions stepped up in training and professional development, and resources for students, faculty, and staff. Not everyone learns with the same modality, so NSHE will look at the data.

Regent Goicoechea noted that student assistance drives a lot of the numbers. He requested to see trends on how much student assistance is available. Interim Chancellor Charlton stated NSHE has a Financial Aid Report that is presented annually, and she is happy to provide him with that. All the institutions are sensitive to fee increases, but NSHE only has two revenue sources: state appropriations and student fees. Regent Goicoechea stated it is all a part of the trends, but they also need to focus on how much assistance is available. Interim Chancellor Charlton stated she would be remiss if she didn't mention the increased costs associated with doing business. The institutions are being challenged.

Chair Carvalho offered to Regent Del Carlo that in 2021-2022, 36.9 percent of high school graduates came to NSHE, so they have more work to do. She also recognized that the enrollment cliff is coming, as Regent Brooks mentioned, so they will have to figure out other ways to serve Nevadans. They have heard several times during the recession

2. Information Only – State of the System Enrollment and Graduation – *(Continued)*

enrollment increased at the community colleges because residents wanted to retool due to high unemployment. She offered that, reviewing the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nevada has the highest unemployment of any state in the nation, yet NSHE is not seeing that same kind of enrollment trend.

Chair Carvalho stated that part-time and contingent faculty is something the Board does not talk about enough. She recently read that students who averaged 50 percent of classroom courses with part-time faculty were at least 5 percent less likely to graduate and 10 percent less likely to transfer to pursue a baccalaureate degree than students with only full-time faculty. That is a data point she would like to explore. She didn't want to speak for the presidents, but NSHE depends on part-time faculty. There is a hole in the budget. NSHE will advocate, but it does make a difference.

GBC Interim President Donnelly stated that GBC is heavily dependent on part-time faculty. GBC's numbers are 202 full-time and 133 part-time. The salaries play a really big role and lots of times industry partners who have the knowledge and degrees are needed to assist GBC in teaching some of the class components.

UNLV President Whitfield asked Chair Carvalho if she could share the report because he would like to dig into it. UNLV likes its part-time faculty because they bring industry and real-life experiences to the classrooms. There is incredible value in part-time faculty. They are working on the current numbers, but one demographic to mention is UNLV's higher percentage of tenure-track faculty relative to instructors in comparison to an average R1 institution. This is, in part, due to how UNLV has evolved into an R1.

CSN Acting President Kibler stated CSN is very dependent on part-time faculty. The current ratio is 55 percent full-time and 45 percent part-time. CSN has very purposeful training for its part-time faculty to have them engaged and involved. He would be intrigued to see the study that was cited.

Chair Carvalho clarified she wanted NSHE to show part-time faculty their value by offering opportunities to increase their pay.

NSU President Pollard stated part-time faculty certainly speak to NSU's ability to deliver its mission. They bring currency and relevancy and, at the same time, many of NSHE's institutions are overdependent on them because of the current funding model and structural gaps. She offered that if an institution wants to build out programs, it will need full-time and tenure-track faculty to invest in the development. Again, the value proposition that part-time faculty, part-time instructors, and graduate students bring is essential to an institution.

The meeting recessed at 10:56 a.m. and reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

3. Information Only – Governor’s Recommended Budget 2025-27 Biennium – Chief Financial Officer Chris Viton presented an overview of the Governor’s Recommended Budget for the 2025-27 biennium, including the proposed state appropriations for operating and capital construction expenses. *(Refs. BOR-3a, BOR-3b and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office.)*

In response to a question from Regent Goicoechea regarding the total of one shot funding, Chief Financial Officer Viton responded there is \$11 million for safety and security and \$20 million for nursing, for a total of \$31 million.

Regent Boylan asked for clarification of the revisions to the phase-in formula. Chief Financial Officer Viton stated NSHE’s request was to provide the funds to the 2-year institutions and NSU that were calculated through the revised formula. That request was approximately \$21 million per year. The phase-in is saying rather than implementing 100 percent of that funding in year one, they would implement it gradually.

In response to a question from Regent Boylan asking what SIF is, Chief Financial Officer Viton responded that small institution factor is an adjustment or set aside for WNC and GBC recognizing that the institutions would not be able to meet their fixed costs without an adjustment.

Regent Boylan asked if the \$11 million for facility equipment and technology investment would fall under improvements. Chief Financial Officer Viton stated this funding would not fall under the capital improvement program. These references are items identified by the campuses that represent the \$38 million request, which include infrastructure improvements such as electronic items, access controls, and lighting.

In response to a question from Regent Boylan related to security enhancements, Interim Chancellor Charlton stated the institutions have made some improvements, but it is nowhere near the scope of what has been requested. Institutions have allocated some of their investment income proceeds for security enhancements, and others have come forward with capital improvements. Institutions are making small improvements.

Regent Boylan asked how much money has been allocated to and used for safety and security. Interim Chancellor Charlton stated NSHE received an allocation from the Interim Finance Committee in early 2024 for what they call “yellow jackets” to supplement support for the southern institutions. She would ask the institutions to come back with further information on security enhancements and allocations they have made. The System has not received funding to help the institutions with safety and security.

Interim Chancellor Charlton stated that some of the improvements made at Beam Hall were covered by insurance. UNLV President Whitfield added that UNLV has spent approximately \$2 million on enhancements that include cameras, license plate readers, better locks, phones, and yellow jackets. Insurance has covered an additional \$4 million.

3. Information Only – Governor’s Recommended Budget 2025-27 Biennium – (Continued)

Regent Del Carlo stated that going from the last presentation and the potential as a System to this discussion is very disheartening. This state does not value higher education. She did not know how they would maintain R1 status at the universities. Interim Chancellor Charlton responded that in the Governor’s recommended budget, there is no decrease to the universities. NSHE is keeping the R1s whole. Recognizing the fiscal challenges of the state, they have asked for a phased implementation. NSHE recognizes the ask is large, but it is important for the state. It is important for economic development, diversification, and understanding where Nevada needs to be and the role that NSHE plays in that.

In response to a question from Chair Carvalho asking why the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV is not mentioned, Chief Financial Officer Viton noted that both medical schools are mentioned in the budget account summaries as non-formula accounts.

4. No Action Taken – 2025 Legislative Session – Interim Chancellor Patricia Charlton and Director of Government Relations Alejandro Rodriguez presented for discussion the NSHE legislative advocacy plan, including areas of potential legislation relevant to NSHE that may come before the Legislature during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session. (Ref. BOR-4 on file in the Board Office.)

Vice Chair Downs disclosed he is an employee of the Nevada System of Higher Education and Western Nevada College. Because the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected, he will vote on this matter. He disclosed the relationship under NRS Chapter 281A.

In response to a question from Regent Boylan related to the Board having a legislative team, Chief General Counsel Martines responded that there is Board policy setting forth how staff takes positions on bills during legislative session. Currently, if there is already Board policy on the matter or if the Board has taken a position, then that is the position the Chancellor takes at the Legislature. If the Board has not taken a position on a bill and there’s no policy two things can happen: 1) If there’s an upcoming hearing and the hearing will occur before the next Board meeting, the Chancellor can take a position on the bill and notify the Board before the hearing of what the position is going to be; and 2) If there’s an opportunity to bring a bill to the Board before it has a hearing, then the Chancellor has a duty to bring it to the Board for a position. Regent Boylan believed the Regents should have Board representation at the Legislature.

Chair Carvalho added that there would be opportunities for Regents who are interested in testifying to work with the Government Affairs staff. Interim Chancellor Charlton and Director Rodriguez are working closely with Board leadership. Special Counsel Nielsen stated that in the normal course, the Board will have opportunities to take positions. But there will be times when things move quickly. The Chancellor and her team will make decisions and report back to the Board.

In response to a question from Regent Brooks related to messaging, Director Rodriguez stated that the Board has approved a set of priorities, and the Government Affairs team will



4. No Action Taken – 2025 Legislative Session – (Continued)

be speaking with one voice from those approved policies. The Government Affairs team will continue to communicate clearly and in real time. He communicates with the Chancellor multiple times daily, and she works closely with Board leadership.

Regent Brooks stated that some discussions should take place regarding the priorities of the System and making sure that institutions are moving with the System rather than by themselves. Interim Chancellor Charlton appreciated the conversation. This is a difficult time because the state budget is very tight, and the team must advocate for the priorities that were set by the Board.

Regent Arrascada stated the presentation lists internal stakeholders as the faculty senate, student government, NSHE community (including Regents), and professional and classified staff, but then Director Rodriguez mentioned outside stakeholders including the Nevada Faculty Alliance. Director Rodriguez stated the legislative team meets with all sorts of stakeholders, and has shared agendas and priorities with the Nevada Faculty Alliance, which will be testifying in support of NSHE's budget.

Regent Arrascada clarified that the entirety of the faculty is represented by the Faculty Senates, not by a dues-paying membership of the Nevada Faculty Alliance. Director Rodriguez stated that this is what Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Chairs Valerie Connor testified to at the pre-session budget hearing.

UNR Faculty Senate Chair Aaron Hill thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak about his role and his plan to collaborate with the Regents and UNR's senior leadership team. As Chair, he represents over 2,400 academic and administrative faculty across every major unit of the UNR campus. He was nominated and elected to Chair by his colleagues on the Faculty Senate. UNR Faculty Senate staffs and charges nine standing committees, all of which were empowered through shared governance to make requests for administrative action, all of which are tracked through transparent and openly available living documents. The Senate has an advisory role in every proposed change of organization, new and revised bylaws, and policy updates to the University Administrative Manual. They meet with the President, Provost, and a vast cross-section of campus leaders, collaboratively discussing all aspects of serving students and surrounding communities while having the global impact of an R1 institution. A great deal of his work happens behind the scenes as he advocates for faculty rights on a highly confidential basis. So much of his work will not see the light of day because they can effectively advocate for and resolve many issues before they escalate. He represents all faculty in rooms with senior leadership where decisions are made regarding the budget, managing incidents, and with the Legislative Task Force. Since the Faculty Senate is the only internal shared governance body representing UNR's academic and administrative faculty, he will be in Carson City often to advocate for state support for the work done in support of Nevada's public good. He and his Faculty Senate Chair colleagues across the System serve as the

4. No Action Taken – 2025 Legislative Session – (Continued)

voice for faculty before the public. He thanked the Board for its ongoing partnership and service to shared governance across the System.

Regent Brown stated they needed to acknowledge that eight institutions will be in Carson City and need to advocate for themselves. She was curious as to what is in place if institutions work against the System or each other. Interim Chancellor Charlton responded that, technically, they advocate on behalf of the Board's priorities and the position taken on bills. Should there be an issue that arises, she would be responsible for taking it up with the respective president. The Board has established a policy that ensures approval by the Chancellor of employees who serve in the lobbying function for accountability purposes.

In response to a question from Regent Brown related to the lobbying list, Interim Chancellor Charlton stated the Presidents do advocacy, but they must conform to the directives established by the Board and the Chancellor.

Regent Brown acknowledged the hard work of staff during the session, but also year round because once the Legislature is over, then implementation and follow-up begins. Nevada must prioritize education and that will not happen unless NSHE has the best advocates.

Chair Carvalho added her thanks. They will continue regular dialogue and make sure that when there are opportunities for Regents to voice their opinions and positions, they will do so when appropriate and with one voice.

The meeting recessed at 12:41 p.m. and reconvened at 12:56 p.m. with all members present.

5. Approved – Handbook Revision and Code Amendments, Policy Against Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment; Complaint Procedure – The Board approved a revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 14*) necessary to comply with the vacatur of the U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX regulations, and conforming corollary amendments to disciplinary procedures in the NSHE Code (*Title 2, Chapters 6 and 10*) on a temporary and emergency basis, pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3(b) of the Code. (*Refs BOR-5a, BOR-5b, BOR-5c, and BOR-5d on file in the Board Office.*)

Senior Associate General Counsel Lynda King presented a revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 14*) necessary to comply with the vacatur of the U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX regulations, and conforming corollary amendments to disciplinary procedures in the NSHE Code (*Title 2, Chapters 6 and 10*) on a temporary and emergency basis, pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3(b) of the Code.

Regent Brager moved approval of a revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 14*) necessary to comply with the vacatur of the U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX regulations, and

5. Approved – Handbook Revision and Code Amendments, Policy Against Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment; Complaint Procedure – (Continued)

*(Motion continued)*

conforming corollary amendments to disciplinary procedures in the NSHE Code (*Title 2, Chapters 6 and 10*) on a temporary and emergency basis, pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3(b) of the Code. Vice Chair Downs seconded.

In response to a question from Regent Boylan asking if this was already in place, Senior Associate General Counsel King explained that on August 23, 2024, the Board implemented policy revisions to remain in compliance with the 2024 Title IX regulations, which broadened the definition of sex-based harassment and changed some of the procedural requirements. The rules went into effect, but there were several legal challenges across the nation. One of those resulted in the vacating of the entire 2024 rule. So now the Board must revert to the policy it had in place.

Motion carried.

6. Approved – Construction of Theatre, Eastview Phase 1, TMCC – The Board approved the EastView Phase 1 theatre project and funding plan, which includes an allocation of Capital Improvement Fee funds in the amount of up to \$7,346,000. (*Ref. BOR-6 on file in the Board Office.*)

Regent Fernandez disclosed a potential conflict of interest as it relates to his employment as the Executive Director of the Las Vegas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the professional association for architects. A principal of the firm that designed this project serves as a board member of AIA Nevada. This does not impact his ability to vote on the matter, especially as the selection of design professionals does not go through this board and is subject to a separate public works process. While the matter benefits students and does not directly impact the organization, he is disclosing to ensure transparency and maintain public trust. Because the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected, he will vote on this matter. He disclosed the relationship under NRS Chapter 281A.

Truckee Meadows Community College President Karin M. Hilgersom and Angela Bigotti, Van Woert Bigotti Architects, presented the EastView Phase 1 theatre project and funding plan, which includes an allocation of Capital Improvement Fee funds in the amount of up to \$7,346,000.

Regent Brager moved approval of the EastView Phase 1 theatre project and funding plan, which includes an allocation of Capital Improvement Fee funds in the amount of up to \$7,346,000. Regent Fernandez seconded.

6. Approved – Construction of Theatre, Eastview Phase 1, TMCC – (Continued)

Regent Del Carlo stated that this will be a huge addition for the school and community. She appreciated the letter of support from the Pioneer Theatre. She thanked TMCC President Hilgersom for her stewardship of the money.

Regent Fernandez thanked TMCC President Hilgersom for taking the time to walk him through the project and commended her for the great design solutions.

Vice Chair Downs stated that the Board was presented with the number of students currently involved in these programs and he looked forward to how many more students will be drawn to the programs once the facility is built.

Regent Brooks echoed the fantastic walkthrough that TMCC President Hilgersom provided to members of the Board, particularly related to the financial outlook and how TMCC will navigate. He commended her for the work she had done to get the project off the ground.

Chair Carvalho echoed all the comments. This is a great example of a public good for the entire community and students in northern Nevada.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. Approved – Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision, Differential Program Fees, UNLV – The Board approved revisions to the Procedures and Guidelines Manual (Chapter 7, Section 10) proposing differential program fees at UNLV. (Refs. BOR-7a, BOR-7b, BOR-7c, BOR-7d, BOR-7e, BOR-7f, BOR-7g, and BOR-7h on file in the Board Office.)

Chair Carvalho disclosed she and a member of her household are students at UNLV. Because the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected, she will vote on this matter. She disclosed the relationship under NRS Chapter 281A.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas President Keith E. Whitfield presented revisions to the *Procedures and Guidelines Manual (Chapter 7, Section 10)* proposing differential program fees at UNLV. UNLV Executive Vice President Chris Heavey stated that there are no expenses listed in year one of the cybersecurity degree proposal, which created confusion. There will be expenses in year one, but UNLV has set aside institutional funds of \$430,000 to cover expenses for the next fiscal year in support of the program.

Chair Carvalho appreciated the clarification and asked the Board if they would like to take a collective vote or break them apart.

Regent Brooks moved approval revisions to the *Procedures and Guidelines Manual (Chapter 7, Section 10)* proposing differential program fees at UNLV. Regent Brager seconded.

7. Approved – Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision, Differential Program Fees, UNLV – (Continued)

Regent Goicoechea offered a friendly amendment to include a request starting with the March quarterly meeting, that the Board receive a breakdown of how UNLV will spend the \$84 million in fees.

Regent Brooks appreciated the request but the way that this item was being brought forward is only about these fees.

Special Counsel Nielsen believed that Interim Chancellor Charlton had already agreed to Regent Goicoechea's request. He recommended that they approve or not approve the agenda item. Chief General Counsel Martines added that anything additional could be added under New Business.

In response to a question from Regent Boylan related to the Physical Therapy differential fee, UNLV Executive Vice President Heavey responded that the differential fee for the physical therapy program has not increased for a long time and the account has gone into a deficit and has been strained by the COLA increases. The institution is now backfilling that fee because it no longer supports the faculty assigned.

Regent Boylan asked if some of the fees that have been saved can be used elsewhere to help students. Chief Financial Officer Viton offered that part of the policy on the differential fee programs is that the portion of each of the differential fees is set aside to provide financial aid for the students enrolled in the programs. A differential fee is needed to support the total cost of the program, otherwise, the institution would not be able to offer. UNLV Executive Vice President Heavey added they understand that some students have high financial needs, which is why they are allocating additional millions of dollars in aid to those high need students.

Regent Brown acknowledged that this is way more information than was given at the last two meetings. In response to a question from Regent Brown related to the \$80 million, Interim Chancellor Charlton stated that it has been recommended that the Student Fee Balance Report, timeline, and expenditure plans will come back on a quarterly basis, with the first appearance at the March meeting.

In response to a question from Regent Arrascada related to justifications for the nursing differential fee request, which projects a \$3 million increase for FY25 and FY26, UNLV Executive Vice President Heavey responded that the \$3 million is the difference between FY24 actuals and the FY26 forecast. The increased fee will bring in an additional \$3 million to support the programs listed, including additional faculty, clinical placements for students, etc. Regent Arrascada asked if it included a proposed increase in enrollment, with UNLV Executive Vice President Heavey responding yes.

Regent Arrascada clarified that a portion of the revenue generated by the new differential fee will be set aside for financial aid, with UNLV Executive Vice President Heavey responding that yes, 15 percent is set aside by Board mandate. Regent Arrascada stated

7. Approved – Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision, Differential Program Fees, UNLV – (Continued)

the numbers increase, decrease, and then increase again. UNLV School of Nursing Dean Sigrid Barrett stated the fluctuations were an error, but the correction is not reflected. UNLV School of Nursing Director of Finance Jackie Kinsey pointed out that column B for FY25 was the projected total of student fees for the entire year, while the travel, operating, and financial aid spending was just year-to-date, so the school still has five more months of spending for the fiscal year, which would mean an ending balance of around \$780,000. She also noted that the part-time instructors have been covered by the University, but in the proposed budget, the differential fee increase includes part-time instructors.

Interim Chancellor Charlton noted she asked for multiple revisions to the format to bring a full picture to the Board. In the restructuring, an error was made. Regent Brooks appreciated Interim Chancellor Charlton's comments, but after the discrepancy was raised by Regent Arrascada, the Board had to hear from three different people before the mistake was properly explained. He noted it's okay to make a mistake, but it would have been more settling to have the mistake identified quickly and brought to the Board's attention.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Chair Carvalho, Vice Chair Downs, and Regents Arrascada, Bautista, Boylan, Brager, Brooks, Brown, Del Carlo, Fernandez, Goicoechea, and Goodman voted yes.

8. Information Only – New Business

Regent Boylan requested a discussion on limiting Regent and employee travel within NSHE. He added that NSHE should stop hiring consultants when individuals with institutional knowledge and Human Resources could be used more effectively.

9. Information Only – Public Comment

The following individual provided written public comment voicing concerns with the Governor's budget error in the form of a structural deficit and how it might affect NSHE's request to fund COLA increases at 80 percent in Agenda Items 3 (Governor's Recommended Budget, 2025-27 Biennium) and 4 (2025 Legislative Session):

- Kent Ervin (*Ervin.Kent01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

The following individual provided written public comment in support of Agenda Item 6 (Construction of Theatre, Eastview Phase 1, TMCC):

- Joe Atack (*Atack.Joe01.31.25 on file in the Board Office.*)

Pete Goicoechea commended GBC Interim President Amber Donnelly for her actions rendering aid at the State of the State to Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May.

9. Information Only – Public Comment – *(Continued)*

The following individual provided in-person public comment expressing his appreciation to leadership and Interim Chancellor Charlton for moving NSHE in the direction of accomplishing the NSHE strategic goals, particularly those in support of the students:

- Ken Evans

The following individual provided in-person public comment expressing her support for dual enrollment and her daughter's experience attending CSN High School:

- Deborah Arteaga

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Prepared by:

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Submitted for approval by:

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