

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the June 12 & 13, 2025, meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

College of Southern Nevada, Charleston Campus
Student Union, Rooms U126-130
6375 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Members Present: Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Chair
Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs, Vice Chair
Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Mr. Aaron Bautista
Mrs. Susan Brager
Mr. Byron Brooks
Ms. Heather Brown
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo
Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez
Ms. Stephanie Goodman
Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

Members Absent: Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Mr. Pete Goicoechea

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
Dr. William L. Kibler, Acting President, CSN

Faculty senate chairs in attendance included the following individual: Ms. Valerie Conner, CSN (*Chair, Council of Faculty Senate Chairs*). Student body presidents in attendance included the following individual: Ms. Janeth Vences-Balvas, ASCSN President, CSN.

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 except Regents Boylan and Goicoechea. Regent Goodman led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chair Carvalho read the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

Patrick Villa provided in-person public comment thanking the members of the ad hoc CSN President Search Committee for their service and efforts to find the best person for CSN President. He received multiple messages from unhappy faculty and tried to explain that the advisory members are only advisors, and that the final decision falls with the Regents. He stated he respects and understands the process. Faculty are questioning whether they should be there if Regents are not listening. He stated he was bothered that somebody showed up for the final candidate interview, gave his opinion about who he endorsed, and the Regents listened. He congratulated Dr. Klippenstein and looked forward to working with him.

Tracy Sherman provided in-person public comment stating that six CSN faculty members with a collective 108 years of CSN service asked the Search Committee to listen to them and they did not. Those faculty members have been fielding questions from their coworkers asking if the Regents would listen to those chosen for the advisory committee. Those on the advisory committee were foolish to tell their coworkers that this group of Regents would be different from all the others. Today, the Board will be voting on her 14th president in 28 years. As with previous presidential searches, employee advisory committee members were just there for show. They are asked to evaluate candidates, and they do so thoughtfully, thoroughly, and honestly. They are asked for their choices, but they are ignored again.

Ted Chodock provided in-person public comment giving polling data of the first and second choices of the eight CSN faculty members on the CSN President Search Committee at the meeting held on March 12, 2025. The Board of Regents is poised to ignore the views of CSN faculty once again. Why does the Board of Regents plan to ignore the faculty when they clearly say that they have found two candidates, out of four, that they believe will improve CSN. Do they want a leader that will be pliant, who will not rock the boat or advocate for CSN, or one set up to fail as has been so many times in the past? When it comes to the well-researched and well-informed views of CSN administrative and academic faculty, care is absent and in its place is disrespect.

Eric Garner provided in-person public comment stating he received messages from many administrative faculty assembly members listing all the candidates in order and there was no consistent candidate. He believes there were four good candidates. He was disappointed there was no female candidate. He wished Dr. Klippenstein the best.

Raquel Melson provided in-person public comment urging the Board of Regents to direct the ad hoc CSN President Search Committee to reconvene and recommend an additional nominee for the Board's consideration. She expressed her concerns regarding the presidential nominee put forth by the Committee particularly as it deviates from the overwhelming support shown by faculty and staff. She voiced her choice of Dr. Cain.

1. Information Only – Public Comment – (Continued)

Janeth Vences-Balvas provided in-person public comment thanking the Board for the opportunity to be a part of the Search Committee. She believed having a student voice and being a part of shared governance is important. She has been in and out of CSN due to life circumstances since 2013 and she has seen some faculty and staff have only focus and mentality for themselves. She reminded CSN faculty and staff that they are there because of the students. She voiced her support for Dr. Klippenstein.

Sondra Cosgrove provided telephonic public comment stating the Board picked the new president the same way it picked CSN's last president and yet expects different outcomes. The Board did so in a deeply disrespectful way to the faculty who participated.

Mikhaelle Pablico provided telephonic public comment stating she is grateful that the ad hoc committee reached a consensus to recommend Dr. Klippenstein as the next CSN President and asked the Board of Regents to consider international students' needs. Dr. Klippenstein shared his experience working with international center and supporting international students. She is confident he will advocate for the best interests of international students and the entire student body.

Pedro Escalante Jr. provided telephonic public comment stating that if Nevada State and NSHE are committed to protecting federal funding for higher education then they must also ensure that the students who rely on federal programs are supported and not left behind. Words on paper mean nothing without action. Denying or dismantling programs is not just an oversight, it is a betrayal of the commitment NSHE has made. Academia is more than a classroom, it is a place for students, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, to find safety, guidance, and the freedom to grow. When these programs are erased it is not just policy being stripped away, it's people, the students who walk these hallways to bring diverse voices to make these institutions vibrant and alive. Will you uphold the promises in this letter ensuring education is a right, not a privilege or will you send the message that some students do not belong?

Kanapot Srimongkol provided telephonic public comment expressing his full support of Dr. Klippenstein as the next CSN President. He was impressed by Dr. Klippenstein's vision, leadership, and potential and firmly believes he will lead CSN toward a promising future.

2. Approved – Appointment, President of College of Southern Nevada – The Board approved the appointment of Stacy S. Klippenstein, Ed.D. as the next President of the College of Southern Nevada, his Employment Agreement, and contract terms. (Ref. BOR-2c and Supplemental Material on file in the Board Office.)

Committee Chair Heather Brown presented the recommendation of Stacy S. Klippenstein, Ed.D. as the next President of the College of Southern Nevada. His Employment Agreement and contract terms were provided as Supplemental Material.

2. Approved – Appointment, President of College of Southern Nevada – (Continued)

Regent Brooks moved approval of the appointment of Stacy S. Klippenstein, Ed.D. as the next President of the College of Southern Nevada, his Employment Agreement, and contract terms. Regent Del Carlo seconded.

Regent Goodman stated a lot of thought was put into the decision. The Committee supported the students, classified staff, and the labor representative which is a huge piece of what is happening at CSN. It is vital to welcome and support the new president.

Motion carried. Regents Boylan and Goicoechea were absent.

Dr. Klippenstein thanked the Board for its support. He is incredibly honored to be standing in front of the Board as the next president of the College of Southern Nevada. It is equally important to have the support of the students, faculty, staff, and community. He does not take the support lightly and will show his support to all groups, as he has done throughout his career. He has learned over the last 35 years, 12 years as a president, that there are great opportunities and time to sit down and listen. There will be plenty of opportunities to bring people to the table to make joint decisions. He will communicate effectively with the groups as he learns at CSN. He is encouraged to work with the students, faculty, staff, the Board, and NSHE staff. Dr. Klippenstein stated he learned a great deal from his father, including hard work and ethics. His father taught him there must be a solid foundation to build up. He is incredibly blessed to accept the position of CSN President.

CSN Acting President Kibler provided Dr. Klippenstein with a small gift from the President's Office.

3. New Business – None.

4. Information Only – Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.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