

UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes April 8-9, 1994

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BOARD OF REGENTS

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEVADA

April 8, 1994

Members present: Dr. James Eardley, Chairman

Mrs. Shelley Berkley

Dr. Jill Derby

Mr. Joseph M. Foley (by telephone)

Mrs. Dorothy S. Gallagher

Mr. Madison Graves, II

Dr. Lonnie Hammargren

Mr. Daniel J. Klaich (by telephone)

Mrs. Nancy Price

Mrs. Carolyn M. Sparks

Mrs. June Whitley

Others present: Dr. John A. Richardson, Interim Chancellor

Mr. Donald Klasic, General Counsel

Mrs. Mary Lou Moser, Secretary

Chairman Eardley called the special meeting of the Board to order at 9:05 A.M. in Ham Concert Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. All Regents were present except Regents Foley, Hammargren and Klaich. Regents Klaich and Foley were out of State but took part in the meeting through teleconferencing. Also present were UNLV Faculty Senate Chairman Dr. John Swetnam and Graduate Student Association Chairman Sharlene Sayegh.

1. Approved the Appointment of Interim President, UNLV

Chairman Eardley stated that in accordance with the Board of Regents Handbook, Chapter 2, Section 2.C, he recommended that Dr. Kenny Guinn be appointed Interim President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Guinn is well-known and a respected member of the Las Vegas community and throughout the State. He has recently retired as Chief Executive Officer of PriMerit Bank and Southwest Gas Company and currently serves as Chairman of the UNLV Foundation. Dr. Guinn served as Superintendent of Schools of the Clark County School District from 1969 to 1978. He has been very

active in community and State organizations.

Chairman Eardley explained that this decision was reached after considerable input and deliberation. He, Vice Chairman Madison Graves and Interim Chancellor John Richardson had spent two days on the UNLV Campus interviewing some 33 persons from across Departments, Administration and staff, alumni, foundation, and community leaders. In addition, Board members have received a number of letters and phone calls concerning the appointment. Chairman Eardley stated that sentiment for the position was about evenly divided for Dr. Guinn and Provost Dr. John Unrue. He related that he had long discussions with both gentlemen, who had both expressed a desire to help the institution, and would work closely together to ensure a smooth operation.

Dr. Hammargren entered the meeting. Mr. Klaich and Mr. Foley joined the meeting via telephone.

Chairman Eardley expressed concern that the Las Vegas media and the city had begun discussions of who might serve during the interim long before the Board had begun deliberations. He assured the group that the media did not influence the decision; that the decision was based on what was

best for the institution.

Mr. Graves moved to accept the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board that Dr. Kenny Guinn be appointed as Interim President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, until a permanent President is appointed. Mrs. Berkley seconded.

Mrs. Price objected to the recommendation and questioned the process used in bringing names forward to the Board.

Mrs. Sparks stated she had spent a long time debating the question and after careful consideration, many discussions with a wide variety of people, and with Dr. Unrue, and finally, the night before with Dr. Guinn, she supports the recommendation that Dr. Guinn will be the "outside" leader for the institution and Dr. Unrue will continue as "inside" person leading the Campus in academic standards. Further, she felt this would send a powerful message that UNLV is in control and has the best possible people at its helm.

Mr. Graves clarified for Mrs. Price that in the 33 interviews each person was asked for names for candidates for this position. Mrs. Price questioned why only 3 people conducted the interviews and why a consulting group was

not brought in to do the interviewing. Interim Chancellor Richardson explained that by Board policy the Chairman of the Board is to make the recommendation in consultation with the Chancellor, and that they had added the Vice Chairman to the list. The goal of the interviews was to receive views from a cross section of the Campus and community, and that it was felt a decision must be made within a short span of time for the good of the institution and the city.

Mrs. Berkley spoke in favor of the motion, stating that the Board process had been followed and she felt time was of the essence in that preparations for the legislative session are underway and that budgets are in the process of preparation.

Mrs. Gallagher agreed, stating that it was critical to have a person who knows the legislative process and the political arena of the State. Dr. Derby commended the Chairman for bringing the recommendation so promptly and to end the speculation. She stated that as Chairman of the Regents' UNLV Search Committee her focus now will be on the search process which can be held in a stable environment during this interim period.

UNLV Faculty Senate Chairman John Swetnam spoke in favor of Dr. Unrue being appointed to the position and that the

Board was faced with the "well qualified" vs. the "well connected". He stated that Dr. Unrue did have the support of the faculty.

Interim Chancellor Richardson read the 5 questions posed to each of the people interviewed:

- 1) What are the important responsibilities of a President?
- 2) What individual do you feel would be able to fill the position?
- 3) Why would that person be effective?
- 4) Have you considered a UNLV Dean, an experienced UNLV Administrator, an Administrator from out of State?
- 5) Do you have suggestions to offer?

He stated that an out-of-state person was rejected by most; several Deans were suggested but no single Dean was identified as the best possibility; and that the two people men-

tioned were Dr. Unrue and Dr. Guinn. Chairman Eardley stated that the Acting President would not be a candidate for the permanent position.

A number of faculty spoke in support of Dr. Unrue:

Mohamed Yousef, Biological Sciences

Isabelle Emerson, Music

John Lujan, Affirmative Action Officer

Gerald Lanwer, Kinesiology

Ken Hanlon, Music

Craig Walton, Philosophy

Leonard Goodall, Political Science

Paul Burns, Administrator

Gloria Shangreaux, News & Publications, Classified

Nancy Master, Library

Sharlene Sayegh, Graduate Student Association

Robert Ball, Library

Hart Wegner, Film Studies

Dr. Tom Wright spoke in favor of Dr. Guinn.

Mr. Foley, who was out of the State and on a telephone hookup, stated his vote was for Dr. Unrue, then left the

meeting at that point.

Mrs. Whitley spoke to the faculty stating that they were the University, they taught the students; that she had always fought for their academic freedom and that they were very important to their University. She stated that she disagreed with a lot of the statements which have been made concerning this appointment. Mrs. Whitley reminded the group that the University is a big business; that if President Maxson had not been raising funds for the buildings over these past years and been fighting to provide funding for academics, that the faculty would not be here to teach. She stated that Dr. Guinn was the type of person needed to run the University. She agreed that Dr. John Unrue was one of the best professors she had ever known. She admonished the faculty that they cannot go around thinking the Board is against the faculty; that that is not true; and, that the Board is doing what they feel is best for the faculty and the institution. She urged all the faculty to get behind the person who is appointed to the interim position and to continue to move this institution forward.

Mr. Klaich, also on a telephone hookup, stated he rejected the position that the Board was being asked to chose be-

tween the qualified and the unqualified inasmuch as he felt there were two extremely qualified people who would do a superior job. He agreed with Dr. Derby's point that the selection of the Interim President does not change the criteria for the selection of the permanent President.

Motion carried. Mrs. Price voted no based on the process.

Mr. Foley had stated his intention to vote for Dr. Unrue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Mary Lou Moser

Secretary of the Board

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