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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Thom Reilly, Chancellor
DATE: May 24, 2018
SUBJECT: Vacancy in the Office of President at the University of Nevada. Las Vegas (UNLV)

In accordance with the provisions of Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.5.4 (d) of the *Code*, the purpose of this memo is to provide a recommendation to the Board to name an Acting President at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

On Monday, April 30, 2018, Chairman Kevin Page, Vice Chair Jason Geddes, General Counsel Nick Vaskov and I hosted 11 forums at the university which were very well attended by the members of the UNLV community. For example, there were over 200 individuals attending the Open Campus Forum. The forums consisted of the following groups:

The Foundation Executive Board

Research Council, Academic Leadership Group (department chairs), Vice Provosts, and Athletics

Faculty Senate

Dean's Council

Classified Staff and Administrative Faculty Council

President's Cabinet

Graduate Student Government (GPSA)

Open Campus Forum

President's Advisory Council

Alumni Board

CSUN Undergraduate Student Government

The following forums were noticed in accordance with the Open Meeting Law:
Foundation Executive Board, GPSA, Open Campus Forum, Alumni Board and CSUN Undergraduate Student Government

Our question to the groups was: Would you prefer to have an Acting President with a national search, or an Interim President with no search? Overall, I would characterize the majority of individuals as supportive of having a national search with an Acting President, with this person being an internal candidate. However, there were some concerns expressed by the various groups as to when a search might be most desirable. Many felt it would be good for us to revisit the campus in the Fall to get a pulse of the UNLV community on when a search should take place. The same is true of the many emails I have received from the university.

The reasons expressed for not starting the search too soon and choosing an internal candidate were:

- The need for stability
- The need for healing to occur and the campus to settle down
- Concern over the applicant pool that would be attracted
- The need for someone who knows the landscape now and all the critical stakeholders
- The Legislative session starting in January and the need to have a consistent leader
- Budget building process currently taking place
- Need to continue the University's strategic Top Tier efforts
- The need for someone familiar with UNLV to address the operational issues that have been identified as problematic

Common attributes the university community identified they'd want to see in an Acting President included:

- Being a good communicator and someone that can heal issues that arose around the departure of President Jessup.
- Someone in good standing and currently engaged with students, faculty and donors.
- A person who is committed to the current Top Tier efforts and understands and supports the mission of a research institution and its relationship to strong undergraduate curriculum.
- A person with excellent management skills that can address the operational deficiencies identified.
- Someone who understands and can articulate the mission of UNLV to all critical stakeholder groups.
- Someone who can fight for UNLV.
- A person that is student-centered and champions student success efforts.
- Someone who would be effective with the Legislature.

There were four names of internal candidates that were consistently identified during the past month. Interviews were set up with these four. After consulting with Chair Page, I am recommending that the Board appoint Dr. Marta Meana as Acting President and that the Chair, Vice-Chair and myself visit the UNLV campus in the fall semester to garner the "pulse" of the UNLV community as to when a national search should commence. I have discussed this with Dr. Meana and she is not interested in the permanent position and is willing to serve as Acting President while the search is underway.

While all four candidates could have served in this capacity, I am recommending Dr. Meana for the following reasons:

- Dr. Meana has served the university in campus wide capacities for more than 20 years, including as Senior Advisor to the President.
- She is a highly accomplished academic, scientist, and author, having won the Nevada Regents Graduate Academic Advisor Award and the Nevada Regents Excellence in Teaching Award, among others.
- She has published numerous peer reviewed publications, two books, and book chapters.
- Under her tenure as the dean of the UNLV honor's college she saw enrollment (triple) and students succeed at unprecedented rates.
- Since taking over UNLV honor's college students have won prestigious awards such as the Truman Award, Goldwater Scholarship, and Fulbright Scholarship among others.

Dr. Meana is an internationally respected scholar in the area of clinical psychology. A Brief bio can be found below and a detailed CV is attached for your review.

Marta Meana, Ph.D., is Dean of the Honors College and Professor of Psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. A 21-year veteran of UNLV, Dr. Meana has served the university in multiple capacities over the years, including as Senior Advisor to the President. Her scholarship, teaching, and graduate advising have been recognized through multiple university and state-wide awards, including the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, the Nevada Regents Graduate Academic Advisor Award and the Nevada Regents Excellence in Teaching Award. The author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, chapters, conference presentations, and two books, her work has been instrumental in the reconceptualization and appropriate treatment of women's health problems that had gone largely ignored prior to her research. She was consequently named an Advisor to the latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and this year, she was awarded the Masters & Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award for her research contributions. Dr. Meana is also a clinical psychologist licensed in the State of Nevada.

I look forward to working with you to identify the next leader who can continue the excellent work and bring UNLV to the next level.