Dear Outsourced Chief Investment Officers:

Several stakeholder groups of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) have raised concerns about the risks of fossil fuels to our climate and to the System’s future investment returns.

The NSHE Board of Regents directs that each of its outsourced CIOs (Cambridge Associates and Russell Investments) engage with underlying managers in the NSHE investment pools to assess whether climate-related risks and opportunities are integrated into the investment process for any actively managed strategies. Our primary focus is the financial materiality of risks and opportunities associated with climate change and energy-related regulations. NSHE wishes to better understand the current views and any actions taken by our asset managers to mitigate the effects of climate change on the returns and risk of our portfolios.

In order to better understand the current views and any actions taken by our asset managers please ask the underlying managers to provide responses to the following questions:

1. Does the asset manager claim adherence to any of the frameworks or protocols (including but not limited to SASB, PRI and TCFD) which have been developed to assist investors in assessing climate change as part of investment decisions? If so which frameworks/protocols?

2. Are the potential financial risks and opportunities of climate change formally considered in the investment decision making process? If yes, please describe. If no, please explain.

3. Is the asset manager planning to take any further steps to consider the potential financial risks and opportunities of climate change in the investment process in the future? If so, what actions are being contemplated?

4. Are climate change risks and opportunities specifically considered in evaluating energy sector investments?
Please report your findings back to the Investment Committee at the Spring 2020 meeting.

Sincerely,

[NSHE rep]