

Nevada System of Higher Education

System Administration
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119-7530
Phone: 702-889-8426
Fax: 702-889-8492



System Administration
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512-1666
Phone: 775-784-4901
Fax: 775-784-1127

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Regents
FROM: *Thom* Thom Reilly, Chancellor
DATE: November 15, 2019
SUBJECT: Vacancy in the Office of President at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)

On Wednesday, November 13, 2019 Chairman Jason Geddes, Vice-Chair Mark Doubrava, NSHE Chief General Counsel Joe Reynolds, Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to the Board of Regents, Dean Gould and I hosted six (6) forums per Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.5.4. at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The purpose these meetings were to ask the UNR community whether they preferred to have an a national search or an Interim President with no search. Overall, the overwhelming majority of individuals were supportive of having a national search. After consulting with the Chair and Vice-Chair, I am recommending that the Board of Regents commence with a national search for the next President of UNR.

The forums were very well attended by the members of the UNR community and consisted of the following groups:

The Foundation Board of Trustees

Faculty Senate, Academic and Administrative Faculty

University Senior Leadership (President's Cabinet, Deans)

Classified Staff

Graduate Student Government (GSA) and ASUN Undergraduate Student Government Joint Mtg

Open Campus Forum

The following forums were noticed in accordance with the Open Meeting Law: The Foundation Board of Trustees, and the GSA/ASUN.

Overall there was a great deal of consensus on how the UNR community recommended moving forward.

Common attributes the UNR community identified they'd want to see in the next President included:

- Being a good communicator and effective with a diverse set of stakeholders.
- A person who is committed to maintaining the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a R1 institution and understands and supports the mission of a research institution and its relationship to strong undergraduate curriculum.
- Someone who understands and can articulate the mission of UNR as a land grant institution.
- A person who is student-centered and champions student success efforts.
- Someone who would be effective with the Governor, Legislature, donors and community stakeholders.
- Someone who can address the needs of diverse and underserved student populations and can develop an effective plan to the identified concerns that surfaced from the recent climate survey.
- A person who is committed to shared governance.
- Someone who can both continue many of the initiatives of President Johnson and at the same time can also bring new ideas and innovative thinking.

There was also a strong desire to have a diverse set of candidates (gender, ethnicity, background) presented as finalists to the UNR community.

If the Board approves a national search, our plan would be to identify a search consultant before the end of the calendar year (via a RFP), hold the first advisory board meeting by the end of January 2019 and bring a set of finalists to the campus by early to mid April.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.