

BOARD OF REGENTS

BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, NSHE Planning Report

March 4-5, 2021

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3*) provides for the planning of degree programs to be disclosed in the NSHE *Planning Report*. Specifically, on a biennial basis each institution presents for consideration to the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee its plans for new degree programs, student services, and research activities as required in the NSHE Planning Report pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.505. Under the current protocol, plans for new degree programs must be included on the Planning Report prior to an institution submitting a new program proposal for Board approval.

The proposed revision to Board policy specifies that plans for new associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs must be included in the Planning Report for Board approval, as such plans for new skills certificates (less than 30 credits) and certificates of achievement (30+ credit certificates) do not require prior disclosure. Such certificates are often created in response to immediate industry demand. Because those certificates are not subject to Board approval institutions can react quickly to industry demand in nimbly creating such programs, the proposal excludes certificate programs from the Planning Report parameters. Further, in an effort to limit off-cycle Planning Report revisions, the proposal prior to Board approval for a new program proposal, institutions that did not include a degree in the Planning Report as a planned program must disclose such to the Chancellor's Office.

The Office of Academic and Student Affairs recommends 1) revising Board policy to specify which degree program plans are required in the NSHE Planning Report and 2) clarify that new degree program plans absent from the Planning Report must be disclosed to the Chancellor's Office prior to new program proposal submissions. Upon the Board's approval of this *Handbook* revision, System staff will update the New Program Proposal form required of institutions when submitting new programs for Board approval to reflect the requirement of first disclosing the new degree program plan in the Planning Report.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

- Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3*) be revised to clarify that planned associate, baccalaureate, master and doctoral programs must be included in the biennial Planning Report.
- Additionally, is it recommended that *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3* also be revised to require an institution to disclose to the Chancellor's Office any plans for new degree programs that have not been included in the Planning Report.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

During Fall 2020, System staff worked with the institutions on collecting plans for new academic degree programs to be included in the 2021-2025 Planning Report for Board approval. It was determined at this time the Planning Report requirements needed clarification to help institutions be more effective and efficient in the submission of their new degree program plans.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

- Clarifying the requirements of the Planning Report supports streamlining the process which ultimately brings programs to students in a more efficient manner.
- The disclosure of specific degree plans in the Planning Report allows the campus, wider community, prospective students to inquire about potential programs of interest.

6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Clarifying the language of existing policy helps institutional staff recognize which degree programs are required for the biennial Planning Report.
- Clarifying that new program plans not submitted to the Planning Report still require disclosure to the Chancellor's Office helps institutions realize the required steps in ultimately getting a new degree program approved.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

The Board may maintain the current policy and not adopt the clarifying language.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports this recommendation.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 3
NSHE Planning Report

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 3. Institutional Strategic Plans

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3. On a biennial basis each institution shall present for consideration to the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee its *plans for new degree programs, student services and research activities for a planning period of four years in* [Academic Master Plan ~~in conjunction with~~] the NSHE Planning Report [required] pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 396.505. [The Academic Master Plan shall include the institution's plans for new academic, research and student service related programs for a planning period of at least two years.] *Planned associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs must be included. An institution must disclose to the Chancellor's Office any plans for new degree programs that have not been included in the Planning Report prior to submitting for Board of Regents approval.*

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