Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: angel.clemens@csn.edu

Name: Angel Clemens

Address:

Phone Number:

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: General Public Comment

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I am a classified employee serving on a diversity committee supporting AAPIHC (Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Committee)in support of CSN students of that population. The faculty and staff at CSN have been waiting since before the pandemic for the Sawgrass report recommendations to be implemented. We were told that the Sawgrass report was not going to end up gathering dust on a shelf, yet it is literally sitting on a shelf gathering dust. The Regents must direct Dr. Zaragoza to implement the Sawgrass report recommendations as soon as possible to address issues of student support and employee retention. Furthermore, we need support from the administration in order to provide representation for AAPI students and the community.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
My name is Bradley Summerhill. I am a faculty member in the TMCC English department. I was granted tenure by this body in 2007.

After 20+ years of excellence, according to performance and student evaluations, my own salary sits just above the median listed on the NSHE salary schedule. Yet I am better off than the majority of my colleagues.

I commend the Chancellor and her staff for urging you to advocate to the Legislature for COLA adjustments and restored PEBP benefits. It is not enough. In January, inflation hit a 40 year high of over 7 percent. Even before considering the latest spike, faculty had lost more than 20 percent in real value of net take-home pay over the prior decade, inclusive of all COLA and pay adjustments.

NSHE salary considerations are a chronic afterthought, not only in the Legislature, but also in this body. We need hardline budget solutions. The 1% merit carve-out for 22-23 is a small move in the right direction. The college presidents will tell you, I believe, that salary
enhancement carve-outs are unsustainable without administrative downsizing or changes to the college funding formula.

Salary enhancement must be one ongoing purpose of formula funding.

As higher education faculty build Nevada’s twenty first century economy and workforce, legislative considerations have not only flatlined, but degraded our earnings. Inflation and housing costs outpace cost of living adjustments by double figures.

Salary compression and inequity compound with every new round of faculty hiring. And we need to keep hiring because my colleagues are looking elsewhere and leaving. Faculty need system support. We need your support.

Thank you for your time.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: alan.cruz@unlv.edu

Name: Alan Cruz

Address:

Phone Number:

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: General public comment – SU grading policy

In Favor / Opposed / Other: No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

Comment:

I wanted to take this time for my public comment to express my disappointment in NSHE not re-instating the S/U grading policy for spring 2022. We are still living through a pandemic and many students are continuing to struggle with the consequences of how COVID has impacted their lives. I believe that it is sensible to continue the S/U grading policy at least for the spring 2022 semester. It is important to show students compassion and care because these consequences of the pandemic continue to impact us today and will not be going away any time soon. I urge you to re-consider your position and re-instate S/U grading policy for students for spring 2022.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: sherida.devine@csn.edu

Name: Sherida Devine

Address: 

Phone Number: 

Representing someone other than yourself?: self

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: Diversity concern at the College of Southern Nevada

In Favor / Opposed / Other: No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

Comment:

My name is Sherida Devine and I am an Administrative Faculty staff at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) and currently serving as the Chair of the African American Heritage Committee and the Anti-Black Racism Taskforce. I am writing in regards to our concerns about the systemic issues of oppression ingrained in the culture of the College of Southern Nevada. Although the college states they are addressing issues relating to diversity, we have yet to see the outcomes. The college paid an outside organization to conduct an assessment regarding these concerns which led to the Sawgrass Report; however, the only outcome we have witnessed has been the hiring of the Chief of Staff/Chief of Diversity Officer. The lack in retention of Black staff is concerning. Additionally, we have not witnessed an increase in hiring Black faculty across all academic departments. This systemic challenge also spills over unto the students in which the college states they are attempting to retain. Although Dr. Zaragoza supported the creation of the Anti-Black Racism Taskforce to address the concerns of this population, the support we receive has been very vague and dismissive. We are asking for your support in addressing our concerns regarding the recommendations in the Sawgrass report. Lastly, we understand the CSN Foundation is a separate legal entity; however, there are concerns about hidden discrimination within their practices as it relates to the Black student
population at CSN. I thank you for your time in reading our concerns and look forward to your response.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: mizmarygibson@gmail.com

Name: Mary Gibson

Address: 

Phone Number: 

Representing someone other than yourself?: Noowuh Knowledge Center

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: 10g Honorary Degree UNR (page 8 on the agenda)

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Madam Chair and the Board of Regents, Thank you for this opportunity to express my support to award Mary and Carrie Dann an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. The posthumous degree would be a great honor bestowed on two Western Shoshone sisters and ranchers who fought valiantly against two powerful forces, the United States and the mining industry.

Mary and Carrie were dedicated to family, land and their traditional way of life. The Dann sisters were the reflection of the strong, traditional matriarchs who raised them on the land their people have lived since time immemorial. Empowered by their matrilineal teachings and cultural knowledge, Carrie and Mary, would spend decades in US courts fighting for Western Shoshone land and treaty rights. Both were courageous warriors who risked their livelihood to stand up for what they believed in, Indigenous human rights and environmental justice. They worked tirelessly and selflessly for the Western Shoshone and Indigenous people of the world.

Mary and Carrie embodied the spirit of their ancestors. Both were confident of their cultural identity, traditions and practices, and they knew their land, their country. Mary and Carrie were of and from the land they loved dearly, Newe Sogobia, the land their ancestors instructed
to protect and take care of because the land is our mother, she gives life. Carrie’s belief that the foundation of Western Shoshone cultural identity is a fundamental connection to the land. The transmission of cultural traditions from elder to child was important to Carrie. She emphasized to Western Shoshone children and youth to know their history and identity.

As respected community elder, land defender and water protector, Carrie Dann’s voice will be missed but her words will still prevail: “Being a good ancestor would be taking care of the land, the water, the air, and the necessities of life so that the future generations will have something; that to me would be a good ancestor.”

Thank you.

**Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate:** Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Hello, my name is Logan Kennedy, and I am an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and the NFA Chapter President at Nevada State College. It is well-known that NSHE is worried about faculty retention issues, and central to these issues are salary inequities and healthcare concerns.

It is true that faculty are receiving a 1% COLA for the first time in years. While many faculty appreciate this, it does not help address the unprecedented cost of living increases in Nevada, nor the previous yearly cost of living increases that were never addressed through COLA. Given the absence of COLA adjustments in recent years, faculty salaries have fallen behind the current cost of living and made it difficult for many to continue residing in Nevada.

In addition to this, we have also had healthcare benefit cuts that were initially discussed as temporary solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic but have since become more permanent. These increases disproportionately impact our most vulnerable faculty members, making it so that those who rely most heavily on these benefits are experiencing higher premiums with vastly reduced benefits.
The combination of these issues makes it difficult for faculty to feel valued when burnout is already incredibly high, and morale is low. As such, I am asking that the Board consider how it might retain the outstanding faculty that we have in Nevada by addressing these salary inequities and restoring PEBP benefits.

Thank you,

Logan P. Kennedy, Ph.D.

**Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate:** Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Hello, my name is Jessica Shearin and I am the President of the Nevada Association of School Psychologists. I’d like to speak to you today about issues directly related to student mental health and higher education workforce development. Nevada is short approximately 740 school psychologists. But what does this mean for students? According to recent data, approximately 14% (or 1 in 7) of youth in Nevada have experienced a mental illness. Of these students accessing these supports, 70-80% of them access supports solely in schools. This means that if we continue on this path, 78% of Nevada’s students will not have access to the direct and consultative services that school psychologists provide.

Currently, Nevada only has 1 school psychologist training program in the state, and of its graduates, only about 4 practitioners enter the school districts annually. Our current model is not sustainable and will not help us end these shortages. Not only do we need to create more school psychology programs, we need to create a pipeline to this career path. This can be done by creating stacked degree programs that align (minors, bachelors, and graduate) and corresponding licensing opportunities for positions like Psychological Service Assistant, who are trained to provide valuable
support to schools and school psychologists. Not only are we in dire need of training programs and opportunities, we are in need of the people to fill the positions. Creating pipeline opportunities starting in high school is a way to start that.

**Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate:** Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: asurges@unr.edu
Name: Alissa D Surges
Address:
Phone Number:
Representing someone other than yourself?:
Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting
Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022
Agenda Item: General Public Comment
In Favor / Opposed / Other: No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral
Comment:

My name is Alissa Surges. I was recently promoted as a Senior Lecturer in UNR’s English department. I am here to ask the Board to address pay and healthcare inequities, which are already resulting in issues of retention.

Due to rising costs and cuts to our healthcare, faculty have lost more than 20 percent in the real value of net take-home pay over the prior decade, inclusive of all COLA and pay adjustments. In my own example, my base pay is $54,000, which is far below the pay of colleagues at other institutions. In another personal example, my family’s insulin costs went from $30 each month to over $200 beginning in July 2022. Our 1% COLA doesn’t cover the 7% inflation rate or the cost of living in Reno. Although my situation is my own, it is hardly unique. The longer my colleagues and I work at UNR, the *less* money we make.

When university administration and its governing board do not care about their community, it is awfully difficult for the community to care about the university. In the last six weeks, I have spoken with twelve people who have accepted or are interviewing for other positions. When faculty leave, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to provide students with the classes and
degrees they need. And when we no longer have those faculty members’ research contributions, it is difficult for that university to hold on to its R1. I urge you to address salary inequities and to restore our PEBP benefits.

Thank you for your time.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: madison.hale@unlv.edu
Name: Madison Hale
Address:
Phone Number:
Representing someone other than yourself?: UNLV CSUN
Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting
Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022
Agenda Item: General Public Comment
In Favor / Opposed / Other: No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

Comment:

My name is Madison Hale and I am a member of CSUN at UNLV. With that title comes the responsibility of representing 25,000 undergraduate students. Statistically, that means 3,250 of those students have or will experience sexual assault during their time on campus. NV Senate Bill 347 was written by survivors of sexual assault for survivors of sexual assault. SB 347 was passed in the summer of 2021, but a majority of the provisions outlined in the legislature have not been made mandatory and enforceable for NSHE by the Board of Regents. Both UNR’s ASUN and UNLV’s CSUN have passed resolutions written by myself and Abbey Pike calling for the full implementation of these protective measures to protect our fellow students. SB 347 provides a clear description of what survivors need from the campuses in response to instances of sexual misconduct, including the need for an amnesty policy for students reporting incidents, access to confidential victim advocates at every NSHE institution, and entering into a memorandum of understanding. Again, these measures were created by survivors for survivors. No one knows what they need better than they do, and it is an egregious oversight on part of the Board of Regents to neglect fully implementing SB 347. If NSHE campuses cannot be made safer for students in regards to preventing sexual misconduct, it is imperative that the policies surrounding reporting sexual misconduct are made with the needs of the
survivors in mind.

**Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate:** Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: rajam1@unlv.nevada.edu

Name: Maryam Raja

Address:

Phone Number:

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: General public meeting

In Favor / Opposed / Other: No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

Comment:

I would like to speak on behalf of myself and my friends who would all benefit from the satisfactory and unsatisfactory grading options. Please consider going back to that option and offering it for the spring 2022 semester as well. The pandemic is ongoing and students still need academic support and empathy.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Hello, my name is Autumn Kidd, I am a Senator for the School of Public Health at the University of Nevada and I think these budget changes are a much needed topic to be discussed since multiple Universities are not accessible for people with disabilities. I would like to emphasize how of this list on page 50 that outlines the CIP Request for ADA and Code Upgrades, improving building entrances should be placed as one of the top priorities. Some of our buildings on campus currently are not ADA accessible, one consistent problem area is with dorms. Students and staff who need ADA access whether for temporary (crutches, knee walker) or permanent (wheelchair, walking sticks) reasons do not have the ease of access into our dorms that all other students have. While the other items under the Priority 1 accessibility barriers list are important, I believe building entrances should be emphasized and made a priority since dorm-life is one of the main factors that enhance the College experience and offer a plethora of resources to students. Accessibility for all students is paramount to having a thriving University and with allocating these funds specifically to increase the areas of ADA and Code upgrades, we begin moving in the right direction.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: Daniele@daniele4nevada.com

Name: Daniele Monroe-Moreno

Address:

Phone Number:

Representing someone other than yourself?: N/A

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: #28

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Nevada System of Higher Education Regents,

As the Assemblywoman for Nevada’s 1st district and a proud member of the University of Nevada, Reno Extension Advisory Council, I would like to share my support for the proposed enhancement requests presented by UNR President Brian Sandoval as related to Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station.

The goal of these requests is to address a leading issue we face through our state North to South, rural to urban—food insecurity. We know lack to fresh, quality food leads to even deeper problems for our children, our students, our communities. Gaps in our food system are deep-rooted, lacking critical education, workforce development, research and infrastructure.

The Community Food Services Program and Food Security Program aim to tackle this issue at multiple levels to create a sustainable and equitable food system in Nevada.

Combined with research in new and emerging agricultural practices, these programs will increase awareness of food—how to grow your own, start a business, education on food budgeting, and more. Addressing food deserts by providing fresh foods to food insecure communities through farmers markets and food distribution sites.
Through growing of fresh fruit and vegetables in new ways like indoor growing or hydroponics, our children can explore and be made aware of new workforce opportunities such as earning dual enrollment credits or apprenticeships in the growing urban agriculture industry.

As a statewide leader, one of the most promising aspects of these requests is the purposeful collaboration in research, education, and workforce across multiple NSHE institutions to leverage one of our state’s best assets – our talents, skills and diversity across the state. A second Extension request would provide operational and management funding for a Southern Nevada 4-H Camp. As a 4-H alum, I know the impact 4-H can make on our youth. I encourage your support.

Sincerely,
Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Assemblywoman

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Meeting, March 3-4, 2022

Email: meaghan.lynch@ns.edu

Name: Meaghan Lynch

Address:

Phone Number:

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Meeting

Meeting Date: March 3-4, 2022

Agenda Item: Anti-Discrimination Resolution

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I am an employee at Nevada State College where I proudly serve with our office of Community, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion. I am commenting on the Anti-Discrimination Resolution that will be shared on Friday.
I want to uplift the sections of the resolution that call on the regents to demonstrate their commitment to DEI by engaging in life-long learning and continuing education. In recent years and frankly, recent weeks, the actions of our elected officials both across the country and on our Board have made it abundantly clear that ongoing education about oppression & bias is essential to ensuring the success and safety of our ever-growing & ever-diversifying student population.
I want to highlight that throughout NSHE, we have faculty & staff that are experts in providing training on equity and inclusion, myself included – in my office alone, we provide training at all levels on supporting undocumented students, supporting transgender students, and more. One of the benefits of serving as a Regent is that you have brilliant scholars & practitioners of this work at your fingertips that are constantly evolving at the cutting edge of teaching and learning. Our experts at each of our institutions are willing & able to provide learning opportunities to you.
I want to share a phrase that we use often in diversity work: “Meet people where they’re at.” What I mean by this is that we know our backgrounds impact the way we see the world. Where we grew up, how we were raised, and what type of education we have all impact the way we understand discrimination. I share this with you because your content area experts are ready to meet you where you’re at. I am ready to meet you where you’re at – but I will not leave you there. I implore you to take advantage of the dozens of employees that are experts in our fields. Please let us meet you where you are and let us bring you along to support our students as they shape the landscape of higher education for future generations.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education (https://nshe.nevada.edu)
As a Nevada State College employee and educator, I want to voice my concern and no confidence in Regent Boylan and Brook’s representing the education interest and needs of Nevadans/Nevada students based on: 1. The recent incident of Patrick Boylan decrying the so-called “invisibility of white students.”; 2. Byron Brooks amplified Boylan’s comments – while also insisting on carrying his weapon to meetings.

The access, needs, and ultimate success of our students and educators in the NSHE system can NOT be safely, inclusively, and equitably represented or advocated for by these two Regents based on the above described problematic (racist and unsafe) behaviors and associations. I STRONGLY advocate for their resignation as NSHE Regents.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes