

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, Definition of “State College”

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The proposed *Handbook* revisions are consistent with the enactment of [Senate Bill 273](#).

During the 2023 legislative session, the Nevada State Legislature passed Senate Bill 273 recognizing the name change of Nevada State College to Nevada State University, thereby amending *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.005 to define “state college” to mean all of the state colleges within the Nevada System of Higher Education, including without limitation, the state college known as Nevada State University. The amendments proposed herein revise the *Handbook* to align with state law.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy (*Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.1* and *Title 4, Chapter 1, new Section 41*) to define “state college” to mean the state college known as Nevada State University. This is consistent with the definition codified in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.005. . Further, define “community college” to mean the community colleges known as College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada College; and define “university” to mean the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University to Nevada, Reno.

Further, direct the Board’s Chief of Staff to search and replace all *Handbook* references to “Nevada State College” with “Nevada State University.”

This is the second hearing for a *Code* revision that requires two hearings of the Board. The item was initially heard for information only at the June 2023 quarterly meeting.

The proposed revisions are to be effective July 1, 2023, in alignment with current state law.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

State law recognizes the name change of Nevada State College to Nevada State University and directs the Board of Regents to take all necessary steps to implement the name change. Necessary steps include revising the Board of Regents *Handbook* to define “state college” to mean the state college known as Nevada State University.

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

- Access (Increase access to higher education)
- Success (Improve student success)
- Close Institutional Performance Gaps
- Workforce (Meet workforce needs in Nevada)
- Research (Increase solutions-focused research)
- Coordination, Accountability, and Transparency (Ensure system coordination, accountability, and transparency)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

The proposed revisions are technical in nature to accommodate the name change for Nevada State College and preserve the statutory and *Handbook* reference to “state college” and do not directly impact the goals of the Board of Regents.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Including an overarching definition of “state college” in Title 2 and Title 4 of the *Handbook* will:

- Preserve the institutional tiers and terms currently utilized in Board policy;
- Avoid confusion in the interpretation of the term “state college” in the Board *Handbook*; and
- Clarify the NSC name change is not intended to place the state college under university salary schedules, university tuition and fee rates, university admissions and university weights in the funding formula, thereby ensuring there is no additional cost related to the aforementioned items.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

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

None have been brought forward.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:

The Chancellor’s Office supports the revisions presented herein.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Amends Current Board Policy: Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.1 and Title 4, Chapter 1, new Section 41 _____
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____
 Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.1
Definitions

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

Section 1.1 Definitions

As used in the Nevada System of Higher Education Code, the terms set forth below have the meanings stated herein:

(a) "Academic faculty" means:

- (1) For the universities, instructional, research and library faculty, as defined by the Board of Regents, and
- (2) For the state college and community colleges, instructional, counseling and library faculty, as defined by the Board of Regents.

(b) "Administrators" means administrative faculty employed in executive, supervisory or support positions, as defined by the Board of Regents.

(c) "Calendar days" means the days counted according to the calendar.

(d) "Code" means the Nevada System of Higher Education Code.

(e) "College working days," for the purpose of calculating the time periods specified in the Nevada System of Higher Education Code, means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, as designated by the Nevada Revised Statutes, or designated periods of class recess as provided by an appropriate member institution.

(f) ***“Community college” means the community colleges known as College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada College.***

(g) "Curricular reasons" means the term used to characterize the bona fide discontinuance, reduction in size or reorganization of an administrative unit, project, program or curriculum for bona fide reasons pertaining to the missions of the institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education resulting in the elimination of employment positions. Bona fide curricular reasons may include, but are not limited to, low or declining student demand, changes in the mission of a system institution, or adverse financial conditions forcing a system institution to prioritize its projects, programs and curricula.

~~[(g)]~~ (h) "Faculty" means the professional staff as established in Subsection 1.4.5 of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code.

~~[(h)]~~ (i) "Financial exigency" means a condition that requires the bona fide discontinuance or reduction in size of an administrative unit, project, program or curriculum due to the lack of funds available and sufficient to meet current or projected expenditures.

~~[(j)]~~ **(j)** "Furlough" means a leave of absence without pay mandated by the employer.

~~[(k)]~~ **(k)** "Institutional bylaws" means the bylaws of the member institutions and the special units of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

~~[(l)]~~ **(l)** "Laid off" or "lay off" means the termination of employment, for financial exigency or curricular reasons, of a nontenured faculty member before the completion of a contract term or of a tenured faculty member.

~~[(m)]~~ **(m)** "Nonreappointment" means not appointing a nontenured faculty member for a subsequent employment appointment after the completion of the nontenured faculty member's current contract term.

~~[(n)]~~ **(n)** "President" means the chief executive officer of a member institution, and the term shall also include the Chancellor where the context of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code requires with respect to the Unit or the special units.

(o) *"State college" means the state college known as Nevada State University.*

~~[(p)]~~ **(p)** "System" means the Nevada System of Higher Education.

~~[(q)]~~ **(q)** "System institutions" means the member institutions and the special units.

~~[(r)]~~ **(r)** "Tenure" means academic freedom and continuing employment, which may be terminated only for the reasons specified in the Nevada System of Higher Education Code.

~~[(s)]~~ **(s)** "Tenured faculty" means members of the professional staff who have received appointments with tenure.

~~[(t)]~~ **(t)** "Unit" means the combined administrative unit consisting of the Chancellor's Office and the Nevada System of Higher Education Computing Services.

(u) *"University" means the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno.*

~~[(v)]~~ **(v)** "University of Nevada" means the state university established under Article 11, Section 4 of the Nevada Constitution.

~~[(w)]~~ **(w)** "Nevada System of Higher Education" means the system of universities, colleges, research and public service units of the University of Nevada administered by the Board of Regents.

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 41
Definitions

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

Section 41. Definitions

As used in the Title 4, the terms set forth below have the meanings stated herein:

1. *“Community college” means the community colleges known as College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada College.*
2. *“State college” means the state college known as Nevada State University.*
3. *“University” means the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno.*