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**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation, December 1, 2023  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:28:49 AM

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# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation, December 1, 2023

**Email:** kent.ervin@nevadafacultyalliance.org

**Name:** Kent Ervin

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation, December 1, 2023

**Agenda Item:** General Public Comment

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

### Comment:

The annual reports of the various foundations are good narratives, but they don't all provide information uniformly about the nature of program support and administrative and fundraising expenses. The financial statements of the various foundations show differences in how they operate. While we know from the legislative audit that donors' wishes are being followed, we don't know how the spending of unrestricted funds is prioritized. Similar to my comments about the self-supporting budgets yesterday, it would be useful for the Board to receive uniform budget reports for foundation expenditures not only by program but also by function (for example, personnel, travel, or hosting).

I would ask the following questions of each foundation. (1) What is the percent of total program expenses spent on administration and fundraising? (2) What is the return in terms of contributions as a multiple of those expenses? (3) What are unrestricted funds spent on? (4) Are any foundation funds spent on executive compensation or perks?

From UNLV's financial statement, I estimate that 29% of the FY2023 expenditures were for administration and fundraising, second highest among the seven education foundations. The UNLV foundation spent \$6.5 million on development and administrative personnel. Over \$21 million was transferred to UNLV for program support. UNLV's annual report is the most detailed in terms of listing every expense invoice, although maybe the more general categorizations are more useful. How much of the \$21 million is unrestricted and could some of that be used for temporary budget issues, such as avoiding position eliminations in the year of a high COLA?