

Minutes are intended to note: (a) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (b) those members of the public body who were present and those who were absent; and (c) the substance of all matters proposed, discussed and/or action was taken on. Minutes are not intended to be a verbatim report of a meeting. An audio recording of the meeting is available for inspection by any member of the public interested in a verbatim report of the meeting. These minutes are not final until approved by the Task Force at a future meeting.

MINUTES

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE ON POWER-BASED VIOLENCE

NSHE System Administration Office Building
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

and

NSHE System Administration Office Building
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Members Present:

Dr. Kavita Batra
Ms. Luisa Bautista
Dr. Sarah Chamanara
Dr. Stefanie Coleman
Mr. Jordan Fischette
Ms. Erin Frock
Dr. Tabor Griswold, Vice Chair
Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, Chair
Ms. Christina Hall
Mr. Isabelle Hatch
Ms. Lynda King, NSHE Senior Associate General Counsel
Ms. Michelle Sposito

Members Absent:

Mr. Matt McNair, NSHE Chancellor
Ms. Tara Marjerrison
Mr. José Meléndrez
Ms. Lindsey Wolterbeek

Others Present:

Dr. Daniel Archer, NSHE Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, designee for Chancellor McNair
Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
Ms. Donna Healy, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
Mr. Chris Nielsen, NSHE Task Force Counsel

Dr. Bradley Marianno, Associate Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership and Faculty Director of the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment at UNLV
Dr. Megan Griffard, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy and Associate Faculty Director of the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment at UNLV

Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, Chair of the Power-Based Violence Task Force, welcomed all members of the Task Force to the quarterly meeting, which was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with a quorum present.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Chair's Report

Chair Gunn thanked the NSHE staff in the Reno and Las Vegas system offices for their preparation work required for the meeting and welcomed three new members who have been added to the Task Force:

- Tara Marjerrison, who was absent from the meeting and appointed at the Board of Regents' April meeting, is a Campus Advocate at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC).
- Ms. Isabelle Hatch, a student member representative on the Task Force, noted that she is a sophomore at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), who is majoring in political science and international affairs, and serves in student government as the Assistant Director of Government Affairs.
 - She shared that she has also worked with the Nevada Cares peer mentorship program and the People Power/ACLU network at UNR.
- Dr. Sarah Chamanara, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), is a medical professional representative on the Task Force.
 - She shared that her role goes beyond working with babies; she also educates teenagers about power-based violence to help ensure that they stay safe.

Chair Gunn provided an update on Task Force activities since the last meeting:

- At their June meeting, the Board of Regents approved the NSHE Chancellor's designation of available funds for a subsequent inter-institutional survey on power-based violence.
- The Board of Regents also unanimously approved revised language for the Task Force's recommendation to incorporate the definition of power-based violence as set forth in NRS 396.1285 in its Policy Against Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment (Title 4, Chapter 8. Section 14).

- There has been continued conversation with UNLV's Center for Survey Research, Evaluation, and Assessment, in collaboration with the UNLV Academic Effectiveness, Surveys & Data Center regarding survey administration.
 - Collaborating with UNLV for the second survey balances the Task Force's engagement with research institution survey centers from both northern and southern Nevada.

3. Minutes

The Power-Based Violence Task Force approved the minutes from its May 1, 2025 meeting. ([Ref. PBVTF-3](#))

Ms. Lynda King moved approval of the May 1, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Kavita Batra seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on Policy Recommendation

Chair Gunn reported that during the June 12-13, 2025, meeting, the Board of Regents approved the Task Force's recommendation to incorporate the definition of power-based violence as set forth in NRS 396.1285 in its Policy Against Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment (Title 4, Chapter 8. Section 14).

- Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, provided an update regarding work on this policy revision.
 - She has been in touch with Kelly Sherado, NSHE Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, who noted that work is underway with Title IX officers throughout the system.
 - The target timeline for taking the policy to the Board of Regents for approval is their December 4-5, 2025 quarterly meeting.

5. Assembly Bill 465 (2025)

Task Force member Lynda King provided an update on the outcome of Assembly Bill 465 (AB465), which was under consideration by the Nevada Legislature's 83rd Session ([Refs. PBVTF-5a](#), [PBVTF-5b](#), and [PBVTF 5c](#))

- Ms. King noted that in its original form, the bill changed all instances of power-based violence to "harassment," and NSHE had concerns regarding this, particularly in terms of possibly invalidating the survey results.
- Work was done with the Assemblymember Brittney Miller, and the bill continued on to adopt a new definition of harassment; it shored up some of the provisions in the aim of the bill, putting policies in place to be responsive to instances of harassment, sexual harassment, or power-based violence.

- Some concerns remained regarding consistency with federal law and needing more flexibility, as well as what the impact could be on students' financial aid.
- There is no change to the statute, and work will resume in the next legislative session.
- Concerns remain about barriers to reporting; it would be helpful to have the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic Violence meet with the Task Force.

Discussion

- Ms. Isabelle Hatch asked when the bill died in committee, although it had previously passed unanimously in the Assembly.
 - Ms. King responded that it did pass unanimously in the Assembly Committee on Education and was introduced in the Senate Committee on Education toward the end of the session; there was a presentation, but it did not receive a hearing.
 - There were many amendments to the bill, and its non-passing was a matter of timing, with many competing bills underway.

6. Future Meeting Dates

Chair Gunn noted that Nevada law provides that the Task Force shall meet at least once each quarter and may meet at other times upon the call of the Chair or a majority of the members of the Task Force.

- To assist the Task Force members' planning and to support consistent attendance, Chair Gunn proposed a similar meeting pattern to the one scheduled for the prior year and thanked the committee members for prioritizing these dates:
 - Thursday, November 6, 2025, 9 am to 11 am
 - Thursday, February 5, 2026, 9 am to 11 am
 - Thursday, May 7, 2026, 9 am to 11 am
 - Thursday, September 10, 2026, 9 am to 11 am

7. 2026 Survey Planning

Chair Gunn noted that the representatives from UNLV's Center for Survey Research, Evaluation, and Assessment (in collaboration with UNLV's Academic Effectiveness, Surveys & Data Center) would present information regarding their scope of work for the next survey, including a timeline for preparing the survey for the Task Force members' input and edits in preparation for a Task Force vote on whether or not to recommend the survey for consideration to the Board of Regents.

- Dr. Bradley Marianno, Associate Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership and Faculty Director of the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment at UNLV, introduced his colleague, Dr. Megan Griffard, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy and Associate

Faculty Director of the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment at UNLV.

- Dr. Marianno shared that the UNLV Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment is commonly known as CREA; it has been on campus since 2015.
- CREA is a program and policy evaluation center working in collaboration with UNLV's Office of Academic Assessment, and has staff who are experts in survey and research methods; they work on surveys both inside and outside of UNLV.
- As part of their scope of work, they plan to start in the fall of 2025 with a literature-based review of power-based violence surveys across the country; this will show how the existing survey, which was administered in 2023 by UNR, compares with other efforts nationwide.
- In the spring of 2026, they will begin a comprehensive effort to redesign and create a small-scale pilot survey on power-based violence.
 - Specifically, they have two goals for the pilot: increase the response rate (compared to the 2023 survey) and reduce the length of the existing instrument as a way to improve response and ensure that all students are able to take the survey.
- In late spring of 2026, they intend to have the survey ready for review, feedback, and modification provided by the Task Force, followed by a recommendation to the Board of Regents.
- Distribution of the survey is planned for early fall of 2026, with analysis beginning in late fall 2026, with report writing and final presentation of the survey results in spring 2027.

Discussion

- Regarding the intended brevity of the new survey, Dr. Kavita Batra asked how comparability with the past survey could be ensured and if the validity of the survey would be established.
 - Dr. Marianno noted that the intention is not to comprehensively alter the wording of questions, which will allow for comparability over time, but to carefully look for redundancies within the existing survey to reduce the number of items.
 - They will use their normal validity and reliability checks as part of this process.
 - They also want to ensure that past survey items that were borrowed or utilized were from valid and reliable scales.
 - A major concern is to maximize the response rate by reducing the length of the survey.
- Dr. Batra noted that we need to use updated email lists so that all of the students receive the survey, and asked how we can ensure that all students receive it.

- She also offered her expertise in content validity and review of the survey.
 - Dr. Marianno stated that he appreciates the offer and that his team will definitely reach out.
 - In terms of response rate, the timing of the survey will be different this time, especially with the addition of time to the administration of the survey.
- Dr. Batra asked if the dissemination of the survey would include medical and dental school students.
 - Chair Gunn noted that the intention of the past survey was to distribute it to all NSHE students, excluding students under the age of 18.
 - This was achieved by the inclusion of a survey question asking the participant if they were under the age of 18.
 - There will be a collaboration of the Task Force and the NSHE system office to ensure that the correct distribution lists are used.
- Dr. Batra asked if Task Force members would also receive the survey and have the ability to “snowball” it to students who have not received it?
 - Dr. Marianno noted that the survey will be set up to require participants to enter their NSHE ID’s, which will eliminate the possibility of filling out the survey more than once.
 - A flier with a QR code will be created to share with students in an effort to increase participation.
- Dr. Stefanie Coleman stated that she sees the value in wanting to increase the response rate, but would also like to have a space where the Task Force members can review the next survey tool for any missing items, such as an adequate number of questions around consent.
 - Dr. Marianno noted that as a part of the survey timeline, Task Force members will have the ability to provide input on any missing items.
- Ms. Luisa Bautista asked if the past survey was sent to students’ email accounts.
 - Dr. Marianno confirmed that the past survey was sent via student email accounts.
- Ms. Bautista shared that as the Chair of Public Relations for Nevada State University, her main goal is to share information with students.
 - She has learned that Canvas floods student email accounts with assignment information; it is easy for surveys and other important emails to be buried among the assignment emails.
 - Her group is trying to find different communication modes, such as using a Canvas module for student government for direct access, as opposed to being buried in email.
 - She suggested labeling and flagging the survey emails as “high importance” and using social media as a promotional tool via “highlights.”

- Dr. Marianno noted that using the NSHE ID authenticator enables the ability to send the survey access to as widespread a population as possible, but still provides a level of security to ensure that only students are participating.
- He also stated that he loves the idea of using social media and collaborating with faculty to embed in Canvas as an informational item to extend participation; he wants to work collaboratively to find additional ways to connect with the students.
- Dr. Batra offered to share this information with some of her student organizations in order to improve the response rate.
- Chair Gunn reiterated that the Task Force members will have the opportunity to “line item” edit the survey in the spring and then review the revised draft prior to voting on the recommendation to the Board of Regents.
- The Task Force can also continue to review strategies to improve the response rate.
- Chair Gunn recognized Regent Jennifer McGrath’s attendance and interest in the topic.
 - Regent McGrath noted that the topic is close to her heart, and she is happy to see all the progress being made.
- Chair Gunn also recognized Senator Melanie Scheible, who was in attendance earlier in the meeting.
 - Senator Scheible was a sponsor of the original Task Force bill, and we appreciate her continued interest and support of our work.

8. New Business

Ms. Lynda King requested that the Task Force continue to look at the gaps analysis, particularly on programming and awareness.

- Chair Gunn noted that it is part of the legislation and is part of the Task Force’s work.
- In the past, guests have presented information to the Task Force regarding resources, programming, and connections that create partnerships that may shore up any existing gaps.
 - Chair Gunn stated that she appreciates the reintroduction of that work and looks forward to continuing it.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.