

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

1. Agenda Item Title: *Handbook* Revision, Standing Committees

Meeting Date: March 5-6, 2015

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The Nevada community college system is an integral, long standing component of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). The community colleges have a unique role within NSHE and provide a vital entry point to higher education and workforce training leading to employment for thousands of students. The particular needs and evolving mission of the community colleges warrant the added focus and oversight of a Board authorized Community College Committee.

Creation of the new standing committee will necessitate realignment of the existing standing committee structure to prevent duplication, specifically the combination of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee with the Workforce, Research and Economic Development Committee into a new Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee. This configuration in turn necessitates *Handbook* amendments to conform the existing provisions relating to the standing committees to reflect the new standing committee charges.

Creation of a new standing committee requires amending the Board Bylaws. Amending the Bylaws requires two separate readings of a proposed amendment at two consecutive regular Board meetings. The first reading of this proposed amendment occurred at the December 4-5, 2014, Board meeting. An amendment to the Bylaws also requires a 2/3 vote of the members.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend the Board of Regents Bylaws, Title 1, Article VI, Section 3, to:

- Create a new standing committee known as the Community College Committee to oversee the NSHE community colleges;
- Combine the Academic and Student Affairs Committee with the Workforce, Research and Economic Development Committee to form a new Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee;
- Conform the existing *Handbook* provisions relating to the standing committees to reflect the new standing committee charges.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Community colleges in general experienced a renaissance during the Great Recession, leading to new ways to conceptualize, develop and implement workforce training. Recognition of the changing nature of community colleges, their students and customized training requires new approaches to evaluate ways community colleges operate. The NSHE community college system addresses a crucial need in preparing students for employment and helping ensure Nevada's employers have the skilled workers necessary to expand and diversify the state's economy. The Nevada community colleges also play a vital role in the progression of students into and through the higher education system in Nevada. As the importance of the NSHE community colleges to student and employers continues to increase, enhanced Board focus and oversight will help ensure the colleges and their students have the necessary guidance and resources to achieve their full potential.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Enhanced Board focus and oversight of community colleges will:

- Help ensure the colleges and their students have the necessary guidance and resources to achieve their full potential.
- Facilitate anticipation of future regional educational trends and the assessment of employment, training and educational needs of the various service areas.
- Aid the emergence of shared service opportunities and e-learning while boosting ability to meet increased demand for diverse post-secondary credentials.
- Better align community college operations, programs and outcomes with current needs of business and industry in the local communities and increase identification of innovative program traits that assist the community colleges in serving Nevada’s key industry sectors.
- Improve assessment and inventory of Board policies with regard to their advancement of the role and mission of the various community colleges.
- Refine identification of achievement gaps at each community college.
- Reinforce alignment and coordination of credit and non-credit programs to promote portability of skills acquired in non-credit programs to credit programs.
- Realignment of standing committees will avoid duplication of effort among committees and enhance focus on the role of community colleges in supporting NSHE efforts to capitalize on the purposeful integration of Nevada’s regional workforce needs.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The community colleges receive sufficient Board oversight and attention without a specific Board committee.

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

Continue the present level of Board oversight.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 1 Article # VI Section # 3
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X
Explain: _____

**POLICY
PROPOSAL
TITLE I, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3**

Standing Committees of the
Board

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

Section 3. Standing Committees and their Duties

The following shall be the standing committees of the Board and their duties:

...

c. The Academic, *Research* and Student Affairs Committee shall:

1. Provide guidance in the development, review and recommendation of academic programs and degrees of the NSHE;
2. Consider and recommend to the Board policies concerning academic master plans;
3. Consider and recommend to the Board policies and practices concerning articulation and the transfer of students between and among the member institutions;
4. Consider and recommend to the Board policies relating to admission requirements, student services, academic standards, grading practices and requirements for graduation;
5. Consider and recommend policies to the Board regarding implementation of distance education, telecommunicated education and applications of educational and information technology in support of teaching, learning, research and creative activities;
6. *Consider and recommend to the Board policies that appropriately align research within NSHE institutions with the priorities of the State Plan for Economic Development and support and encourage private sector engagement;*
7. *Facilitate the development, review, and implementation within the NSHE of research initiatives that are statewide or inter-institutional in nature, including applied research and development, university-industry technology transfer, and technology-based economic development;*
8. *Facilitate dialogue between the NSHE, business and industry, state and federal governmental representatives, and economic development/diversity stakeholders throughout Nevada in determining research and economic development needs and related issues;*
- [6]9. Oversee and review campus management of faculty workload to assure equity, efficiency and effectiveness in the disposition of faculty effort;
- [7]10. Facilitate the development, review, and implementation of policies by the Board relevant to the learning climate, working climate, and support mechanisms for faculty, staff, and students;
- [8]11. Review and make recommendations concerning campus plans for the provision of child care and disability services; and
- [9]12. Jointly with the Business and Finance Committee, consider and recommend to the Board policies concerning NSHE enrollment management plans, tuition and fees and the development of a student financial aid system for the NSHE that promotes access to public higher education for all Nevadans.

(BOARD OF REGENTS 05/03/15 & 05/06/15) Ref. BOR-11j, Page 3 of 5

(ad hoc COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE 11/21/14) Ref. CC-2, Page 3 of 5

g. The Community College Committee shall:

1. *Advise the Board on community college issues; make recommendations to the Board and Chancellor on community college initiatives of statewide significance; and may be tasked with other duties by the Board;*
2. *Review proposed legislation and advise the Chancellor and Board about the impact of new policies on Nevada's community colleges. The committee may also recommend new policies or legislative priorities to support Nevada's community colleges in achieving their mission and preparing Nevada's workforce to meet the needs of the state's economy.*
3. *Provide guidance and advice to the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges about the conduct of research and analysis on six critical topics, which shall incorporate current national best practices for community college. The Committee shall review the assessments and provide recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board. The six critical topics are an assessment of the following:*
 - i. *Workforce and student engagement with Nevada's community colleges and the broad alignment of the colleges with the economic development plan of the State of Nevada. This will outline the opportunities to better align community college operations, programs, and outcomes with the current needs of business and industry throughout the state and in the local communities served by the respective colleges. It will identify the level of engagement that business and industry decision-makers have with Nevada's community colleges and provide targeted opportunities to improve engagement with local industry. It will also evaluate and outline opportunities to improve the level of engagement that students have with community colleges in Nevada.*
 - ii. *Data relevant to the status, performance and structure of Nevada's community colleges. The Committee may also evaluate current national trends in community colleges and identify innovative program traits that will assist Nevada community colleges in serving Nevada's key industry sectors by providing a well-qualified workforce.*
 - iii. *The community college vision that will achieve the appropriate balance between imagination, risk-taking, innovation, and the wise use of human and financial resources. The assessment may make recommendations about designing a vision that increases student access and success, improves graduation rates, aligns standards and curricula to support community college graduates in entering a 4-year institution, and harmonizes community college programs with current and future workforce needs.*
 - iv. *Policies and inventory of policies of the Board of Regents with regard to their alignment with the role and missions of Nevada community colleges. The assessment may include recommendations to the Board of Regents if changes may better align Board policies and procedures with the role and missions of Nevada's community colleges.*

- v. *Achievement gaps that exist at each of the Nevada community colleges, including identification of research, initiatives and other actions being taken by institutions to address achievement gap issues. The assessment may include recommendations that can be implemented to reduce disparities in achievement.*
- vi. *The alignment and coordination of credit and non-credit programs. This will include a review of validation systems to record outcomes that promote the portability of skills acquired in non-credit programs to credit programs. The assessment will also evaluate accountability for colleges and state workforce education funds.*

[The Workforce, Research and Economic Development Committee shall:

1. — Consider and recommend to the Board policies that appropriately align research within NSHE institutions with the priorities of the State Plan for Economic Development and support and encourage private sector engagement;
2. — Provide guidance, strategies and recommend policies to support workforce development efforts within the NSHE;
3. — Facilitate dialogue between the NSHE, business and industry, state and federal governmental representatives, institutional foundations, the state's Advisory Council on Economic Development, and the state's Board of Economic Development in implementing the State Plan for Economic Development and related issues, and appropriate funding to support NSHE workforce, research and economic development initiatives;
4. — Provide guidance, strategies and recommend policies to support the sourcing of supplemental public and private sector funding for the colleges, universities and research institute to augment the financial support provided by the State for workforce and economic development initiatives;
5. — Consider and recommend to the Board policies that support and encourage technology transfer, entrepreneurship and commercialization; and
6. Consult with the Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Economic Development and recommend Board policies to support the administration of the Knowledge Fund established in NRS 231.1592 in a manner consistent with State Plan for Economic Development.]