

# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title:** Handbook Revision, Regents Emeritus/Emerita Recognition  
**Meeting Date:** September 7-8, 2017

## **2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

According to a 2010 survey by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, approximately 35 percent of public boards at higher education institutions recognize Regent contributions by granting Emeritus/Emerita status. In some instances, the status is automatically granted at the time of separation regardless of the length of service; in other cases, certain criteria must be met before such status is awarded. The criteria can include minimum periods of service and/or distinguished achievement acknowledgement. Award of the status may or may not be accompanied by some modest privileges such as creation of a scholarship in the Regent's name, continued service as a non-voting member of a committee or inclusion in the institutional directory. The Nevada System of Higher Education currently has procedures to award emeriti status to chancellors, presidents, faculty and professional staff. However, NSHE does not presently have a process to award such status to Regents.

The attached proposed policy authorizes the Board to award, in its discretion, the status of emeritus/emmerita to a former Regent after long-term achievement and distinguished service to NSHE. The designation would be a privilege, not an automatic entitlement at the conclusion of service, thereby enhancing the stature of the award. A former Regent would need to serve a minimum of 12 years to be eligible. This requirement would recognize not only lengthy service, but would acknowledge the commitment necessary to undertake two elections or retention by the electorate after appointment to office.

A Regent would not be eligible for emeritus/emmerita status if the Regent is a current member of the Board or an elected official at the time of consideration of such status.

The proposal authorizes a Regent emeritus/emmerita to receive business cards, a parking permit to park on an NSHE campus while attending official institutional events, and such other attendant privileges deemed appropriate by the Chancellor.

This same policy proposal was previously considered by the Board in June of 2015 and was rejected. A copy of the meeting minutes from the June 11, 2015 are attached as reference material.

## **3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

- Revise the *Board of Regents' Handbook* Title 4, Chapter 1, *new* Section 14 to provide a process for the award of emeritus/emmerita status to former Regents meeting specified criteria.
- Provide emeriti Regents business cards, upon request, a parking permit to park on campus while attending official institutional events and such other attendant privileges deemed appropriate by the Chancellor.

## **4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

It is important to recognize outstanding, dedicated service in the capacity of a Regent both to express appreciation for the many sacrifices of time and income as well as to inspire other Regents to strive to emulate those who have set an exemplary example.

## **5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Other higher education institutions award emeriti status to Regents.
- It is appropriate to recognize outstanding dedication and achievement for the benefit of the NSHE community.
- NSHE already grants similar status to other members of the NSHE community.

**6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

There is no pressing need or policy imperative to award emeritus/emerita status to former Regents; the public service is its own reward.

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

- Do not adopt a process for emeritus/emerita status.
- Adopt a process for conferring emeritus/emerita status but use different eligibility criteria.
- Adopt a process for conferring emeritus/emerita status but do not include any privileges along with the honorary recognition.
- Adopt a process for conferring emeritus/emerita status but include privileges other than or in addition to those in the proposal.

**8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_4\_ Chapter #\_3\_ Section #\_32 & 43\_\_\_\_\_

Amends Current Board Policy: Title #\_4\_ Chapter #\_1\_ Section #\_new 14\_\_\_\_\_

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_

Other:\_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Impact: Nominal

Explain: Limited to the cost of business cards, parking passes and other attendance privileges given to former Regents awarded emeritus/emerita status.

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, *new* SECTION 14**

(Authorizing the Board to award emeritus/emerita status to former Regents with a minimum of 12 years of service)

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

***Section 14. Regent-Emeritus/Emerita Status***

- 1. Regent-Emeritus/Emerita status is a privilege, awarded in the Board of Regents' discretion by action of the Board, to honor a former Regent after long-term achievement and distinguished service to NSHE. A minimum of 12 years of service is required to be eligible for the title of Regent-Emeritus/Emerita. Persons currently holding elected public office are not eligible to be awarded Regent-Emeritus/Emerita during their term of office.***
- 2. Emeritus/Emerita Regents may, upon request, receive business cards, a parking permit to park on campus while attending official institutional events, and such other attendant privileges as the Chancellor may deem appropriate.***

[Add a new Section 14, and renumber existing sections 14 through 35, as 15 through 36]

38. Action Taken - Handbook Revision, Regent Emeritus/Emerita (Agenda Item #36) – The Board took action to not approve the policy as presented (proposed changes to Title 4, Chapter 1, new Section 14, to provide a process for the award of Emeritus/Emerita status to former Regents meeting specified criteria) (see Reference BOR-36 on file in the Board office).

Mr. Wasserman provided information on the proposed requirements and privileges for the proposed Regent Emeritus/Emerita status.

Regents Melcher, Geddes and Davidson voiced their opposition to the awarding of Regent Emeritus/Emerita status. Regent Melcher said he would possibly consider awarding the title without privileges. Regent Geddes said elected officials should not be provided Emeritus/Emerita status.

Regents Lieberman and Stephens said this should be awarded on a case by case basis only and only at the direction of the Board.

Regent Stephens said there should be guidelines in place to define what Regent Emeritus/Emerita status is, in order to provide clarification to the institutions.

Regent Crear said this would be a way to keep former Regents engaged.

Vice Chairman Trachok said there are many ways a former Regent can stay involved in the System.

Mr. Wasserman explained there are four states that have elected Regents in some form and of those four, two states may confer Regent Emeritus/Emerita status. He listed the former living NSHE Regents with 12 or more years of service.

Regent Melcher moved to not approve this policy as presented. Regent Lieberman seconded.

Regent Leavitt mentioned the granting of emeritus status by the Board to former Chancellor Rogers.

Chancellor Klaich explained former Chancellor Rogers was an employee of the System, not an elected official.

Mr. Wasserman explained the motion; a yes vote would mean you do not approve of the policy as presented and a no vote would mean you do approve of the policy as presented.

38. Action Taken - Handbook Revision, Regent Emeritus/Emerita (Agenda Item #36) –continued

Regent Melcher said taking action on this item would clarify the Board's position on this issue.

Regents Stephens expressed concern that a motion by the Board may not provide the parameters the institutions may need.

Regent Melcher said if this policy is not approved former Regents would still be able to be involved with the institutions; this vote would simply clarify that former Regents are not able to use the title of Regent Emeritus/Emerita.

Upon a roll call vote Regents, Anderson, Davidson, Doubrava, Geddes, Leavitt, Lieberman, Melcher, Page, Trachok, and Wixom voted yes. Regents Crear and Stephens voted no. Motion carried. Regent Hayes was absent.