

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 audiotape 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 Board of Regents at the September 2012 meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Joe Crowley Student Union, Ballroom A
University of Nevada, Reno
87 West Stadium Way, Reno
Thursday, May 31, 2012

Members Present: Dr. Andrea Anderson, Chair *{via telephone}*
 Dr. Jack Lund Schofield, Vice Chair
 Mr. Cedric Crear
 Dr. Mark W. Doubrava
 Mr. Rick Trachok

Other Regents Present: Dr. Jason Geddes

Others Present: Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
 Ms. Brooke Nielsen, Vice Chancellor, Legal Affairs
 Dr. Marcia Turner, Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences System
 Dr. Steven Zink, Vice Chancellor, Information Technology
 Ms. Allison Combs, Asst. Vice Chancellor, Acad. & Student Affairs
 Dr. Magdalena Martinez, Asst. Vice Chancellor, Acad. & Student Affairs
 Ms. Renee Davis, Director of Student Affairs
 Ms. Linda Heiss, Director of Institutional Research
 Ms. Lynn Mahlberg, President, GBC
 Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
 Dr. Neal J. Smatresk, President, UNLV

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Dr. Charles Milne, CSN; Dr. David Freistroffer, GBC; Ms. Angela Brommel, NSC; Dr. Gregory Brown, UNLV; Dr. David Zeh, UNR; and Mr. Gil Martin, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were Mr. Michael Gordon, UNLV-GPSA; Mr. Orion Cuffe, UNR-GSA; and Mr. Curtis Blackwell, WNC.

For others present, please see the attendance roster on file in the Board office.

Regent Cedric Crear called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. with all members present except Regent Schofield.

1. Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the following Consent Items:

- (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the March 1, 2012, meeting (*Ref. ASA-2a on file in the Board office*).
- (2b.) Approved-UNLV, Program Elimination, BA in Senior Adult Theater – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request to eliminate its BA in Senior Adult Theater due to low enrollment (*Ref. ASA-2b on file in the Board office*). Students currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated through graduation.

Regent Trachok moved approval of the Consent Items. Regent Doubrava seconded. Motion carried. Regent Schofield was absent.

3. Information Only-2010-11 NSHE Financial Aid Report – Renee Davis, Director of Student Affairs, presented highlights from the 2010-11 *NSHE Financial Aid Report* (*Ref. ASA-3a on file in the Board office*).

Regent Schofield entered the meeting.

Ms. Davis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2010-11 NSHE Financial Report (*Ref. ASA-3b on file in the Board office*). The presentation included information on total financial aid disbursed; disbursements by institution, category, source and type; Pell Grant, loan, and program disbursements; unmet need for FAFSA filers; and Federal Student Aid regulatory changes.

In response to a question from Regent Crear, Vice Chancellor Abba indicated that Board policy states when registration fees are increased, a portion must be set aside for student access or financial aid. In addition, in 2010 the Board adopted a policy which stated that, as fees increase, the institutions must hit a target of the registration fee that must be allocated to student access by a specific date. She noted that the data indicate the policy is making a difference.

Regent Crear asked how the NSHE can be sure that the increases in financial aid disbursements can be attributed to those policies. Vice Chancellor Abba indicated that the Chancellor has created an access and affordability committee to look at how the NSHE is spending those dollars. The final report from that committee will be presented to the Board in the coming months.

Regent Trachok asked why some institutions had large increases in the amount of financial aid disbursed while others had only moderate increases. Ms. Davis stated that enrollment changes, the number of students who apply for financial aid and the way the institutions award financial aid are all factors that can impact those numbers.

Regent Crear observed that there are many families with incomes too high to qualify for aid; however, they still cannot afford to send their children to college.

3. Information Only-2010-11 NSHE Financial Aid Report – *(continued)*

He asked if there is a way to gauge the number of students the NSHE is unable to assist because they fall into that middle category. Ms. Davis indicated that institutional unmet need is tracked and reported. She noted that some institutions award grants to the middle tier. Students can also apply for federal loans and scholarships.

In response to a question from Chair Anderson, Ms. Davis indicated that she will look into providing information in future reports on the number of NSHE students who take out federal loans because they are not eligible for the Pell Grant.

Regent Crear asked if the Chancellor has made a statement on behalf of the NSHE to Nevada's congressional delegation regarding the potential doubling of federal student loan interest rates. Vice Chancellor Abba indicated that, to her knowledge, the Chancellor has not made a specific statement. However, Senator Reid is at the forefront of introducing legislation to oppose the measure. Regent Crear feels that the NSHE should communicate how the doubling of interest rates will impact students in Nevada. Vice Chancellor Abba indicated that the Chancellor can draft a letter addressing the issue.

4. Information Only-General Education Curriculum Requirements – Faculty Senate Chairs from UNLV, NSC, and CSN presented a report concerning general education curriculum requirements. The report included information regarding recently adopted core curriculum changes and anticipated changes across the System (*Refs. ASA-4b, ASA-4c and ASA-4d on file in the Board office*).

Dr. Gregory Brown, UNLV, Ms. Tracy Sherman, CSN, Dr. Darin Dockstader, CSN, and Ms. Angela Brommel, NSC, gave a collaborative PowerPoint presentation on general education revisions for 2012 catalogs (*Ref. ASA-4a on file in the Board office*). The presentation included information on the impetus for the revisions, rethinking general education, institutional processes, key principles, learning outcomes, major components of the revisions, ensuring rigor and efficiency, and general education for transfer students.

Regent Crear asked whether ensuring a sufficient level of student support is a consideration when developing a curriculum. Dr. Brown indicated that the institutions need to provide support so that students can be successful, and acquiring the necessary resources to do so should be a high priority for the NSHE. Regent Crear expressed concern that an inadequate level of support means that students are being set up to fail. Ms. Sherman noted that it puts more of an onus on faculty members to advise, which is not always ideal. Faculty are well-suited to advise in their own areas, but not necessarily in areas outside of their discipline.

Chair Anderson noted that, in addition to advising, students will need support in the writing lab and the libraries in order to successfully complete the independent study component of the curriculum.

4. Information Only-General Education Curriculum Requirements – *(continued)*

Dr. Brown stated that one major component of national developments in general education philosophy is to try and focus first-year students on courses that introduce them to advanced study and to put them in an environment that can foster that development.

Chair Anderson commended the institutions for working together to develop a plan that will benefit students.

3. Information Only-2010-11 NSHE Financial Aid Report – *(continued)*

Regent Crear requested a breakdown of financial aid disbursements by ethnicity for the Committee.

5. Information Only-Compensated Outside Services Report – Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba presented a summary report on compensated outside professional and scholarly services performed by full-time faculty members across the NSHE, including institutional resolution of potential conflicts of interest in accordance with Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 8 and Title 4, Chapter 11, Section 12*).

Vice Chancellor Abba indicated that a report on compensated outside services performed by full-time faculty is presented to the Committee every year (*Ref. ASA-5 on file in the Board office*). The purpose of the report is to provide aggregate information on the number of faculty members who have engaged in some type of compensated outside service.

Regent Crear established that all compensated outside service work is pre-approved.

6. Not Approved-Handbook Revision, Regents' Academic Advisor Award – The Committee denied approval of a revision to Board policy concerning the annual Regents' Academic Advisor Award (*Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 19*) (*Ref. ASA-6 on file in the Board office*).

Vice Chancellor Abba explained that the proposed policy revision would make the awarding of an institutional-level academic advisor award permissive rather than mandatory, and would allow the institutions to select an affordable stipend amount. She noted that the original policy was developed at the request of a former Regent who felt it was important to honor the critical role served by academic advisors.

In response to a question from Regent Crear, Vice Chancellor Abba indicated that the change was proposed by the committee that reviewed the most recent award nominations. It was also reviewed by the academic and student officers and received no objections.

6. Not Approved-Handbook Revision, Regents' Academic Advisor Award –
(continued)

Vice Chancellor Abba noted that none of the other Regents' Awards require an additional institutional-level award. The proposed policy revision would align the protocols for the academic advisor award with the other awards.

Regent Crear observed that typically when flexibility is given, the institutions will take the lesser route that the Regents allow them to take. He expressed concern that the institutional-level academic advisor award will turn into a handshake and a plaque, with no monetary award. He believes he could find \$1,000 in each institution's budget to continue to fund this award.

Vice Chancellor Abba clarified that the proposed revision is not meant to diminish the award. The intention is to give some flexibility to the institutions.

Regent Doubrava moved approval of the proposed *Handbook* revision. Regent Schofield seconded.

Regent Doubrava felt it was a valid point that former Regents intended for the institutions to recognize an academic advisor with an award and a \$1,000 stipend. He indicated that he will not support the proposed policy revision.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion failed. Regent Schofield voted yes. Regents Anderson, Crear, Doubrava and Trachok voted no.

7. New Business – None.

8. Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Prepared by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
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Submitted for approval by: Scott G. Wasserman
Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents