

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 December 2013 meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
WORKFORCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Fitness Center
Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway, Elko
Thursday, September 5, 2013

Video Conference Connection from the meeting site to:
System Administration, Las Vegas
5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite C1, Conference Room
and
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room

Members Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chair
Dr. Jack Lund Schofield, Vice Chair
Dr. Andrea Anderson
Mr. Robert J. Blakely
Dr. Mark W. Doubrava

Other Regents Present: Mr. Kevin J. Page
Mr. Rick Trachok

Others Present: Mr. Daniel J. Klaich, Chancellor
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
Ms. Brooke Nielsen, Vice Chancellor, Legal Affairs
Dr. Marcia Turner, Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences System
Mr. Scott Wasserman, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board
Dr. Constance Brooks, Asst. Vice Chancellor, Government Affairs
Ms. Allison Combs, Asst. Vice Chancellor, Acad. and Student Affairs
Mr. R. Scott Young, Deputy Chief of Staff
Ms. Lori Brazfield, Director, Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR
Ms. Renee Davis, Director, Student Affairs
Ms. Linda Heiss, Director, Institutional Research and Data Partnerships
Ms. Holly Balmer, Manager, Health Sciences System
Mr. John Kuhlman, Manager, Public Information
Dr. Michael D. Richards, President, CSN
Dr. Stephen G. Wells, President, DRI
Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
Dr. Maria C. Sheehan, President, TMCC
Dr. Neal J. Smatresk, President, UNLV
Dr. Carol A. Lucey, President, WNC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Dr. Darin Dockstader, CSN; Mr. Alan McKay, DRI; Mr. Thomas Reagan, GBC; Dr. Christopher Harris, NSC; Ms. Dani Chandler, System Administration; Mr. Ron Marston, TMCC; Dr. Paul Werth, UNLV; Dr. Swatee Naik, UNR; and Ms. Holly O'Toole, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were Mr. Noah Fraser, DRI; Mr. Alex Porter, GBC; Mr. Deuvall Dorsey, NSC; Ms. Stephanie Prevost, TMCC; Mr. Ziad Rashdan, UNR-ASUN; and Ms. Alejandra Leon, WNC.

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

Chair Jason Geddes called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2013, meeting (*Ref. WRED-2 on file in the Board office*).

Regent Doubrava moved approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2013, meeting.
Regent Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Applied Research Centers at UNLV – Dr. Thomas Piechota, Vice President for Research, UNLV, gave a PowerPoint presentation on economic development efforts relating to applied research initiatives (*Ref. WRED-3 on file in the Board office*). The presentation included information on aligning research and academics with economic development, the work to establish the Institute for Clinical Trials Design and Health Analysis, partners conducting clinical trials, experts providing outside advice and next steps.

With regard to hiring key faculty, Chair Geddes asked if the private sector has expressed an interest in matching Knowledge Fund dollars, establishing endowments or hiring individuals to be part of the UNLV campus in the applied research centers. Dr. Piechota indicated there has been some discussion about how to make partners such as the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and the Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada part of the UNLV campus so they may work closer with faculty, advise graduate students and strengthen collaborative partnerships.

Regent Doubrava inquired about the nature of the single sponsored project in the tourism, gaming and entertainment sector noted on slide two of the PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Piechota indicated he would look into the details of the project and get back to Regent Doubrava with more information.

4. Information Only-Institutional Strategies to Increase Grants and Contracts – Institutional representatives presented information on strategies the institutions are pursuing to increase grants and contracts (*Ref. WRED-4 on file in the Board office*).

4. Information Only-Institutional Strategies to Increase Grants and Contracts –
(continued)

Chair Geddes said to avoid duplication DRI's report on institutional strategies to increase grants and contracts will be presented to the full Board on Friday as part of the report on DRI's mission statement.

Dr. Neal J. Smatresk, President, UNLV, reported over the past few years there have been deep cuts in National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE) funding. Earmarks, which were a large part of UNLV's total grant acquisition, have been eliminated. President Smatresk added the sequester will have a devastating effect on research and development in the United States. It has become difficult for smaller operations to gain funding. There is a sweepstakes competition for the highest quality scientists and engineers and a constant battle to maintain the proper level of facilities, compensation and incentives necessary to retain them.

President Smatresk said UNLV is aggressively compensating its best and most productive individuals when they receive counter offers. The university is also aggressively hiring individuals with grant funding capabilities. President Smatresk believes the only growth in the near future will be in private contracts. Therefore, UNLV is increasingly looking for people who can interact with the private sector to bring in money and promote research and development.

President Smatresk indicated UNLV has avowed to exceed \$100 million per year in grants and contracts. At that level, UNLV will be successful competing for the Carnegie Classification of "Research University/Very High Research Activity" (RU/VH). There are 108 RU/VH universities; Nevada has zero. UNR and UNLV are currently ranked "Research University/High Research Activity" (RU/H). President Smatresk noted large, collaborative projects are important to getting into a different funding domain. UNLV is using a new initiative, Collaborative Research and Education (CORE), to pull together large teams with the ability to go after specific types of grants.

President Smatresk noted UNLV has 25 percent of the lab space that an RU/VH university would have. UNLV is underbuilt in wet lab research space, has a vivarium that is inadequate to meet the demands of current researchers and desperately needs to construct new animal care facilities. In the interim, the university is focusing on dry lab topics. UNLV needs the help and support of the state to meet large wet lab research grant dollars in the form of new facilities. Finally, President Smatresk said RU/VH universities have at least 1,100 faculty. If research faculty are included, the total is closer to 2,000. UNLV has 850 faculty and would need a minimum of 300 additional faculty to meet the standard.

Chair Geddes said the Board needs a capital improvement plan and a faculty plan from each institution. Additionally, the institutions should advise the Board if any of its policies are prohibitive to increasing research activity.

4. Information Only-Institutional Strategies to Increase Grants and Contracts –
(continued)

Dr. Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President and Provost, UNR, stated UNR needs significant investments in infrastructure to grow as a research university. UNR is looking to hire faculty in the science and engineering areas who have demonstrated records of productivity and the ability to bring in grant funding. The university is also focused on retaining outstanding faculty and recognizing the talent being cultivated.

Dr. Carman indicated UNR is working to develop new opportunities for undergraduate research and further engage with the NSF, NIH, DOE and political constituencies. He stressed the importance of ensuring UNR faculty are serving on review committees and shaping the future of science. Dr. Carman discussed the need to streamline business processes in order to facilitate seamless partnerships with the private sector. Going forward, he believes UNR needs to focus on leveraging its unique capabilities such as the Nevada Terawatt Facility and the Center for Civil Engineering Earthquake Research. In addition, UNR is moving into new arenas including cyber security. As provost, he is focused on identifying synergisms across disciplinary programs and encouraging multidisciplinary research. Dr. Carman noted UNR will welcome a new Vice President for Research and Innovation on October 1. This individual has a record of engagement with private industry and strong credentials in terms of interactions with major funding agencies and representatives in Washington D.C.

Mr. Kevin Butler, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, NSC, reported granting efforts at NSC are primarily focused on student access, student success and educational program enhancements. However, the college is also interested in funding opportunities geared toward undergraduate research, facilities and infrastructure improvements. NSC currently receives federal funding for its TRIO programs and extramural funding through partnerships with other NSHE institutions. Mr. Butler indicated NSC is a Title III eligible institution and recently applied for a five-year \$1.9 million Strengthening Institutions Program grant. The college is also moving toward Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status which will create opportunities for Title V funding. NSC recently entered into an agreement with Hanover Research to gain assistance in identifying potential funding opportunities. NSC also utilizes consultants in the Washington D.C. area to help facilitate engagement with program officers and elected officials.

Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC, said the college has 510 acres of land with approximately 170 acres slated for economic development. A portion of that land could be utilized for the purpose of leveraging grants and contracts as well as economic development.

4. Information Only-Institutional Strategies to Increase Grants and Contracts –
(continued)

Dr. Darren Divine, Vice President for Academic Affairs, CSN, reported CSN is focusing on unique opportunities that play to its strengths including student success and workforce and economic development. CSN is deeply involved in the Achieving the Dream initiative and is eligible for specific funding from the Gates Foundation. The college is also very close to achieving HSI status which will create opportunities for Title V funding. Dr. Divine indicated CSN is working to streamline operations and pull together groups of faculty and staff to assist with grant writing. He said there are no Board policies which prohibit the growth of research activity at CSN.

Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC, said GBC has a full-time grant writer which is unusual for a small institution. The college was recently awarded a \$500,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. GBC currently has 32 grants totaling \$4.35 million. Much of the focus is on student success and recruitment and workforce development through contract training. President Curtis noted GBC was recently asked to be the lead institution on a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant which provides an opportunity to collaborate with other community colleges.

Dr. Maria C. Sheehan, President, TMCC, said TMCC aggressively pursues opportunities for grant funding. Most recently, the college received a \$2.3 million grant for a major renovation of the Edison Campus Technical Institute.

Ms. Paula Lee Hobson, Executive Director, Institutional Advancement and Foundation, TMCC, said TMCC has hired a full-time grant writer and full-time grant specialist. The college has also instituted a professional development program for current and prospective principal investigators. She noted TMCC recently received \$500,000 in funding from Nevada Works for training projects.

Dr. Robert Wynegar, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, WNC, said when he came to WNC three months ago he observed some missed opportunities for grant funding. In addition to the approximately \$2 million in current grant funding reported in the reference material, WNC has another \$2 million in pending awards. Dr. Wynegar noted he has prior experience with Title III, Title V and HSI funding and intends to move the college in that direction over the next couple of years.

Chair Geddes restated his request that each institution bring forward a list of policies which may be prohibitive to increasing research activity. In addition, he requested more information on how the Board can better support institutional research goals.

5. Information Only-NSHE Sponsored Projects Supporting Economic Development
– Staff presented an update on industry sector mapping of NSHE sponsored projects (*Ref. WRED-5 on file in the Board office*).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief summary of the report which provides a mapping of over 1,200 sponsored projects across the NSHE to the sectors identified in the state's economic development plan. A searchable database containing the maps is available online at <http://epscorspo.nevada.edu/>. She noted the Governor's Office of Economic Development is one of the predominant users of the resource.

6. Information Only-New Business – Chair Geddes said the next meeting of the Committee will include a discussion on classification categories for research institutions including distinctions between the categories and examples of representative institutions. He asked UNR and UNLV to work together on a presentation which addresses why these categories are important to the NSHE and what priorities the System should set in order to achieve the desired classification. Chair Geddes said the presentation should also include how UNR and UNLV use partnerships with DRI and other institutions to advance their goals.

President Smatresk expressed uncertainty about whether a complete plan can be presented in December. UNLV will be spending the next full year developing a research master plan that can be combined with other institutional plans and become a platform for lobbying in the next legislative session.

Chair Geddes said having a snapshot of the classifications and how they are assigned ahead of time will be helpful to the overall process.

7. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Prepared by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
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Submitted for approval by: R. Scott Young
Deputy Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents