

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 June 2015 meeting.

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

Frank H. Rogers Science & Technology Building
Third Floor Rotunda
Desert Research Institute
755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
Thursday, March 5, 2015

Members Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chair
 Mr. Sam Lieberman, Vice Chair
 Dr. Andrea Anderson
 Mr. Cedric Crear
 Mr. James Dean Leavitt

Other Regents Present: 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
 Mr. Frank Woodbeck, Executive Director, Nevada College Collaborative
 Ms. Allison Combs, Asst. Vice Chancellor and Director of Public Policy
 Ms. Renee Davis, Director, Student Affairs
 Ms. Lee Quick, Manager, Health Sciences
 Dr. Michael D. Richards, President, CSN
 Ms. Ellie Oppenheim, Senior Vice President, DRI
 Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC
 Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
 Dr. Maria C. Sheehan, President, TMCC
 Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Ms. Jodie Mandel, CSN; Dr. Joseph Grzymiski, DRI; Mr. Stephen Theriault, GBC; Dr. Joanna Shearer, NSC; Mr. Eric March, NSHE System Administration; and Ms. Susan Priest, WNC. Student body presidents in attendance were Ms. Megan Johnson, DRI; Ms. Sharon Young, UNLV-GPSA; and Mr. Timothy Hoover, WNC.

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

Chair Jason Geddes called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2014, meeting (*Ref. WRED-2 on file in the Board office*).

2. Approved-Minutes – (continued)

Regent Crear moved approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2014, meeting.
Regent Leavitt seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-Regents' Awards (Agenda Item #4) – The Committee recommended approval of the following nominations for 2015 Regents' awards (*Ref. WRED-4 on file in the Board office*).

a. Nevada Regents' Researcher Award

Dr. Kwang J. Kim, UNLV

b. Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award

Dr. Lynn Comella, UNLV

Dr. Eelke Folmer, UNR

Dr. Amanda Keen-Zebert, DRI

Regent Crear moved approval of the nominations for 2015 Regents' awards.
Regent Anderson seconded.

Regent Crear noted it is vitally important for the community to better understand the research taking place across the NSHE and how it benefits the institutions and the state.

Motion carried.

4. Information Only-DRI and Research University Classifications (Agenda Item #3)

– Dr. Christian Fritsen, Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs, DRI, gave a presentation (*on file in the Board office*) on how DRI, UNLV and UNR can partner to achieve the universities' goal of Research University/Very High Research Activity (RU/VH) status under the classifications established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and DRI's goal of bringing added value to NSHE graduate education.

The presentation included information on Carnegie rankings, key collaborative research, DRI's contributions and role in graduate training, current graduate student support by DRI, classes taught by DRI faculty, economics of graduate programs, strategies to increase rankings and DRI's role and value in higher education.

Regent Trachok observed DRI's contribution to conferred masters and doctorate degrees is lower at UNLV than at UNR. He asked if there are policies or barriers in place that hinder collaboration and partnerships. Dr. Fritsen attributed some of the disparity to DRI having a smaller faculty in Las Vegas. In addition, UNLV has a policy in place that prevents DRI faculty from being the

4. Information Only-DRI and Research University Classifications (Agenda Item #3)
– (continued)

major advisor of the graduate students they bring into UNLV programs and that policy is perceived as a barrier by DRI faculty. Regent Trachok asked if the same barrier exists at UNR. Dr. Fritsen indicated to his knowledge there is only one department at UNR with the same policy in place.

Dr. Carl Reiber, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, UNLV, said he is working on a memorandum of understanding between UNLV and DRI that will clear up some of the barriers and allow for an easier flow of undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty back and forth between the institutions.

In response to a question from Regent Trachok, Dr. Reiber indicated it is likely he will have the memorandum of understanding finalized by the June 11-12, 2015, Board of Regents meeting.

Mr. Daniel J. Klaich, Chancellor, asked whether there is a way to count DRI's contributions toward Carnegie RU/VH status at UNR and UNLV while still maintaining the integrity of the three institutions. Dr. Fritsen said some of what Carnegie has done with the rankings is subjective; however, not everything is counted. There has been some positive movement because the funding formula now highlights that it is necessary to capture DRI faculty as adjunct faculty and the faculty of record assigning grades for thesis and dissertation credits.

Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR, indicated all of the graduate degrees Dr. Fritsen referenced are counted because the students receive their degree from UNR. For many of these students, their research is led by DRI faculty. He asserted that if all possibilities are to be explored concerning DRI's role in the universities achieving RU/VH status, then the question posed by Chancellor Klaich with regard to maintaining DRI's independence and, at the same time, counting the research dollars as part of the NSHE assignable will have to be addressed. President Johnson said Dr. Stephen G. Wells, President, DRI, has extended an invitation to him and Dr. Len Jessup, President, UNLV, to come together to convene a task force that will be charged with looking at the broader question of how DRI can be instrumental in helping UNLV and UNR achieve RU/VH status.

Chair Geddes noted the Board is focused on eliminating barriers that prohibit interaction and leveraging limited state resources as best as possible. He believes hiring System faculty rather than relying on letters of appointment is better for the NSHE overall, even though it may be more expensive. He expressed support for exploring different options and looking at the impacts.

Regent Leavitt indicated this is another example of collaboration that can be used to illustrate the benefits of an integrated system to the Legislature.

4. Information Only-DRI and Research University Classifications (Agenda Item #3)
– (continued)

Chair Geddes thanked Dr. Fritsen for the presentation and said he looks forward to receiving an update on the progress of the task force along with recommendations for eliminating barriers so that faculty can work collaboratively.

5. Information Only-New Business – None.
6. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Prepared by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Manager of Board Operations

Submitted for approval by: R. Scott Young
Acting Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents