

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title: *Handbook* Revision, Board of Regents’
Emeritus/Emerita Recognition**

Meeting Date: June 11-12, 2015

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 emeriti 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 proposed policy authorizes the Board to award, in its discretion, the status of Emeritus/Emerita 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 or emerita status if the Regent is a current member of the Board or an elected official at the time of consideration of granting emeritus/emmerita status.

The proposal authorizes a Regent-emeritus or Regent Emerita 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.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

- Revise *Handbook* Title 4, Chapter 1, *new* Section 14 to provide a process for the award of Emeritus/Emerita 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/emmerita 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: Yes_____ No_____ Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, *new* SECTION 14
[Insert Section Title here]

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 public elective office are not eligible to be awarded Regent-Emeritus/Emerita during their term of office.***
- 2. Emeritus/Emerita Regents may receive business cards, upon request, 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 31, as 15 through 33]