

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
CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
Frank H. Rogers Science & Technology Building
Third Floor Rotunda
Desert Research Institute
755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
Friday, March 6, 2015

Members Present: Mr. Cedric Crear, Chair
Mr. Trevor Hayes, Vice Chair
Mr. Sam Lieberman
Mr. Kevin C. Melcher

Others Present: Mr. Daniel J. Klaich, Chancellor
Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Constance Brooks, Vice Chancellor, Gov't and Community 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
Mr. Omar Saucedo, External Affairs Coordinator
Mr. Scott G. Wasserman, Special Advisor to the Board of Regents
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
Mr. Chet Burton, President, WNC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Ms. Jodie Mandel, CSN; Dr. Joseph Grzymiski, DRI; Mr. Stephen Theriault, GBC; Mr. Eric March, NSHE System Administration; Mr. Ron Marston, TMCC; and Mr. Chuck Price, UNR. Student body presidents in attendance were Mr. William McCurdy, CSN; Ms. Megan Johnson, DRI; Mrs. Stephanie Prevost, TMCC; and Mr. Timothy Hoover, WNC.

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

Chair Cedric Crear called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 5, 2014, meeting (*Ref. CD-2 on file in the Board office*).

2. Approved-Minutes – (continued)

Regent Lieberman moved approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2014, meeting. Regent Melcher seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Cedric Crear provided general remarks and updated Committee members regarding cultural diversity planning efforts and initiatives.

Chair Crear commented on the success of the recently held Northern Nevada Diversity Summit. He noted the NSHE diversity summits show collaboration with the community and openness on the part of the NSHE to share information on diversity initiatives and how the System is moving forward.

With regard to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council (EDIC), Chair Crear indicated the new monthly meeting schedule has been well-received. EDIC members are currently working on a number of initiatives.

Chair Crear noted the Southern Nevada Diversity Summit will be held in October at NSC.

4. Information Only-Committee Name and Charge – Dr. Edith Fernandez, Associate Vice President of Community Engagement and Diversity Initiatives, NSC, and co-chair of the EDIC, reported on the recent discussions of the Council relating to the Cultural Diversity Committee name and charge.

Dr. Fernandez reported the EDIC is comfortable with the current name of the Committee; however, there is a desire to examine the Committee charge and to ensure it is reflective of various cultural groups. The EDIC will present a recommendation relating to the charge at the June meeting of the Committee.

5. Information Only-NSC Nepantla Program – Mr. Joseph Lopez, Nepantla Program Coordinator, NSC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the Nepantla Program aimed at cultivating a college-going culture among historically underrepresented, low-income and first-generation students (*Ref. CD-5 on file in the Board office*). The presentation included information on program components, outreach, summer bridge and first year experience programs, and career and professional development.

Regent Melcher said Nepantla sounds like a great program. He commented on the importance of making sure students who participate in the Nepantla program also interact with other groups and do not feel as if they are in a siloed environment. Dr. Nicholas Natividad, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, NSC, said that type of interaction is a huge part of the Nepantla program. The

5. Information Only-NSC Nepantla Program – (continued)

goal is to create an environment where these students become leaders on campus and are involved in integrated student support at all levels.

Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC, said the Nepantla program is highly successful and NSC has plans to expand it. Dr. Natividad added by targeting certain high schools throughout the region, NSC has seen an immense increase in applicants from predominantly low-income, underrepresented populations. All of the students served by the program are first-generation college students and will be graduating on time in four years.

6. Information Only-Northern Nevada Diversity Conference – Dr. Reginald Stewart, Chief Diversity Officer, UNR, reported on the success of the “Exploring Diversity and Equity in Education, Careers and the Community” conference that took place on February 26-27, 2015.

The conference was attended by 360 people including Regents, System staff, institutional representatives, community members and students. Dr. Geneva Gay, Professor of Education at the University of Washington, delivered the keynote address which focused on cultural responsiveness in college classrooms and communities. Following her talk, there were 33 breakout presentations over the two days.

Dr. Stewart said conference expenses totaled \$8,600. At the suggestion of Chair Crear, organizers were able to secure a corporate sponsor in Renown Health. For future conferences, Dr. Stewart hopes to secure a sponsor for the keynote which tends to be the largest expense. This year, instead of hosting lunch, conference organizers partnered with vendors in the Joe Crowley Student Union to offer \$8 lunch packages. This strategy helped to keep conference costs down and was well-received by the attendees.

Feedback indicated conference attendees appreciated the appropriateness of the topics, felt the location was convenient and enjoyed being able to attend specific breakout sessions without having to stay for the full day. Attendees recommended the inclusion of more underrepresented populations including persons with disabilities and low-socioeconomic status, more information on successful programs in place across the country and a networking session.

The Committee discussed Regent attendance at conferences and events as it relates to the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Ms. Brooke Nielsen, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, indicated if a quorum of the Board or a quorum of a committee is present at a meeting or an event that is not just a social gathering and there is discussion among the Regents it becomes a dangerous gray area where the Board could be accused of violating the law.

6. Information Only-Northern Nevada Diversity Conference – (continued)

Mr. Scott G. Wasserman, Special Advisor to the Board of Regents, provided a brief review of the penalties associated with an Open Meeting Law violation. He noted that Regent attendance at a conference that is open to the public is not the issue. However, if Regents are seated together, as they often are at these types of events, and start to deliberate toward a decision it becomes an Open Meeting Law issue. Counsel is conservative in the advice provided to the Board and event attendance is monitored to see if there will be a quorum present. If there is, counsel will advise the Regents not to have those discussions at the event.

7. Information Only-Hispanic-Serving Institution Task Force – Mr. Omar Saucedo, External Affairs Coordinator, NSHE, provided a report on the Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Grantsmanship Writing Workshop of the newly formed NSHE HSI Task Force that took place on February 13, 2015.

More than 40 institutional representatives and community stakeholders attended the workshop which featured presentations from the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators. The morning session covered the basics of HSIs and a brief overview of Title V funding. The afternoon session focused on the grant writing process. Topics discussed included proposal components, implementation strategies, project management and evaluations.

Mr. Saucedo noted an important takeaway from the workshop is the need to plan ahead for future funding opportunities.

In response to a question from Chair Crear, Mr. Saucedo indicated Title V, Part A grant awards could provide up to \$600,000 in revenue for an institution. Grants specific to STEM (*science, technology, engineering and mathematics*) education were also discussed at the workshop.

Chair Crear emphasized the need to track grant submissions and awards, as well as how the funds are used, in order to successfully grow the grantsmanship program.

Dr. Constance Brooks, Vice Chancellor for Government and Community Affairs, noted the System-wide approach toward HSI planning efforts is unique in comparison to other states and something the NSHE can be proud of.

8. Information Only-Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council – Dr. Fernandez, reported on the recent work of the Council including planning for the October 2, 2015, Southern Nevada Diversity Summit, development of a System-wide climate survey, updates from the HSI Task Force and discussions on how the NSHE website and social media can be used to inform and engage the community.

8. Information Only-Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council – (continued)

Dr. Sondra Cosgrove, Professor, CSN, reported on the upcoming Status of Women in Nevada Summit. The event will feature Executive Vice Chancellor Catherine Cortez Masto as the keynote speaker and will focus on improving the success of women in higher education and promoting the advancement of women in public and private life.

9. Information Only-NSHE Diversity Master Plan – Dr. Barbara Sanders, Dean of Equity and Inclusion, TMCC, and co-chair of the EDIC, provided an update on the progress toward developing an NSHE Diversity Master Plan including establishing a common template to present diversity initiatives taking place at each institution, highlighting the shared vision of ideas throughout the NSHE, recognizing the richness of each institution and setting a roadmap for future initiatives. Dr. Sanders said the goal is to have the Diversity Master Plan ready to present to the Committee in the fall.

10. Information Only-New Business – None.

11. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Rainier Spencer, Interim Senior Associate Vice President for Diversity Initiatives, UNLV, stated that UNLV recently completed a campus climate survey and the data is being assessed. The intention is to conduct a climate survey every year. In addition, UNLV will soon receive the final recommendations from the diversity consultant that has been working with the university for the past year. UNLV will then embark on a three to five year diversity planning process.

10. Information Only-New Business – (continued)

Chair Crear requested that UNLV provide a report to the Committee on the results of the campus climate survey and the recommendations from the diversity consultant.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 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