

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title: UNLV School of Medicine Update**

**Meeting Date: March 5-6, 2015**

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada School of Medicine; and the Nevada System of Higher Education endorsed expanding and enhancing public medical education in Nevada and was originally approved by the Board at its December 2013 meeting and amended at its September 2014 meeting to specify a new, independently accredited medical school at UNLV.

UNLV has been planning to develop a full-scale, four-year allopathic medical school that would be fully-accredited and financially sustainable. President Jessup will be joined by Dr. Barbara Atkinson, Planning Dean for the UNLV School of Medicine, to provide an update on the recent progress of the school, including the vision statement, community outreach, legislative activities, faculty and staff recruiting, and accreditation.

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

UNLV President Len Jessup and Planning Dean Barbara Atkinson will present for information an update on the planning process for the UNLV School of Medicine.

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?)**

This report is consistent with keeping the Board of Regents updated and complies with President Jessup and Planning Dean Atkinson being transparent to the Board with the planning process.

**5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- The medical school at UNLV is of great interest to the University and therefore to the Board of Regents, and keeping the Board updated on the planning process and timeline is important.
- Las Vegas is the largest U.S. metropolitan area without an allopathic medical school.
- Nevada is unable to meet the current healthcare needs of its citizens and the supply of medical school graduates is far below what is needed now and in the future as the state's population approaches four million.

**6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None known.

**7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

Do not continue to provide an update to the Board of Regents.

**8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Explain: \_\_\_\_\_



#### **November 2014**

- The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), University Medical Center, Clark County and UNLV have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reserve 10 acres of land within county jurisdiction for the new UNLV School of Medicine and a Medical Education building. The land is at the southeast corner of Shadow and Pinto lanes where the Southern Nevada Health District was located. The UMC Board approved the MOU on Nov. 19. The Board of Clark County Commissioners is scheduled to vote on the item Tues., Dec. 2. The NSHE Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on the item Dec. 5.
- The UNLV School of Medicine is scheduled to hold its second Community Advisory Committee meeting Mon., Dec. 1. The focus of the meeting will be Graduate Medical Education and establishing various working sub-committees. The Community Advisory Committee includes a list of nearly 30 community leaders and is chaired by Michael Yackira. It also includes representatives from development, gaming, healthcare, education, and business among others.
- Staffing:
  - Prepared a letter of offer for the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions.
  - Conducted preliminary interviews with for the Vice Dean and the Associate Dean positions.
  - Interviewed three candidates for the Director of Communications position.
- Outlined the vision and timeline of the new UNLV School of Medicine with the candidates for UNLV President during their campus visits in mid-November.
- Participated in a strategic workshop for a future capital campaign for UNLV. The School of Medicine will be a core element of the campaign. Additionally, finalizing a strategy to approach potential donors.



#### December 2014

- Developed the vision statement for the UNLV School of Medicine and shared with various stakeholder groups. The statement reads:

*“To develop a world-class center for education, patient care, and research that prepares Nevada’s doctors with the most innovative and technologically advanced forms of medical training while serving the healthcare needs of a diverse and urban population through community partnerships.”*

- *Train doctors and specialists who will serve Nevada*
  - *Areas of focus will include mental health and addiction, neuroscience, cardiology, cancer, and orthopedics*
  - *Generate a local economic impact of more than \$1 billion annually and create 8,000 jobs*
- The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents, Board of Clark County Commissioners and the UMC Board have all approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reserve 10 acres of land within county jurisdiction for the new UNLV School of Medicine and a Medical Education building. The land is at the southeast corner of Shadow and Pinto lanes where the Southern Nevada Health District was located. The NSHE Board of Regents and Clark County Commissioners approved the MOU the first week of December. The UMC Board approved the item Nov. 19.
  - Organizing and hosting a summit Jan. 12 with State Legislators and community leaders to provide an overview of the UNLV School of Medicine, summarize progress to date and outline the next steps.
  - Scheduled travel to Washington D.C. the week of Jan. 5 to meet with members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and update the various representatives on the progress of the UNLV School of Medicine. We will also be meeting with Robert Jesse, MD, PhD, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs who leads the clinical policies and programs and is responsible for GME and other educational activities at all the VA facilities and Carolyn Clancy, MD, who is the Interim Under Secretary for Health.

- Implementing the defined strategy for fundraising. Secured a six-figure, philanthropic investment from Mr. and Mrs. Duncan and Irene Lee. Community cultivation continues with philanthropic opportunities growing as the UNLV School of Medicine continues to develop and momentum builds.
- The UNLV School of Medicine is scheduled to hold its third Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting on Jan. 13. The CAB represents development, gaming, healthcare, education and business sectors. It consists of over 30 community leaders and is chaired by Michael Yackira, former CEO of NV Energy, and current Chair of the UNLV Foundation. The Vice Chair is Warren Volker, MD, Chairman and CEO of WellHealth Quality Care.
- Current staffing is three individuals, Barbara Atkinson, MD, Planning Dean, Maureen Schafer, Chief of Staff, and Mersina Swearinger, Executive Assistant to the Dean. New staffing to begin in February includes:
  - Sam Parrish, MD, the new Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Student Admissions. Dr. Parrish joins the UNLV School of Medicine after holding a similar position at Quinnipiac University at the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine in Connecticut.
  - Ellen Cosgrove, MD, the new Vice Dean of Education. Dr. Cosgrove has been at the University of Washington, School of Medicine as the Vice Dean of Academic Affairs. Previously to that she held a similar position at University of New Mexico School of Medicine.