

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title: Policy Proposal for elimination of the Health Sciences Committee as a standing committee of the Board.**

**Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2016**

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

At its meeting held on August 25-26, 2016 the Board discussed its role as the governing body of the Nevada System of Higher Education. That discussion included a dialogue about the current standing and special committees of the Board and the potential restructuring and elimination of committees in order to be more efficient and effective.

The attached Policy Proposal was developed as a result of that discussion and would amend Title I of the Board of Regents Handbook (the Board Bylaws) to eliminate the Health Sciences Committee as a standing committee of the Board.

Because this Policy Proposal is an amendment to the Bylaws of the Board, approval requires action at two regular meetings as provided in Title 1, Article VIII, Section 1 of the Handbook. This item will serve as an initial reading of this Policy Proposal with final action occurring at the Board's next regular meeting, currently scheduled for March 2-3, 2017.

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

That the Board provide notice and conduct an initial reading of the attached Policy Proposal eliminating the Health Sciences Committee as a standing committee of the Board. Pursuant to Title 1, Article VIII, Section 1 of the Handbook – this Policy Proposal will be presented for final action at the March 2017 meeting of the Board.

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

The transition of responsibility for medical education in southern Nevada from the University of Nevada School of Medicine to the new UNLV School of Medicine and the recent elimination of the Health Sciences Division within System Administration provide an opportune time to reexamine the need for the Health Sciences Committee. In addition, during the August Special Meeting, members of the Board discussed various ideas for the restructuring of the Board's committees – including the possible elimination of the Health Sciences Committee.

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

- That the Health Sciences Committee is no longer needed given the transition of responsibility for medical education in southern Nevada and the establishment of the UNLV School of Medicine.
- System Administration lacks the resources to effectively support the Health Sciences Committee given the recent elimination of the Health Sciences Division with System Administration.
- Business and governance issues that have been handled by the Health Sciences Committee can be handed by the other standing committees of the Board (such as the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee and the Business, Finance and Facilities Committee) as necessary.

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

- The establishment of the new UNLV School of Medicine and the operation of two independent state supported medical schools requires close coordination that is best provided by the continuation of the Health Sciences Committee.

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

- Do not approve the attached Policy Proposal, allowing the Health Sciences Committee to continue operating as a standing committee of the Board.
- Provide System staff direction regarding alternative committee structures or assignments to provide oversight of NSHE health sciences activities and initiatives.

**8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_  
X Amends Current Board Policy: Title 1, Article VI, Section 3 – by eliminating the Health Sciences Committee as a standing committee of the Board.  
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_X\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 1, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 – Standing Committees and their Duties**  
*Eliminating the Health Sciences Committee as a standing committee of the Board.*

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

**Section 3. Standing Committees and their Duties**

The following shall be the standing committees of the Board and their duties:

- a. The **Audit Committee** shall:
  1. Review and evaluate internal audit reports and follow-up reports;
  2. Recommend to the Board independent certified public accountants to audit the financial books and records of the NSHE and review and evaluate the reports of such independent certified public accountants;
  3. Formulate and make recommendations to the Board regarding policies necessary for the enforcement of sound accounting and auditing practices;
  4. Evaluate and make recommendations on internal controls; and
  5. Make such recommendations, as it deems necessary for the correction of deficiencies in management practices discovered by audit reports.
  
- b. The **Business, Finance and Facilities Committee** shall:
  1. Review and recommend to the Board the operating budget requests and work programs for the NSHE, with the primary objective of affirming the connections between the NSHE Master Plan and System-wide priorities, budget requests, and funding allocations;
  2. Review and recommend to the Board the self-supporting budgets and work programs for the NSHE;
  3. Make recommendations to the Board for the financing of the activities of the NSHE and the expenditure or use of NSHE financial resources;

4. Review institutional and System proposals that create added fiscal requirements and/or alter established planning directions;
5. Oversee System direction of, or participation in, studies of funding mechanisms and approaches for public higher education in Nevada;
6. Review and make recommendations on NSHE risk management, insurance programs, and safety and security measures;
7. Monitor the technology needs and systems of the NSHE to ensure optimal use of resources for integrated system-wide information systems and other proper strategic uses of technology within the NSHE;
8. Review institutional requests to purchase or dispose of NSHE property;
9. Review all institutional requests to enter into property lease agreements in accordance with Board policy and applicable law;
10. Review any requests to lease NSHE property to an outside agency or private entity;
11. Review the land acquisitions and disposal portions of all institutional master plans;
12. Review all institutional requests for easements on NSHE property;
13. Review annual update of all NSHE property holdings and long-term leases;
14. Review and recommend to the Board the NSHE capital improvement priority lists, with the primary objective of affirming the connections between the requests and the institutional facilities master plans;
15. Review and recommend to the Board institutional facilities master plans;
16. Review and recommend to the Board a System space utilization model and periodically review institutional and System-wide space utilization data; and
17. Review and make recommendations to the Board regarding the Board's Efficiency and Effectiveness Initiative.

c. The **Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee** shall:

1. Provide guidance in the development, review and recommendation of academic programs and degrees of the NSHE;
2. Consider and recommend to the Board policies concerning academic master plans;
3. Consider and recommend to the Board policies and practices concerning articulation and the transfer of students between and among the member institutions;
4. Consider and recommend to the Board policies relating to admission requirements, student services, academic standards, grading practices and requirements for graduation;
5. Consider and recommend policies to the Board regarding implementation of distance education, telecommunicated education and applications of educational and information technology in support of teaching, learning, research and creative activities;
6. Consider and recommend to the Board policies that appropriately align research within NSHE institutions with the priorities of the State Plan for Economic Development and support and encourage private sector engagement;
7. Facilitate the development, review, and implementation within the NSHE of research initiatives that are statewide or inter-institutional in nature, including applied research and development, university-industry technology transfer, and technology-based economic development;
8. Facilitate dialogue between the NSHE, business and industry, state and federal governmental representatives, and economic development/diversity stakeholders throughout Nevada in determining research and economic development needs and related issues;

9. Oversee and review campus management of faculty workload to assure equity, efficiency and effectiveness in the disposition of faculty effort;
10. Facilitate the development, review, and implementation of policies by the Board relevant to the learning climate, working climate, and support mechanisms for faculty, staff, and students;
11. Review and make recommendations concerning campus plans for the provision of child care and disability services; and
12. Jointly with the Business, Finance and Facilities Committee, consider and recommend to the Board policies concerning NSHE enrollment management plans, tuition and fees and the development of a student financial aid system for the NSHE that promotes access to public higher education for all Nevadans.

d. The **Cultural Diversity and Title IX Compliance Committee** shall:

1. Study issues and recommend policies to the Board in an effort to promote cultural and ethnic diversity, including, but not limited to, socio-economic, historical, cultural, capability, identity, gender, expression, linguistic and intellectual differences and similarities, throughout the System in order to ensure access and equity for all students, staff and faculty.
2. Review and examine issues, information, and activities that promote diversity among the students, staff and faculty of the System;
3. Examine information and indicators regarding student access and equity;
4. Make recommendations to the Board intended to create, enhance, promote, and support an educational environment that welcomes all cultural and ethnic minorities;
5. Take actions appropriate to increase awareness, visibility, and emphasis of campus diversity programs.
6. Examine information and indicators regarding Title IX compliance and make any policy recommendations to the Board; and
7. Make recommendations to the Board regarding Title IX initiatives that foster awareness of and enhance commitment to a non-discriminatory campus environment.

e. The **Investment Committee** shall:

1. Formulate and recommend to the Board appropriate investment policies to govern the investment program of the NSHE;
2. Review and evaluate reports from the investment managers of the NSHE concerning investment and reinvestment transactions within the limits of the investment policies approved by the Board; and
3. Make such recommendations deemed appropriate concerning investment and reinvestment transactions consistent with the investment policies approved by the Board and with agreements, if any, with the investment managers of the NSHE.

f. The ~~**Health Sciences System Committee**~~ shall promote quality education, research, patient care and community health across health care disciplines, driven by access, quality, value and the needs of the people of the State of Nevada.

~~f~~g. The **Community College Committee** shall:

1. Advise the Board on community college issues; make recommendations to the Board and Chancellor on community college initiatives of statewide significance; and may be tasked with other duties by the Board;

2. Review proposed legislation and advise the Chancellor and Board about the impact of new policies on Nevada's community colleges. The Committee may also recommend new policies or legislative priorities to support Nevada's community colleges in achieving their mission and preparing Nevada's workforce to meet the needs of the state's economy.
3. Provide guidance and advice to the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges about the conduct of research and analysis on six critical topics, which shall incorporate current national best practices for community colleges. The Committee shall review the assessments and provide recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board. The six critical topics are an assessment of the following:
  - i. Workforce and student engagement with Nevada's community colleges and the broad alignment of the colleges with the economic development plan of the State of Nevada. This will outline the opportunities to better align community college operations, programs, and outcomes with the current needs of business and industry throughout the state and in the local communities served by the respective colleges. It will identify the level of engagement that business and industry decision-makers have with Nevada's community colleges and provide targeted opportunities to improve engagement with local industry. It will also evaluate and outline opportunities to improve the level of engagement that students have with community colleges in Nevada.
  - ii. Data relevant to the status, performance and structure of Nevada's community colleges. The Committee may also evaluate current national trends in community colleges and identify innovative program traits that will assist Nevada community colleges in serving Nevada's key industry sectors by providing a well-qualified workforce.
  - iii. The community college vision that will achieve the appropriate balance between imagination, risk-taking, innovation, and the wise use of human and financial resources. The assessment may make recommendations about designing a vision that increases student access and success, improves graduation rates, aligns standards and curricula to support community college graduates in entering a 4-year institution, and harmonizes community college programs with current and future workforce needs.
  - iv. Policies and inventory of policies of the Board of Regents with regard to their alignment with the role and missions of Nevada community colleges. The assessment may include recommendations to the Board of Regents if changes may better align Board policies and procedures with the role and missions of Nevada's community colleges.
  - v. Achievement gaps that exist at each of the Nevada community colleges, including identification of research, initiatives and other actions being taken by institutions to address achievement gap issues. The assessment may include recommendations that can be implemented to reduce disparities in achievement.
  - vi. The alignment and coordination of credit and non-credit programs. This will include a review of validation systems to record outcomes that promote the portability of skills acquired in non-credit programs to credit programs. The assessment will also evaluate accountability for colleges and state workforce education funds.

g. The **Athletics Committee** shall:

1. Study the athletic programs of the two universities and make recommendations to the Board regarding at what level each university is able to compete without additional state, student and university subsidies.
2. Recommend to the Board a mission statement for intercollegiate athletics in Nevada.
3. Evaluate the mission of intercollegiate athletics at the Community Colleges and analyze conference affiliations and make recommendations to the Board.
4. Conduct an initial review of the annual reports submitted in accordance with NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 24.
5. Review the athletics Capital Improvement Plans and financing criteria for development and renovation of athletic facilities and make recommendations to the Board.
6. Review the athletic department budgets included in the annual reports which must include budgeted to actual in current year, previous two years and projections for the upcoming four years, and make recommendations to the Board.
7. Review the structure and terms of athletics personnel contracts and recommend contract templates and guidelines to the Board.
8. Review NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 24 and recommend changes to the Board, as necessary.