

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 March 2016 meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Student Union, Ballroom A
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas
Thursday, December 3, 2015

Members Present: Dr. Jason Geddes, Chair
 Mr. Sam Lieberman, Vice Chair
 Dr. Andrea Anderson
 Mr. Trevor Hayes
 Mr. Kevin C. Melcher
 Ms. Allison Stephens

Others Present: Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
 Ms. Brooke Nielsen, Vice Chancellor, Legal Affairs
 Ms. Allison Combs, Asst. Vice Chancellor and Director of Public Policy
 Ms. Linda Heiss, Senior Director, Institutional Research
 Ms. Renee Davis, Director, Student Affairs
 Ms. Lee Quick, Manager, Health Sciences
 Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC
 Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
 Dr. Maria C. Sheehan, President, TMCC

The faculty senate chair in attendance was Ms. Mary Doucette, GBC. Student body presidents in attendance were Ms. Kylie Rowe, UNR-GSA and Ms. Andrea Senda, WNC.

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

Chair Jason Geddes called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. with all members present except Regent Lieberman.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

Regent Lieberman entered the meeting.

2. Approved-Consent Items – The Committee recommended approval of the following consent items:

 (2a.) Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the September 10, 2015, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board office*).

2. Approved-Consent Items – (continued)

- (2b.) Approved-UNLV, New Degree, Doctor of Medicine – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request for a Doctor of Medicine to train future Nevada doctors to work in healthcare teams, apply cutting-edge technology and develop novel, yet classically-based treatment solutions for diseases of the present and future (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board office*).
- (2c.) Approved-Handbook Revision, Acceptance of College Board Advanced Placement Examination Scores by NSHE Institutions – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy concerning the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations (CBAPE). Specifically, the policy revision requires acceptance of CBAPE scores of 3, 4 and 5 for credit to satisfy electives, general education requirements or major requirements (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 22*) (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board office*).
- (2d.) Approved-Code Revision, Recommendations for Tenure, Adding Research and Entrepreneurial Activity – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy concerning standards for recommending appointment with tenure (*Title 2, Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2*). Specifically, the revised policy adds research and entrepreneurial activity to the standards that must be considered for university faculty being recommended for appointment with tenure. These policy revisions were presented for initial discussion at the September 10-11, 2015, meeting of the Board and the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee (*Ref. ARSA-2d on file in the Board office*).

Regent Melcher moved approval of the consent items. Regent Stephens seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approved-DRI, New Organizational Unit, Wildland Fire Science Center – The Committee recommended approval of DRI’s request for a new Wildland Fire Science Center that will allow DRI to enhance its fire-related research and provide a unique resource within the State of Nevada to address the critical issues of wildland fire and adaptation (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board office*).

Dr. Alan Gertler, Vice President for Research, DRI, provided a brief review of the proposal.

Regent Anderson moved approval of a new Wildland Fire Science Center at DRI. Regent Stephens seconded.

3. Approved-DRI, New Organizational Unit, Wildland Fire Science Center –
(continued)

Regent Melcher complimented DRI for its interdisciplinary approach and for leveraging the expertise of faculty from DRI, UNR and UNLV.

Motion carried.

4. Approved-NSHE Performance Pool, Targets for Year 5 and Year 6 – The Committee recommended approval of the point targets for 2016-17 (Year 5) and 2017-18 (Year 6) of the NSHE Performance Pool. A point target is selected for each year in a performance cycle. A calculation will be done following each year to determine an institution's performance relative to the established point target. The distribution of dollars from the NSHE Performance Pool will be based on a calculation where the percent of points earned will be based on the total points earned divided by the point target.

Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, provided a brief history of the NSHE Performance Pool and an overview of the proposed 2016-17 and 2017-18 targets outlined in the reference material (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board office*).

Chair Geddes noted for the first four years of the Performance Pool, a 4 percent increase was set for NSC and they hit the target every year. He asked why the proposed targets in Years 5 and 6 reflect a 2 percent increase for NSC. Vice Chancellor Abba indicated NSC's performance amounted to 122 percent of the target in Year 4 and, therefore, continuing the 4 percent increase is reasonable. However, that would mean a 4 percent increase is applied to the target in Year 5 and an additional 4 percent is applied in Year 6.

Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC, said the proposed 2 percent increase across all institutions has more to do with fairness and keeping the institutions at an equal level. NSC intends to hit the target and is on a good trajectory.

Regent Melcher asked about the point at which the increases reach a level that is impractical. Vice Chancellor Abba indicated the current growth cannot be sustained long term. The Performance Pool was created based on the fact that it is a carve-out and not new money. The mechanics of the Performance Pool will need to be revisited when new money, as opposed to a carve-out of existing funds, is available.

Regent Melcher asked if the current model could potentially become a reward system for achievement beyond the maintenance level. Vice Chancellor Abba said that idea would require a conversation with the Legislature but the model could be utilized in that way.

4. Approved-NSHE Performance Pool, Targets for Year 5 and Year 6 – (continued)

Regent Stephens expressed uncertainty about the idea that applying the same percent increase across the institutions means there is an equal burden placed upon each institution with respect to their ability to meet performance goals. She said she is not convinced that setting a 2 percent increase for NSC is the best approach or that it treats all of the institutions equitably.

Regent Melcher moved approval of the proposed point targets for 2016-17 (Year 5) and 2017-18 (Year 6) of the NSHE Performance Pool. Regent Anderson seconded.

Regent Stephens indicated she will vote in favor of the proposal with the understanding that NSC has always exceeded its target and will continue to do so. She said she will look for NSC to exceed the target by a higher amount since the bar is lower.

Regent Hayes agreed with Regent Stephens and noted the point of the Performance Pool is to encourage the institutions to improve and achieve. He believes the target could have been set higher for NSC and perhaps some of the other institutions.

Vice Chancellor Abba clarified the Performance Pool is a carve-out of the institutional General Fund appropriation and is not new money for the institutions. The institutions must hit these targets to earn what they otherwise would have received through a general fund appropriation. Vice Chancellor Abba said the Performance Pool has changed behavior over the last four years. The institutions are producing degrees at a level that historically has not been seen and that was always the underlying intent.

Motion carried.

5. Information Only-Remedial Placement and Enrollment Report – Vice Chancellor Abba presented the 2014-15 Remedial Placement and Enrollment Report that includes information on the percent of recent Nevada high school graduates who require remediation based on institutional placement mechanisms (Refs. ARSA-5a and ARSA-5b on file in the Board office).

The 2014-15 report includes information on recent Nevada high school graduates who place and enroll into remedial coursework within the first year of enrolling in an NSHE institution.

Regent Melcher suggested looking at remediation rates by socioeconomic status as that data may help the NSHE secure funding.

5. Information Only-Remedial Placement and Enrollment Report – *(continued)*

Regent Stephens observed this is an example of how the NSHE augments core services typically provided by the K-12 system. It is important for the Legislature to understand this when it comes to funding.

6. Information Only-NSHE Distance Education – Mr. Sam McCool, NSHE National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) EdReady Project Manager, and Terry Norris, Director of CSN Online Campus, presented a report on behalf of NSHE institutions regarding distance education within NSHE including dual enrollment opportunities with the high schools and opportunities available through NSHE's membership in the NROC Project (*Ref. ARSA-6 on file in the Board office*).

The presentation included information on NSHE distance education headcount as a percent of total headcount, headcount by institution, course completion rates, dual enrollment at NSHE institutions and EdReady programs.

Vice Chancellor Abba thanked the presenters for their work on behalf of students.

7. Information Only-New and Existing Program Review – Ms. Linda Heiss, Senior Director of Institutional Research, and Allison Combs, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the first, third and fifth year new academic program reviews and the report on institutional reviews of existing programs as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 5*) (*Refs. ARSA-7a and ARSA-7b on file in the Board office*).

Regent Hayes observed the existing program summary for the UNLV Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Media Studies does not capture the biggest criticisms levied in the April 2015 report produced by external reviewers of the Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, including lack of leadership and a curriculum that places too much emphasis on theory and not enough on practical skills. He inquired about the responsibility for preparing the summaries and determining what information to include.

Vice Chancellor Abba indicated the summaries are prepared by institutional staff and decisions about what information to include are made at the discretion of the institution.

Regent Hayes suggested including previous enrollment in the program summaries to show whether enrollments are increasing or decreasing. Dr. Carl Reiber, Senior Vice Provost, UNLV, said the report produced by the external reviewers was critical of the journalism program. The full report was shared with the Board and UNLV is in the process of drafting a response. Dr. Reiber indicated there will be some leadership and curricular changes and a full review of the program is forthcoming.

7. Information Only-New and Existing Program Review – (continued)

Regent Hayes said after reading the report of the external reviewers the information included in the existing program report felt like an oversimplification of the problems that exist within the program. He wondered if the summaries provided for other programs are equally vague. Dr. Reiber said the intent is to provide the Committee with an accurate summary; however, perhaps UNLV was not strong enough in pulling together the information presented in this review.

Regent Stephens stressed the importance of including in the summary the actions being taken to resolve any issues within the program. She asked if UNLV has a sense of the status of its programs or if it takes someone else to point out a problem. Dr. Reiber said UNLV has a sense of which programs are having problems and which programs are doing well. If there are problems in a program, it will be pushed for a program review. He said getting the external perspective is critically important to ensuring the program is maintaining national standards and expectations and making sure the faculty and students in the program are having appropriate feedback.

Chair Geddes requested a link to the full program review be included in the summaries in future reports on existing programs.

In response to a question from Regent Hayes, Dr. Reiber said UNLV has hired a new director of advising in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs and has increased the advising staff. UNLV is working to further improve the student to advisor ratio.

8. Information Only-State College and Community Colleges Services and Service Areas – The Committee discussed various matters related to the state college and community colleges and how those institutions are currently serving Nevada citizens.

The discussion included matters related to service areas, institutional structure, degree offerings and institutional mission.

Chair Geddes noted the physical north/south divide between UNR and UNLV was eliminated in 2014 through a policy revision introduced by the ad hoc Committee on Institutional Service Areas. However, the community colleges continue to serve specifically designated areas within the state. The Board may want to start rethinking these service areas, particularly in the context of distance education.

Chair Geddes indicated the full Board will discuss the issue at its January 2016 workshop. In preparation for the January workshop, Regent Melcher suggested reviewing the 2001 RAND Study report and extracting the pieces that are applicable to the planned discussion. Chair Geddes said he will make sure the

8. Information Only-State College and Community Colleges Services and Service Areas – (continued)

Regents and presidents receive a copy of the RAND report before the January workshop.

Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC, provided a brief review of his proposal to expand GBC's academic program offerings by designating GBC as a state college (*Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board office*). As outlined in the proposal, GBC seeks to offer more upper division academic programs where other institutions have not and cannot do it economically. GBC would honor its history by continuing to offer workforce development, transfer related certificates and associate degrees. President Curtis said the proposal has the full support of GBC's Institutional Advisory Council and Foundation and has widespread support among college faculty and staff.

Vice Chancellor Abba noted President Curtis's proposal addresses faculty workload and that topic was discussed at the December 2, 2015, meeting of the Academic Affairs Council. The Board's policy on faculty workload (*Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 3*) states that workload provisions are based on institution type. Currently, the policy does not envision a hybrid two/four year type of institution. Vice Chancellor Abba indicated there is concern among the academic officers about delving into the policy on faculty workload and no consensus was reached during the meeting. To the extent that the Board contemplates GBC as a state college, it will require a significant rewrite of the *Handbook*. She will continue the discussion on faculty workload with the academic officers.

Chair Geddes asked President Curtis to prepare a schedule for the shift in faculty compensation that would be necessary under his proposal to offer more upper division programs at GBC.

In response to a question from Regent Anderson, President Curtis indicated GBC would continue to participate in meetings of the Board's Community College Committee as GBC would still be designated with a community college mission.

Regent Stephens said she views the proposal as a way for the NSHE to live up to its commitment to rural Nevada. GBC has been highly successful in figuring out how best to reach rural Nevadans. It is important for the NSHE to be able to offer those residents the opportunity to achieve higher level degrees. Regent Stephens expressed support for the hybrid model described in the proposal.

Regent Hayes said he looks forward to continuing the discussion with the full Board. It is an important issue that he feels should be addressed before additional baccalaureate programs are approved at any of the community colleges.

8. Information Only-State College and Community Colleges Services and Service Areas – (continued)

Regent Melcher requested that any potential impacts on accreditation associated with a change in institution type be included in the discussion at the January workshop.

9. Information Only-New Business – Chair Geddes indicated a report from the academic officers on measuring and ensuring the quality of graduates, including steps taken by the institutions to ensure that graduating students are meeting the needs of employers, will be presented to the Committee in March. In addition, Chair Geddes requested a report on NSHE distance education opportunities for K-12 students in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programs be presented at a future meeting of the Committee.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Prepared by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Manager of Board Operations

Submitted for approval by: Dean J. Gould
Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents