

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
CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Student Union, Ballroom A
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas
Friday, December 4, 2015

Members Present: Mr. Cedric Crear, Chair (*via telephone*)
Dr. Andrea Anderson
Mr. Robert Davidson
Mr. Sam Lieberman

Members Absent: Mr. Trevor Hayes, Vice Chair

Others Present: 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
Ms. Renee Davis, Director, Student Affairs
Mr. John Kuhlman, Manager, Public Information
Dr. Michael D. Richards, President, CSN
Dr. Stephen G. Wells, President, DRI
Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President, GBC
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC
Dr. Maria C. Sheehan, President, TMCC
Mr. Chet O. Burton, President, WNC

Representing student government was Mr. Caden Fabbi, UNR-ASUN.

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

Chair Cedric Crear called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present except Vice Chair Hayes and Regent Lieberman.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2015, meeting (*Ref. CD-2 on file in the Board office*).

Regent Anderson moved approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2015, meeting. Regent Davidson seconded. Motion carried. Regents Hayes and Lieberman were absent.

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

Chair Crear recognized the outgoing chief diversity officer at UNR, Dr. Reginald Stewart. Dr. Stewart has accepted a position as vice president for diversity and inclusion at Iowa State University. On behalf of the Committee, Chair Crear offered congratulations to Dr. Stewart.

Regent Lieberman entered the meeting.

Chair Crear thanked Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC, and his staff for hosting the Southern Nevada Diversity Summit on October 2, 2015.

4. Information Only-Supplier Inclusion Program (Agenda Item #5) – Ms. Maria Marinch, Executive Director of Community Relations, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, CSN, and Rolando Mosqueda, Associate Vice President for Procurement and Auxiliary Services, CSN, reported on the recent success of the Supplier Inclusion Program (*Ref. CD-5 on file in the Board office*).

Mr. Mosqueda indicated through collaborations with UNLV and NSC, the Supplier Inclusion Program has expanded its intake of companies interested in learning about how to do business with NSHE institutions.

Businesses from across the state took part in a mentoring workshop hosted in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Approximately 35 to 40 businesses participated and were able to learn about NSHE business processes.

In addition, CSN hosted a supplier inclusion and networking event in collaboration with UNLV and NSC. Staff solicited input from the local chambers of commerce to ensure this event would be beneficial for chamber constituents. Approximately 200 business owners representing 107 unique companies attended the event which featured several breakout, learning and training sessions.

Mr. Mosqueda said creating additional partnerships and developing a business incubator program are among the goals for the program in 2016.

Chair Crear observed the program has come a long way in a relatively short period of time. He stressed the importance of increasing the number of companies that are awarded opportunities to do business with the NSHE as a result of these workshops and networking events.

5. Information Only-Southern Nevada Diversity Summit (Agenda Item #4) – Dr. Edith Fernandez, Associate Vice President of Community Engagement and Diversity Initiatives, NSC, reported on the success of the 2015 Southern Nevada Diversity Summit that took place on October 2, 2015, at Nevada State College.

Approximately 250 individuals attended the summit which featured a keynote speaker and 12 breakout sessions. Summit organizers tracked social media activity and were able to determine the social media reach extended to more than 5,000 individuals.

The total cost of the summit was approximately \$13,000 and will be shared among all southern NSHE institutions. MGM Resorts International offered its support by providing a \$3,000 sponsorship. Additional sponsorships will be sought for the 2016 summit hosted by UNLV. Chair Crear requested a letter of thanks be sent to MGM Resorts International.

The Committee briefly discussed the 2016 summit and how UNLV's hosting of the presidential debate on October 16, 2016, may impact the scheduling of the summit. Chair Crear indicated the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council should address the issue and present a date recommendation for the 2016 summit to the Committee.

6. Information Only-Northern Nevada Diversity Conference – Dr. Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President and Provost, UNR, provided an update of the ongoing planning efforts for the 2016 Northern Nevada Diversity Conference that will take place on April 7, 2016.

Dr. Carman said the conference will focus on exploring diversity and equity through access, retention and engagement. A call for proposals for conference presentations resulted in 42 submissions. The goals of the conference are to publicize current research, share available resources, provide opportunities for networking and collaboration across disciplines and constituencies, highlight accomplishments and objectives, and identify existing needs.

The organizing committee is working on a schedule for the conference and discussions are being held with respect to the keynote speaker. The graduate student association at UNR is holding its Unity and Diversity: Breaking Down Stereotypes event on April 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. as a kickoff to the diversity conference. This event will feature student speakers who will creatively express what their heritage means to them through presentations that may include cultural arts performances and speeches.

Dr. Carman stated on November 19, 2015, the UNR Black Student Organization and Sisters On a Move organized a march against racism in college to demonstrate support for students at the University of Missouri. The students

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

made it clear that this was not a protest march, but rather an awareness activity to keep the diversity conversation moving forward. Dr. Carman, along with many faculty and staff at UNR, joined the students in the march. UNR President Marc A. Johnson offered concluding remarks. Dr. Carman indicated UNR will be holding open conversations with students to discuss diversity-related issues.

Chair Crear congratulated the students at UNR for organizing the march and university leadership for participating.

7. Information Only-Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council – Dr. Edith Fernandez, Associate Vice President of Community Engagement and Diversity Initiatives, NSC, and Ms. Lilly Leon-Vicks, Coordinator for Student Life, WNC, co-chairs of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council (EDIC), reported on the recent work of the Council. The report included an update on the system-wide climate survey and the progress of the focused discussion involving Asian American and Pacific Islander students and the value of disaggregating student data.

Dr. Fernandez said the EDIC will begin receiving reports from the institutions on the progress each has made toward disaggregating student data.

With respect to a system-wide climate survey, Ms. Leon-Vicks reported conversations with the sponsor indicated some data being requested for the smaller institutions would not be able to be disaggregated. The EDIC will continue to work with the sponsor to find a solution or an alternative to a system-wide survey. In the meantime, the EDIC is encouraging individual institutions to conduct their own climate surveys.

Dr. Fernandez announced she is stepping down as co-chair of the EDIC and Ms. Marinch will take her place as co-chair alongside Ms. Leon-Vicks.

8. Information Only-New Business – Regent Lieberman requested a report from each institution on current operations and best practices utilized by campus disability resource centers. Specifically, he is interested in the recruitment and retention of student clients, graduation rates and how workforce readiness is assessed at the time of graduation.

Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, said a universal accessibility working group has been established to address accessibility issues. The group will begin its work in 2016 and updates will be provided to the Committee.

9. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, TMCC, and President of the National

9. Information Only-Public Comment – *(continued)*

Asian/Pacific Islander Council, recognized and thanked Dr. Maria C. Sheehan, President, TMCC, for her leadership and contributions to the NSHE.

Chair Crear said President Sheehan has been instrumental to the success of many diversity initiatives across the NSHE. He wished her the best in her future endeavors.

President Sheehan announced Ms. Jill Atkinson will serve as the new director of equity and inclusion at TMCC.

8. Information Only-New Business – *(continued)*

Chair Crear requested an update from the EDIC on the sharing of applicant pools at the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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