

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 2017 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 1, 2016

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 & Student Affairs
Mr. James Martines, System Counsel
Ms. Allison Combs, Asst. Vice Chancellor & Director of Public Policy
Ms. Renee Davis, Director, Student Affairs
Ms. Linda Heiss, Director, Institutional Research & Data Partnerships
Dr. Robert B. Gagosian, President, DRI
Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC

Faculty senate chairs in attendance were Dr. John Rice, GBC; Dr. Bryan Sigel, NSC; Ms. Cheryl Cardoza, TMCC; Dr. Bill Robinson, UNLV; Dr. Fred Harris, UNR; and Mr. Jeffrey Downs, WNC. Student government was represented by Ms. Jill Robinson, CSN.

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

Chair Jason Geddes called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m. with all members present except Regent Stephens.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
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 8, 2016, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-2a on file in the Board office*).

2. Approved-Consent Items – (continued)

- (2b.) Approved-TMCC, Program Elimination, Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy – The Committee recommended approval of TMCC’s request to eliminate its Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy (*Ref. ARSA-2b on file in the Board office*). There are no currently enrolled students, and law enforcement partners regularly conduct their own academies without awarding academic credit and have expressed satisfaction with that arrangement.
- (2c.) Handbook Revision, Course Numbering for Professional Schools – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy governing course numbering to allow professional schools to establish their own distinct course numbering rubric that extends beyond the numbering rubric set forth for course numbering generally (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 16*) (*Ref. ARSA-2c on file in the Board office*). The policy revision will allow the professional schools the option of utilizing a distinct numbering rubric.

Vice Chair Lieberman moved approval of the consent items. Regent Melcher seconded. Motion carried. Regent Stephens was absent.

3. Approved-UNLV, Program Proposal, Master of Science in Data Analytics and Applied Economics – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request for a Master of Science in Data Analytics and Applied Economics that uniquely combines the expertise and knowledge of Management Information Systems (MIS) with economics and statistics (*Ref. ARSA-3 on file in the Board office*). The program uses existing resources to respond to increasing demand from public and private sectors for graduates with skills in data management, economic analysis and statistical analysis.

Vice Chair Lieberman moved approval of a Master of Science in Data Analytics and Applied Economics at UNLV. Regent Anderson seconded.

Dr. Diane Chase, Executive Vice President and Provost, UNLV, provided a brief review of the proposal.

Motion carried. Regent Stephens was absent.

4. Approved-UNLV, Organizational Unit Proposal, Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies – The Committee recommended approval of UNLV’s request for a Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies (IGES) within the College of Liberal Arts (*Ref. ARSA-4 on file in the Board office*). This new Department will offer the degrees formerly offered by the unit of Interdisciplinary Programs (IDP), including majors in Multidisciplinary Studies; Social Science Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; African American Studies; and Latin American Studies. Gender and ethnic studies programs are important strengths given UNLV's status as a Minority Serving Institution, Hispanic Serving Institution, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution.

Regent Melcher moved approval of a Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies at UNLV. Vice Chair Lieberman seconded.

Regent Stephens entered the meeting.

Dr. Chase provided a brief review of the proposal.

Motion carried.

5. Approved-UNR, Organizational Unit Proposal, Office of Enterprise and Innovation – The Committee recommended approval of an Office of Enterprise and Innovation (OEI), under which the following four existing university offices engaged in entrepreneurial activity will be located: Technology Licensing, Nevada Center for Applied Research (NCAR), the Innovation Center Powered by Switch (IC), and Nevada Industry Excellence (NVIE) (*Ref. ARSA-5 on file in the Board office*). The OEI will also be responsible for commercialization of university-created intellectual property; supporting industry through use of UNR shared research resources; and creating a space where students, faculty, and community members can obtain business mentoring and perform research and development activities.

Vice Chair Lieberman moved approval of an Office of Enterprise and Innovation at UNR. Regent Melcher seconded.

Dr. Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President and Provost, UNR, provided a brief review of the proposal.

Motion carried.

6. Approved-UNR, Organizational Unit Proposal, School of Medicine: Departments of Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery – The Committee recommended approval of UNR’s request for three new clinical departments within the UNR School of Medicine (UNR Med): Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery (*Refs. ARSA-6a, ARSA-6b and ARSA 6c on file in the Board office*). These new departments are part of the transformation of medical education in Nevada, including the establishment of the UNLV School of Medicine and the expansion of UNR Med’s educational programs in partnership with Renown Health.

Regent Anderson moved approval of three new clinical departments within the UNR School of Medicine: Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery. Regent Stephens seconded.

Dr. Carman provided a brief review of the proposal.

Regent Stephens said she is pleased to see the Physician Assistant program has been included in this integration, and she hopes to see the program expand over time.

Motion carried.

7. Information Only-15 to Finish Enrollment Intensity and Student Achievement Campaign – Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba presented an update on the Board’s 15 to Finish enrollment intensity and student achievement campaign adopted in September 2013 (*Refs. ARSA-7a and ARSA-7b on file in the Board office*). The report included data reflecting the status of the campaign in increasing the number of students taking 15 or more credits, as well as tracking students who accumulated at least 30 credits in their first year of enrollment and through degree or certificate completion. Reports on institutional efforts to support and promote the Board’s 15 to Finish campaign were also included.

Regent Melcher commented that state funding for summer courses would be helpful for those students following a 12-12-6 enrollment load because they work full-time and cannot take 15 credits per semester. Vice Chancellor Abba agreed that year-round state funding would lend support to the 15 to Finish campaign, but, unfortunately, state funding is limited. Regent Melcher suggested the topic be referred to the Community College Committee for exploration.

Regent Hayes said he understands that CSN has a unique student population, but he is curious as to why the 15 to Finish campaign has not caught on at CSN like it has at the other institutions. Dr. Hyla Winters, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, CSN, acknowledged the data point by itself is disturbing; however, she encouraged the Committee to look at the performance of CSN as a

7. Information Only-15 to Finish Enrollment Intensity and Student Achievement Campaign – (continued)

whole. CSN has done, and continues to do, process improvements to help students grasp the concept of what it means to be a full-time student. Faculty have developed guided pathways that specifically outline for students 12 credits or more per semester to progress through their degree plan. In addition, mandatory advisement is in place for certain student populations. Dr. Winters said if this data point is taken in context with the increased number of degrees and certificates CSN has awarded, it shows that the institution has taken the concept of getting students in the door and out the door very seriously.

Regent Anderson said she is pleased to see the progress made through the 15 to Finish campaign.

Regent Stephens expressed concern about CSN's data. She noted that NSC has a similar student demographic and WNC has significant challenges with rural students coming from different socioeconomic backgrounds and both institutions have succeeded with this campaign. She asked if there is anything CSN can do differently to improve its success with 15 to Finish. Dr. Winters assured the Committee that CSN will continue to work on getting students to enroll full-time. The institution is planning to introduce interactive technology that will provide real-time information to students on how they are progressing.

Mr. Bart J. Patterson, President, NSC, emphasized the importance of financial aid, noting the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) came in at a 15 credit level. Many students do not enroll full-time because they cannot afford it. The SSOG gave NSC an added incentive to enroll more full-time students.

Vice Chair Lieberman observed the 15 to Finish campaign has been productive for students System-wide. He acknowledged the institutional marketing and student services units that worked together to make this campaign a success.

Regent Hayes asked whether CSN has considered block scheduling and priority enrollment for students who take 15 credits. Dr. Winters said CSN has some academic programs on a block schedule format; however, they are designed for students who have already completed their general education requirements and are working to finish their degrees. CSN is looking into block scheduling for math and English to get students enrolled in both courses during the same semester and at the same location.

Regent Hayes observed that finding five classes that fit together in one semester is a difficult task for some students. It would be helpful if students could click one button and register for a package of 15 credits with a general education path that sets them up for transfer to a four-year institution.

8. Approved-Handbook Revision, Transfer and Articulation – The Committee recommended approval of revisions to Board policy governing transfer and articulation recommended under the [2015 Transfer and Articulation Audit](#) that was presented to and approved by the Committee at its June 9, 2016, meeting (*Ref. ARSA-8 on file in the Board office*). Specifically, the revisions correct a conflict in Board policy to clarify that the year-by-year course outlines required in Board policy are intended to preserve the transferable associate’s degree upon transfer to a four-year institution (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 15*). In addition, the revisions state that it is the policy of the Board of Regents to allow students options in selecting the catalog under which to graduate to assist students in graduating without excess credits or undue delay; give transfer students the option to graduate under the catalog year they initially enrolled at the two-year institution; and specify that students should consult with the appropriate entities before selecting the catalog under which to graduate to ensure compliance with any occupational or professional requirements or other post-graduation requirements (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 21, and Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 17, 24 and 36*).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief review of the proposed policy revision.

Regent Anderson moved approval of the proposed *Handbook* revision as presented. Vice Chair Lieberman seconded. Motion carried.

9. Approved-Handbook Revision, Student Absences from Class – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy authorizing institutions to adopt policies governing student absences (*Title 4, Chapter 20, Section A.3*) (*Ref. ARSA-9 on file in the Board office*). The policy revision specifies that students are expected to attend the classes in which they are enrolled unless absent for institutionally approved activities or other reasons allowed under institutional policy.

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief review of the proposed policy revision.

Vice Chair Lieberman moved approval of the proposed *Handbook* revision as presented. Regent Melcher seconded.

Regent Stephens expressed a desire for faculty to work with students to find a solution as opposed to saying a class is not suitable for the student due to anticipated absences for institutionally approved activities. Those activities are part of a student’s education and she would prefer that faculty and students work together to find an alternative.

Mr. Alok Pandey, CSN Faculty Senate Chair, and Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Chairs, said the Council worked with Vice Chancellor Abba and legal counsel to draft this policy. While its members believe that absence policies

9. Approved-Handbook Revision, Student Absences from Class – (continued)

belong with the institutions and not in the *Handbook*, the Council of Chairs is comfortable with the proposed language.

Chair Geddes indicated he will not support the motion. He is troubled by the idea of instructors setting attendance requirements and consequences for students. He believes if a student enrolls in a course and can meet all of the academic requirements, attendance may not be as important or necessary.

Regent Hayes said he understands the impetus behind the proposal; however, he believes students should have the freedom to decide whether or not they will attend a class. He suggested striking the portion of the proposed policy that says students are expected to attend the classes in which they are enrolled.

Regent Stephens observed the System and its institutions need to be more flexible, particularly when it comes to accommodating working adults. She said she will support the proposal because it corrects a conflict in the current policy; however, she agrees with Regent Hayes that a student should be able to choose whether or not they attend class.

Motion carried. Chair Geddes and Regent Hayes voted no.

10. Approved-Handbook Revision, Process for Approving Community College Baccalaureate Degree Proposals – The Committee recommended approval of a revision to Board policy concerning the community college baccalaureate degree proposal development and review process (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 9*) (*Ref. ARSA-10 on file in the Board office*). Specifically, the revision deletes the requirement that the two university presidents and the state college president consider whether one of the four-year institutions wishes to offer the baccalaureate program proposed by a community college, and providing that if a university or the state college decides to offer this baccalaureate degree to meet the identified need, it shall have one year to bring a proposal forward. In addition, the revision requires that such proposals for a baccalaureate degree must be included in the *NSHE Planning Report* required pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes 396.505* and *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3* of the *Handbook* before proceeding to the Council of Presidents.

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief review of the proposed policy revision.

Regent Melcher moved approval of the proposed *Handbook* revision as presented.
Regent Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

11. Information Only-New and Existing Program Review – Linda Heiss, Senior Director of Institutional Research, presented the first, third and fifth year new academic program reviews as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section*

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

5) (Ref. ARSA-11a on file in the Board office). Allison Combs, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the report on institutional reviews of existing programs as mandated by Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 5*) (Ref. ARSA-11b on file in the Board office).

In addition, representatives of UNLV and WNC presented the reviews conducted for at least one program at their respective institutions (Refs. ARSA-11c and ARSA-11d). The presentation by each institution included the institution's process for evaluating existing programs generally, indications of quality, whether the program is meeting employer expectations, improvements in student learning outcomes and any action steps identified based on the review of the program and the status of the action steps.

Regent Melcher left the meeting.

In response to a comment from Regent Hayes, Dr. Chase said UNLV is working to admit students in a more timely fashion across all of its graduate programs.

Regent Stephens commented on the need for additional wraparound services for part-time graduate students to help get them through their programs. Dr. Chase indicated that is something UNLV is working on.

Regent Hayes left the meeting.

12. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/Academic Master Plans – The Committee recommended approval of the 2017-2021 *Planning Report* that highlights the strategic objectives for the next four years for each NSHE institution, including foreseeable plans for new academic programs, student services and research initiatives (Ref. ARSA-12 on file in the Board office).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided a brief overview of the 2017-2021 *Planning Report*.

Regents Hayes and Melcher returned to the meeting.

Vice Chancellor Abba noted the academic program proposal form will be revised to indicate whether or not the new program being proposed was included in the planning report. The report will be brought forward to the Committee every December, in addition to the years when the formal report is presented, so that the institutions can include any revisions to the report that are needed to move forward with their academic plans.

In response to a question from Chair Geddes, Vice Chancellor Abba indicated if an institution wants to introduce a new program outside of that December

12. Approved-NSHE Planning Report/Academic Master Plans – (continued)

amendment schedule, the request must come forward at the meeting prior. The Committee will not see those requests on the same agenda anymore. She noted that allowing for annual revisions in December should be sufficient, in most cases.

Regent Anderson moved approval of the 2017-2021 *Planning Report*. Vice Chair Lieberman seconded. Motion carried.

13. Information Only-New Business – None.

14. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 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