

System Administration, Las Vegas  
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room  
Monday, August 16, 2021

Video Conference Connection from the meeting site to:  
System Administration, Reno  
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room

Members Present: Dr. Patrick R. Carter, Chair  
Dr. Jason Geddes, Vice Chair  
Mr. Byron Brooks  
Mrs. Carol Del Carlo  
Mr. John T. Moran  
Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Other Regents Present: Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada  
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan  
Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Board Chair  
Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Others Present: Ms. Keri Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff to the Board  
Ms. Sherry Olson, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Tina Russom, Deputy General Counsel

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with all members present.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

Dr. Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance, stated the Chief of Staff position is necessary for the smooth functioning of the Board of Regents. Expertise in Robert's Rules of Order is essential to allow a civil discussion leading to a decision even when Regents strongly disagree with one another. The Chief of Staff should also guide strong and effective governance without influencing decisions.

The following individuals provided written public comment in favor of S/U grading for Summer and Fall 2021:

Sevil Cetin (*Cetin.Sevil08.16.21 on file in the Board Office.*)

Rita Fadhel (*Fadhel.Rita08.16.21 on file in the Board Office.*)

Regent Perkins left the meeting.

2. Approved – Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the June 30, 2021, meeting minutes, as amended. (*Ref. COS-2 on file in the Board Office.*)

Regent Del Carlo

5. Action Taken – Review of Semifinalist Candidates and Selection of Finalists –  
(Continued)

Regent Perkins agreed that opening up the search would potentially expand the pool since applicants would not be eliminated based on their location. She stated the correction to the internal posting of the job announcement gave her pause, as well.

Regent Del Carlo also agreed there should not be a limitation on the location of the position. She reminded the Committee that the Board had a Special Counsel from the north, and he did the job admirably. She also was not opposed to opening up the search to increase the applicant pool. She said the Committee members should think about how the applicants will be rated in a public forum.

Regent Brooks stated the semifinalists brought forward today have gone through the process and it would be a disservice not to review them and narrow the pool to finalists. He would not be opposed to keeping the search open to additional applicants, but if that were to happen, he strongly suggests bringing in an outside agency to assist the Committee with the search. He believes the location of the Board's attorney does matter. The Las Vegas System Office is active and the position should be located in Las Vegas. The announcement should be open to all, but the person chosen must accept an assignment that relocates them to Las Vegas.

Chair Carter stated a motion could be made to reopen the search. He invited input from the Committee on whether to proceed with narrowing the semifinalists presented today.

Regent Moran believed that all applicants should be kept on the same level playing field and no selections should be made today if the decision of the Committee is to expand the search.

Regent Moran stated he could make a motion to hold this item for a period of time, consider expanding the search, adding candidates, and soliciting candidates from anywhere in Nevada. He believes that anyone in the state of Nevada should have an opportunity to apply for this position.

Deputy General Counsel Tina Russom offered a reminder that the scope of the parameters for the Board's consideration is limited by NRS 241. The item is agendaized so the Committee can discuss and assess the semifinalist candidates and consider taking action to select finalists. She does not believe the limited scope of the agenda item as it is written would allow the Committee to reset the parameters of the position. Deputy General Counsel Russom recommended the topic be raised under New Business and agendaized properly so that Public Comment and further discussion can occur.

Regent Moran asked if it would be appropriate to suggest holding Agenda Item 5 in abeyance and consider a re-notice during New Business.

Chair Carter stated a motion could be made to open the search and allow additional applicants. However, the job description cannot be changed without placing it on an agenda for discussion and action. Deputy General Counsel Russom agreed.

5. Action Taken –

5. Action Taken – Review of Semifinalist Candidates and Selection of Finalists –  
(Continued)

Regent Moran moved to take no action on Agenda Item 5. Regent Perkins seconded. Motion failed via a roll call vote. Regents Del Carlo, Moran, and Perkins voted yes. Chair Carter, Vice Chair Geddes, and Regent Brooks voted no.

Chair Carter stated the search could be reopened immediately to add applicants. However, if a special meeting is needed to revise the description, the search would likely lose a couple of weeks in the timeline.

Vice Chair Geddes stated the original parameters approved at the last meeting were to start reviewing applicants after the cutoff date, and he believes the Committee has the full flexibility to keep the search open and continue adding applicants to the pool in accordance with the action taken at the last meeting.

Regent Brooks reiterated that he is not comfortable changing the format in which the Board already voted related to the position. However, he would be comfortable with reopening the search.

Regent Brooks moved to reopen the search, leaving the parameters in place that were approved by the Board at the last meeting.

Deputy General Counsel Russom noted the Committee needs to decide if it will fail the search or if the search will be reopened. If the search is failed, the six semifinalists will be maintained as eligible, viable candidates.

Regent Brooks asked if the search is failed and the six candidates are retained, would that change any of the parameters that were approved at the June meeting. Deputy General Counsel Russom responded no. There would have to be a motion that would go before the Board for reconsideration of the job description and location. Regent Brooks recognized there is an urgency to fill the position, but he also understands the importance of ensuring it is the right person.

Regent Brooks moved to fail the search.

Regent Moran requested clarification and received confirmation from Deputy General Counsel Russom that if he seconds the motion to fail the search, the Committee would then hypothetically move on to Agenda Item 6, New Business, to discuss how the Committee wants to move forward with the search.

Regent Moran seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Geddes stated that when the search parameters and timeline were first discussed, it was determined that the Committee would begin reviewing applications that



7. Information Only – Public Comment - (*Continued*)

for complete restoration of employee healthcare benefits in the Public Employees' Benefits Program to pre-pandemic levels. He urged the Regents to support student vaccination and testing mandates.

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Prepared by: Angela R. Palmer  
Special Assistant and Coordinator  
to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by: Keri D. Nikolajewski  
Interim Chief of Staff  
to the Board of Regents

*Approved by the Board of Regents at its December 2-3, 2021, meeting.*