

SPECIAL MEETING

Conference Room, System Administration
5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite C-1, Las Vegas
Monday, April 24, 2006

Members Present: Mrs. Dorothy S. Gallagher, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Thalia M. Dondero
Mrs. Linda C. Howard
Mr. James Dean Leavitt
Mr. Howard Rosenberg
Dr. Jack Lund Schofield
Mr. Steve Sisolak

Members Absent: Mr. Mark Alden
Dr. Stavros Anthony
Dr. Jill Derby
Mr. Douglas Roman Hill
Mr. Bret Whipple
Mr. Michael B. Wixom

Others Present: Mr. Daniel Klaich, Executive Vice Chancellor
Mrs. Mary Ellen McMullen, UNR Foundation
Dr. Marlene I. Strathe

Vice Chairman Dorothy S. Gallagher called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. with all members present except Regents Alden, Anthony, Derby, Hill, Leavitt, Sisolak, Whipple, and Wixom.

Vice Chairman Gallagher observed that no action would be taken since a quorum was not present.

1. Information Only-Candidate Visit with Board of Regents - Dr. Marlene I. Strathe, a finalist for the position of President of the University of Nevada, Reno, met with members of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Marlene I. Strathe was very appreciative for the opportunity to meet with the Board again, and honored to be back and meet with even more people, particularly those on campus.

Vice Chairman Gallagher asked Dr. Strathe if she would like to share any information. Dr. Strathe stated she was born and raised in Iowa. She went to a small, independent school and graduated from a class of eleven students. Her experience with Iowa State University was a life changing experience. She met wonderful faculty mentors and got involved in an assortment of co-curricular activities.

1. Information Only-Candidate Visit with Board of Regents – (Cont'd.)

Dr. Strathe decided she wanted to start her career in student affairs. While working in the Dean of Students office, it was suggested that to be successful in student affairs, that she go to the faculty. She started teaching and fell in love with the classroom. At a later point in time she was offered a chance to go back into student affairs as a vice president, but declined in order to stay on the academic side. She had a wonderful chance at Northern Iowa to be both a faculty member, and also assume a number of administrative posts. Dr. Strathe left Iowa after her son went to college. She went on to the University of North Dakota as provost, from there to

Northern Colorado, and then to Oklahoma State.

Regent Rosenberg said UNR was the land grant university. He has always bridled at being called the “flagship” because to him, that meant the best. He felt that UNLV was a fine university and did not feel that UNR was better, just different. He asked Dr. Strathe about her interest in land grant and in flagship. Dr. Strathe replied that flagship institutions have usually been the ones most often marked by a strong liberal arts core with a number of the professional schools. As UNR was the first university in the state, it sits as the flagship institution. She does not equate flagship with elitist, but more in terms of professional preparation, certainly UNR carries that, and the land grant mission.

Dr. Strathe said that was a mission she defined in terms of access, which was the original intent, and the Morrill Act was to provide an education that was accessible to the people. She has always termed the land grant institution as the “peoples’ university”. She said UNR carried both of those as a dual mission for professional preparation and strong core curriculum, and a mission for access to reach out to a larger part of the state beyond the student population. She felt it was an exciting opportunity and not many institutions have both of these responsibilities.

Regent Rosenberg said now that there were three tiers in the state, there was a movement to raise the grade point average so that access to the university would be different from before. He asked if she had any experience with this and how it worked. Dr. Strathe said there have been tiered admissions at every institution she has worked, and Oklahoma State was now in the process of raising admission standards over three years to raise the WC ACT and rank in class, and it was now beginning its second year of raising those admission standards. In doing so, it was recognized that the land grant institution had a commitment to access, which would need to be balanced against raising the admission standards.

Dr. Strathe continued that partnership was developed with Northern Oklahoma College, called the Gateway program, located in a remodeled strip mall on campus. It began by teaching remedial classes not state supported. Two hundred and fifty students enrolled the first semester. Subsequently, it was expanded to general education offerings. Any student that was not admissible to Oklahoma State could have admission into the Gateway program, and use the same school services, except they could not belong to a fraternity or sorority, which had something to do with their charters. The courses were taken at NOC and then they could seamlessly transfer within 24 hours with a 2.5 GPA.

1. Information Only-Candidate Visit with Board of Regents – (Cont’d.)

There were well over 1,000 students this past fall. They carried no stigmas being NOC students, most others were not aware.

Dr. Strathe said because of its popularity, more room was needed and a jointly funded OSU and NOC all-classroom building, was under construction. The faculty have been meeting to identify use of similar text books, anticipated outcomes, and curricula. This program has been very helpful for students not ready for full admission. Smaller classes provide technology based support, particularly in mathematics where many students struggle. As more students transfer, the success rate will be easier to identify. She added that while the program was still young, the success rate was high.

Dr. Strathe added that there was another program created with Tulsa Community College, which was the largest feeder located in Tulsa, and there was an upper division at the graduate program campus in Tulsa. They are working on a dual-admission program, where the student would be admitted simultaneously to Tulsa Community College and Oklahoma State. The lower division work would be taken at TCC and the upper division at the Tulsa campus. The students would be taught by the same faculty and hopes are the transitions will be seamless.

Regent Leavitt entered the meeting.

Mr. Klaich asked what drove admission requirements at Oklahoma State. Dr. Strathe responded it was a dual

action, which included a budget downturn occurring at a time when enrollment was growing by 2% to 4%, but the university was down 100 faculty. There had to be a better way to control growth. They had the ability to do what was called “8%”, where the university could take up to 8% of their students that were not fully admissible. They found the 8% were not successful and it was time to move away from the remedial business and to balance increased standards with access. At the state Regents level, the desire to raise admission standards was a great concern to the rural Regents.

Regent Dondero asked if the access system hurt the community college programs by having the interim NOC group. Dr. Strathe said that Northern Oklahoma College has two main campuses this was just the establishment of a third location. Regent Dondero clarified that it was administered by the community college. Dr. Strathe said that was correct. Regent Rosenberg noted that Northern Oklahoma was a community college. Dr. Strathe agreed that it is.

Dr. Strathe explained the tuition for Oklahoma State students was higher than NOC, but that was part of their memorandum of agreement. The money was paid to NOC, and NOC returned some dollars to Oklahoma State, particularly in terms of fees, for technology, library, etc. However, the students were NOC’s, they received the revenues, they transfer the credits, and then the students transfer to Oklahoma State, just as if they were on their main community college campus.

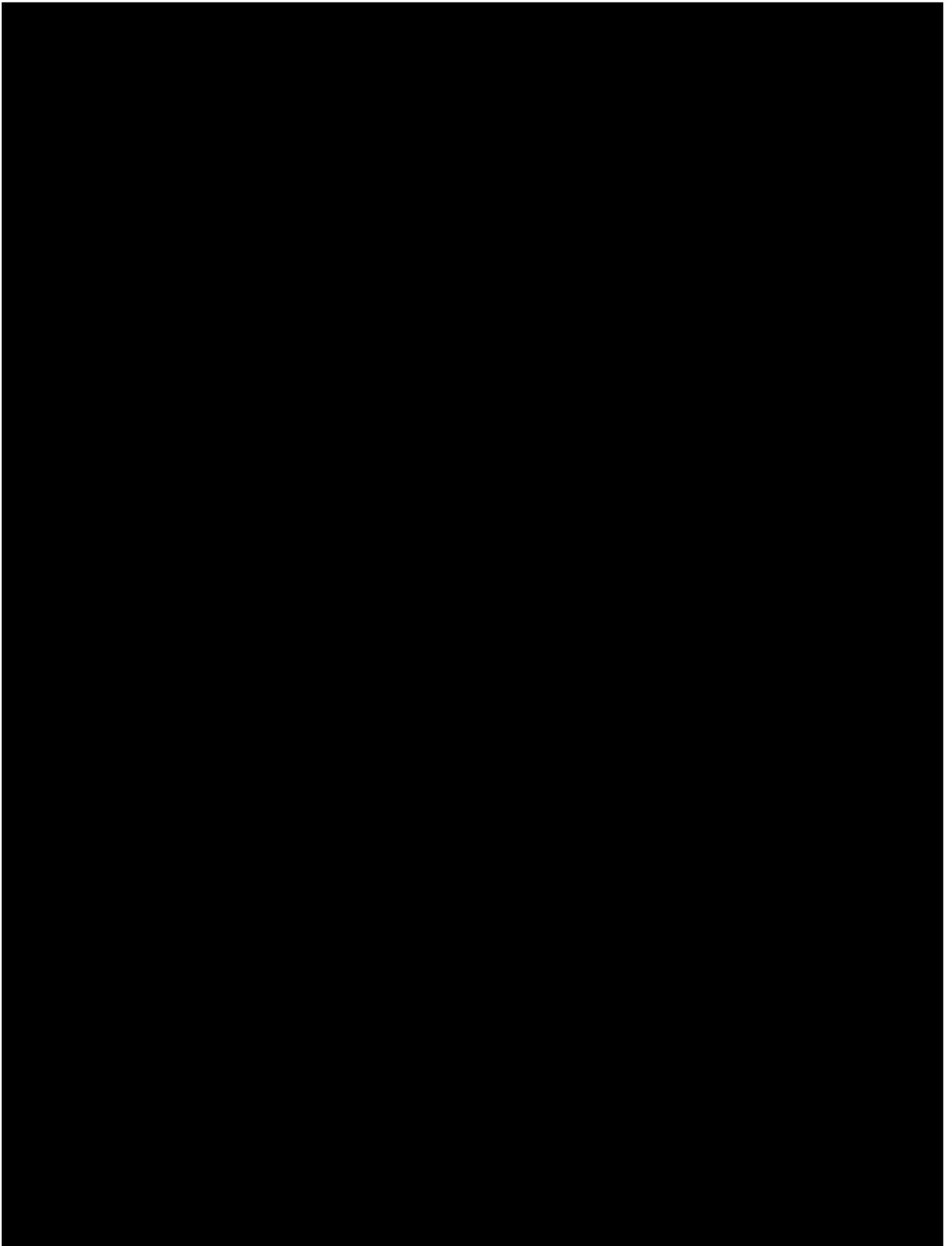
1. Information Only-Candidate Visit with Board of Regents – (Cont’d.)

Regent Sisolak entered the meeting.

Regent Schofield asked Dr. Strathe about her short-range and long-range vision conceptually, and how she would get that information out to the world. Dr. Strathe said her vision for the institution was to be a nationally recognized combination of that flagship and land grant institution. It was her belief that it was an institution already doing many things very well. She said she was not sure that outside of a regional level the institution had told its story as widely as it might. Dr. Strathe continued there were excellent scholars and excellent research, which should be capable of expansion. She advocated institutions identifying their own benchmarks for quality, and worried less about being compared to other institutions, because UNR was different. She felt the important thing was recognizing UNR’s mission, how well it would be done, and those it would serve. Dr. Strathe said that, looking ahead, she hoped prospective students would see an institution that had high quality academic programs, an outstanding group of faculty who were significantly engaged, not only in traditional research, but scholarly activities in all disciplines. She continued that it should be an institution attractive for its size, its commitment to student success, raising the quality of life for its communities, and the economical impact for the state, which was an important element of what land grant institutions needed to do. She concluded that it was not a question of being better, but to acknowledge the difference and make that the center piece of what was to be done.

Regent Schofield expressed his passion for athletics. He felt academics and athletics were on even ground and believed there were students attracted to colleges for athletics. He asked Dr. Strathe about her feeling and vision regarding athletics. Dr. Strathe said she was an avid supporter of collegiate athletics, but more important to her was that athletics gave some students an opportunity for an education they otherwise could not afford. She observed that very few students would go on to professional athletic careers, but that a university degree would give them a lifetime opportunity.

Regent Dondero asked how much research Dr. Strathe had been involved in. Dr. Strathe said that externally funded research this past year registered about \$112 million, primarily in agriculture. Some of the external money was earmarked money out of federal as basically almost a pass through. She said Oklahoma State would not substantially grow external funds for research until those 100 faculty positions were restored. She stated areas with positions being filled included engineering, the sciences, and veterinary medicine. One area that had to be addressed was their center for health sciences and preparing doctors for osteopathic medicine. Most of the external money was dedicated to rural medicine, not research. The college of veterinary medicine was in the lower quartile in size and next to last of the 27 schools in the country in terms of funding. In terms of research



Regent Leavitt asked Dr

Regent Dondero asked how Dr. Strathe worked with high school groups. Dr. Strathe said there was a dual

come to the university because they are afraid they could not go home. It has been the same way for some time, and while efforts have been made, it just does not work

1. Information Only-Candidate Visit with Board of Regents – (Cont'd.)

as well as it might. He suggested that could be an area where Dr. Strathe's experience might help.

Regent Howard said it was important that students feel they are part of the university make sure their character is built. It is not just a minority, diversity position, but extends across all color lines.

Dr. Strathe said it seemed to her that the notion of diversity was similar to the notion about the institutions, and that they should be celebrating and strengthening the differences.

Vice Chairman Gallagher thanked Dr. Strathe for her interest in the position.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. New Business - None.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Fini S. Dobyms
Secretary of the Board