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**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, December 1, 2023  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:33:20 AM

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**External Email:**

# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, December 1, 2023

**Email:** kent.ervin@nevadafacultyalliance.org

**Name:** KENT ERVIN

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, December 1, 2023

**Agenda Item:** General Public Comment

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

### **Comment:**

The annual reports of the various foundations are good narratives, but they don't all provide information uniformly about the nature of program support and administrative and fundraising expenses. The financial statements of the various foundations show differences in how they operate. While we know from the legislative audit that donors' wishes are being followed, we don't know how the spending of unrestricted funds is prioritized. Similar to my comments about the self-supporting budgets yesterday, it would be useful for the Board to receive uniform budget reports for foundation expenditures not only by program but also by function (for example, personnel, travel, or hosting).

I would ask the following questions of each foundation. (1) What is the percent of total program expenses spent on administration and fundraising? (2) What is the return in terms of contributions as a multiple of those expenses? (3) What are unrestricted funds spent on? (4) Are any foundation funds spent on executive compensation or perks?

From UNR's financial statement, I estimate that 12% of the FY23 expenditures were for administration and fundraising, tied for lowest among the seven education foundations. Over \$22 million was transferred to UNR for program support, as itemized in the annual report. How much of the \$22 million is unrestricted and how is it being spent? Could some of that be used for temporary budget issues, such as avoiding position eliminations in the year of a high COLA?

**Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate:** Yes