Unofficial AI Minutes

Special Meeting — Board of Regents

Nevada System of Higher Education

Thursday, August 27, 2026 — 9:00 a.m.
System Administration, Las Vegas (with video conference to Reno and Great Basin College, Elko)

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Stephanie Goodman called the special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Goodman, Vice Chair Del Carlo, Regents Arrascada, Bautista, Boylan, Brooks, Brown, Carvalho, Downs, Fernandez, Goicoechea, and McGrath. Regent Brager joined the meeting. A quorum was confirmed.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Regent Carvalho.
- The Land Acknowledgment was read.

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1. Public Comment (Information Only)

The overwhelming majority of public comment addressed **Agenda Item 7 (Elimination of the IDEA Committee)**, with speakers uniformly urging the Board to retain the committee. A smaller number addressed budget (Item 4) and the Chief of Staff item (Item 11).

Speakers from the Reno site (all opposed elimination of the IDEA Committee):
- **Jason Issa** — Speaker of the Senate, ASUN; disappointed by the proposal; argued lack of committee activity reflects absence of student voice, not absence of problems.
- **Isabel Hatch** — ASUN Director of Government Affairs; cited that 23% of students named representation/inclusion a top issue; noted ASUN passed a

resolution opposing elimination.
- **Ryan Rushton** — ASUN Dept. of IDEA, Social Justice & Policy Commissioner; shared personal account as a deaf student denied a strobe fire alarm accommodation.
- **Casey** (reading for **Angelo Jamona Wilbur**, ASUN College of Business Senator) — noted ASUN Senate unanimously passed an opposing resolution.
- **Michael Keyes** — Sunrise UNR club; emphasized diversity and accessibility.
- **Dylan Moss** — ASUN President; urged reassessment through outreach, not elimination.

Speakers from the Las Vegas site (all opposed elimination unless noted):
- **Dr. Bill Robinson** — professor; addressed enrollment declines and budget realities (Item 4); spoke supportively of the Chief of Staff (Item 11).
- **Molly Apple** — Associate Professor, NSU; asked what structural steps had been taken to enshrine the committee's work.
- **Dr. Theresa Marie** — alumna, former GPSA President; shared personal story as formerly trafficked/homeless youth.
- **Kletcher Odunze** — CSUN President, UNLV; framed IDEA as an "access" committee.
- **Trey Curtis-Brown** — GPSA President, UNLV; asked where the committee's responsibilities and accountability would go.
- **Greta Monroe** — community member; spoke to safety and belonging.
- **Brayden Boulter** — CSN Student Body President; noted CSN is majority-minority; urged independent judgment amid federal pressure.
- **Isaac Colon, Sarah Champlavil, Noor Nadeem** — CSUN Department of IDEA (Director and Associate Directors); cited NSHE values and goals.
- **Pio Rejas** — CSUN Attorney General; noted the committee was created by the Board; also objected to support staff reportedly laughing during comment.
- **Harsimar Kaur** — OneAPI Nevada Youth Fellow, UNLV student.
- **Madeline Jarvis** — CSUN Associate Director of Operations, UNLV.
- **Sharon Flores** — CSUN Senate President, UNLV.
- **Leonard Hamilton** — former MBDA project director.
- **Juliana Leung, Marisa Leung** — Battle Born Futures, UNLV.
- **Doreen Dizon** — President, Battle Born Futures, UNLV.
- **Alicia Carr** — graduate student, UNLV.
- **Kaitlyn Gomez** — Battle Born Futures, NSU.
- **Medina Yusufzai** — OneAPI Nevada; UNLV alumna.
- **Stephanie Flores** — NSU Student Body President.

- **Chareen Lumibao** — Battle Born Futures/Action, NSU.
- **Nancy Munoz** — CSUN Chief of Staff, UNLV.

Telephone comment:
- **Dora Martinez** — Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition; opposed Item 7.
- **Stephen Cohen** — deferred/yielded.
- **Felicia/Louisa Bautista** — NSU, Task Force on Power-Based Violence; opposed Item 7.
- **Rajen Yadav (Chinnappan)** — GSA President, UNR; opposed Item 7; cited NRS 396.532 reporting obligations.
- **Max Quinit** — NSSA Junior Senator, VP Battle Born Futures NSU; opposed Item 7.

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2. Board Chair's Report (Information Only)

Chair Goodman delivered remarks on the Board's identity and culture, asking regents to consider "who we were, who we are, and who we want to be." Key points:
- Called for leadership "through empowerment, not control," and urged the Board to let the Chancellor, presidents, and staff do their work.
- Asked regents to resolve conflicts privately, review the ethical code of conduct, and increase direct conversation.
- Praised the Chancellor's leadership team.
- **Announced she was pulling Item 11 (Chief of Staff)**, stating she did not want it viewed as a personnel item.

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3. Minutes (For Possible Action)

The Board considered the May 1, 2026, and May 21, 2026, special meeting minutes.

- **Motion:** Regent Brager moved approval.
- **Second:** Regent Fernandez.
- **Vote:** Approved by voice vote; none opposed.

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4. 2027–29 Biennial NSHE State Operating Budget Request (For Possible Action)

Disclosure: Regent Downs disclosed (per NRS 281A.420) that he is an employee of WNC but that his judgment would not be materially affected; he stated he would vote.

Presentation: Chancellor Matt McNair and CFO Brody Leiser presented the base, maintenance, and enhancement requests. Highlights:
- Base + maintenance budget ≈ **$2.9 billion** for the biennium.
- Caseload adjustment reflected 11.5% weighted student credit hour growth (~$79.3M annually).
- Full funding of the small institution factor (GBC and WNC) and research O&M (~$13.7M/yr combined for the two R1 universities).
- A **correction** was noted: UNR cybersecurity infrastructure had been erroneously duplicated; the item was reduced to a biennial total of $8,733,421.
- Staff recommended a **top-five ranking of enhancement focus areas** (public safety/security; student success & academic support; healthcare workforce; student access & affordability; specialized programs & research).
- **New request:** $6 million (general fund) over the biennium for system administration staffing/operations. Chancellor McNair explained system administration FTEs are down ~24% since 2007 while campuses grew; the $3M/year request is intended to be **in lieu of further increases to the campus assessment**.

Vice Chancellor Jason Frierson advised that the anticipated dominant legislative priority would be **budget cuts and mitigating their impact**.

Discussion / member positions:
- **Regent Brager** moved approval of Item 4 with **rankings 1–5 as top priority**; she highlighted public safety and healthcare workforce (including an orthotics/prosthetics program at UNLV). **Second:** Regent Boylan.
- **Regent Brown** raised multiple concerns and Regent requests, questioning: the "various functions" and special projects line; year-over-year safety/security figures; the endowment/investment income line (citing Title IV, Ch. 10, Sec. 53c); whether the $6M system administration request was student-facing; consultant spending; and whether positions were "new" vs. reclassified. She expressed discomfort with the philosophy behind the system administration request. (CFO Leiser clarified $7M of the $13M system-administration figure was for the Silver

State Opportunity Grant benefiting students, and that a 1.25% endowment carve-out for system administration is set in policy.)
- **Regent Downs** praised President Alexander and the NFA collective bargaining agreement (Slide 16); asked about the $6M positions (confirmed non-exhaustive).
- **Regent Arrascada** asked detailed questions on fringe benefits; confirmed the $6M is all-inclusive of salary and fringe.
- **Regent Brooks** raised process concerns about the compressed timeline and reference-material distribution; sought clarity on the $13M/$6M system-administration figures.
- **Regent Goicoechea** clarified that only the GovRec submission (due September 1) was time-sensitive; the NSHE annual fiscal budget would be finalized later (~June 2027).
- **Regent Fernandez** and **Regent Carvalho** identified discrepancies between references 4A and 4B (housing/UNLV student access figures); staff confirmed the slides (4B) were the correct, updated figures.

Corrected total request: reduced from $292,758,636 to **$284,025,215**.

- **Amended Motion (Special Counsel confirmed):** Approve the base, maintenance, and enhancement request (enhancement request including the priorities/rankings), reflecting the corrected figures. Moved by Regent Brager; seconded by Regent Boylan.
- **Vote:** Approved by voice vote; none opposed.

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5. NSHE Target Funding Model (Information Only)

Chancellor McNair, **Jeremy Aguero (Applied Analysis)**, and CFO Leiser presented the proposed model. Key concepts:
- Three pillars: funding has eroded over time; every institution is currently underfunded; consensus among institutions is essential.
- A **"block funding"** mechanism to preserve existing dollars (no winners/losers) plus **incremental "new money"** allocated by each institution's distance from its peer/aspirational institutions, so all reach peer levels at roughly the same time.
- A built-in proportional relationship between state funding increases and tuition/fees.
- Model is preliminary; being back-modeled 10 years; goal to have unanimous president support by the October special meeting.

Discussion: Regents Brooks (rural cost factors, first-gen/adult learners, recurring revenue), Carvalho (enrollment-based funding risks, Nevada State University's rapid growth), and Brown (enrollment cliff, workforce vs. degree-seeking programming, wraparound service costs) engaged. Regent McGrath requested more information on how regents can engage legislators; the Chair directed this to an offline conversation with follow-up in October.

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6. ADA Upgrades, NSHE Carson City Office (Information Only)

Pulled from the agenda by the Chair; to be brought back once evaluation of options is complete.

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7. Bylaw Revision — Elimination of the IDEA Committee (For Possible Action)

Chair Goodman explained the item was placed on the agenda because the committee had not met for a year; she wanted the Board to decide affirmatively whether to keep or eliminate it. Chancellor McNair noted the IDEA **Council** (distinct from the committee) still meets and hosts diversity summits.

Discussion / member positions:
- **Regent Goicoechea** — opposed outright elimination; favored reformulating the committee and moving its focus closer to the campuses; access happens at campuses, not the Board.
- **Regent Boylan** — questioned why the committee ever existed; supported making support more accessible to students at the campus level.
- **Regent Brooks** — not comfortable eliminating as presented; argued the process singled out one committee while others are also idle; inclusion should be part of every committee's work.
- **Regent Brown** — favored improving rather than eliminating; questioned who would be accountable for these issues if eliminated.
- **Regent Downs** (past-year IDEA Committee chair) — noted no items were brought forward for the committee over the past year; saw no crisis requiring it to continue.

- **Regent Brager** — suggested combining the IDEA Committee and Title IX into one committee.

- **Motion:** Regent Brown initially moved to table, then (after clarification from Special Counsel) **moved to postpone**. **Second:** Regent Boylan.
- **Vote:** Ayes prevailed (Regent Downs and at least one other voting nay). **Item postponed.**

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8. Bylaw Revision — Establishment of a Governance Committee (For Possible Action)

Chair Goodman and Vice Chair Del Carlo introduced the item. Vice Chair Del Carlo advocated for a governance committee as a best practice (per the ACCT model), citing onboarding, professional development, annual self-evaluation, and an annual retreat.

Discussion / member positions:
- **Regent Boylan** — liked the concept (especially an annual retreat) but questioned whether the committee would have "teeth"; Chief Counsel Martinez clarified the proposal included no sanctions, only governance/education duties.
- **Regent Downs** — suggested reviewing all committees as a whole (given reduction to nine regents in 2028) before adding a new one.
- **Regent Brooks** — noted legal (Open Meeting Law) constraints on retreats; expressed concern that a chair/membership had reportedly already been discussed, creating an appearance of a predetermined outcome.
- **Regent Goicoechea** — favored regrouping and reviewing all committees rather than creating a new one.

- **Motion:** Regent Brager moved to approve the bylaw amendment creating the Governance Committee with the duties expressed. **Second:** Vice Chair Del Carlo.
- **Roll Call Vote:**
- **Yes:** Chair Goodman, Regent McGrath, Regent Brager, Vice Chair Del Carlo (4)
- **No:** Regents Downs, Fernandez, Goicoechea, Arrascada, Bautista, Brooks, Brown, Carvalho (8)
- Regent Boylan did not cast a clear vote.
- **Result: Motion failed.**

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9. Process to Review/Recommend Amendments to Board Handbook (For Possible Action)

Pulled by the Chair; to be placed on the quarterly agenda.

10. Executive Evaluation Process, Chancellor (Information Only)

Pulled by the Chair; to be placed on the October agenda.

11. Roles and Responsibilities, Chief of Staff (Information Only)

Pulled by the Chair earlier in the meeting.

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12. New Business (Information Only)

- **Regent Brager** — requested an item to consider combining the IDEA Committee and Title IX (and possibly a review of all committees).
- **Regent Arrascada** — requested a new policy ensuring future real estate purchases and construction projects are evaluated for ADA compliance before purchase/certificate of occupancy.
- **Regent Boylan** — requested an AI demonstration/training session for the Board.
- **Regent Brown** — requested three items: (1) amend Title 4, Ch. 10, Sec. 7.4 to require board approval of the annual institutional assessment supporting the board administration, system administration, and contingency reserve accounts; (2) review of hosting expenditures (~$19,000 to date); (3) a comprehensive report of all consultants/ consultant agreements used by NSHE from June 1 to present.

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13. Public Comment (Information Only)

- **Kletch Odunze** (CSUN President, UNLV) — thanked the Board for postponing Item 7; urged the Board to consider the "optics" of decorum.

- **Adriana Ornelas** (ASUN Extension Campus Senator) — spoke on budget and decorum; thanked Regents Brown and Brooks.
- **Nathaniel Phillips** (UNLV alumnus, TMCC/UNR student) — argued the IDEA Committee should have met; described anti-discrimination training implementation delays; found the meeting's chairing "objectionable."
- **Max Quinit** (phone) — objected to public commenters being told to keep comments short or being interrupted.
- **Jorge Fonseca** (phone) — objected to repeated suggestions to take discussions "offline," urging public business remain public.
- **Louisa Bautista** (phone) — appreciated the postponement of Item 7 and urged continued re-evaluation.

Welcome: Chair Goodman welcomed **Dr. Sandra Richter-Meyer**, new President of Nevada State University, who offered brief thanks.

Adjournment: The special meeting was adjourned.

Health Sciences System Committee Meeting

Roll Call: Chair Brager, Vice Chair McGrath, Regents Downs, Goicoechea, and Goodman — quorum present.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes (June 4, 2026): Approved. Motion by Regent Goicoechea; second by Regent Downs; approved by voice vote.

Chair's Report: Chair Brager requested that future meetings recognize an outstanding health-sciences individual from a campus. (Jeffrey Alexander, TMCC, noted Dr. Julie Ellsworth as a Nevada Business Magazine Healthcare Hero.)

Item 4 — SB 165 Mental and Behavioral Health Practitioner Program (Information Only):
Presented by Dr. Marcia Turner (Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences), Dr. Tara Raines (Balmer Institute, University of Oregon), Dr. Michelle Paul

(UNLV), and Dr. Stacey Warnert (GBC). Overview of the new bachelor's-level supervised behavioral health profession, ~$6.4M distributed to UNR, UNLV, GBC, and the system, plus a $2M scholarship program for master-level potential supervisors ($900K each to UNR/UNLV; $200K to NSU). Discussion with Regents Brager, Boylan, McGrath, and Goodman.

Item 5 — Rural Health Transformation Grant Program (Information Only):
Dr. Turner and members of the NSHE Coordinating Council. Nevada received ~$180M (five-year program); NSHE institutions submitted 58 grants (36 notices of award, 9 pending, 13 denied), representing roughly $38M if fully awarded. Presentations by President Kyle Dalpe (WNC — $1.67M Fallon training center), Mike Schultz (TMCC — DRIVE mobile EMS program, ~$1.5M), Dr. Stacey Warnert (GBC — $7M total, incl. $3.8M simulation equipment), and President Amber Donnelli (GBC — $2.7M and $2M for Nye/Esmeralda County clinics and EMS).

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Adjourned.

Security Committee Meeting

Roll Call: Chair Boylan, Vice Chair Bautista, Regents Brooks, Downs, and McGrath — quorum present.

Public Comment:
- **Regent Heather Brown** — honored fallen officer Austin Zaid Abdel-Nabi and urged the committee to actively support law enforcement's needs.

Minutes (February 26, 2026): Approved. Motion by Vice Chair Bautista; second by Chair Boylan; approved by voice vote.

Chair's Report: Chair Boylan discussed the importance of communications, referenced the ~$5M cost associated with the UNLV shooting response (President Heavey and CFO Vitone confirmed ~$4M total, ~$3M recovered via insurance), a reported federal emergency order on cyberattacks, and reiterated his request for AI training for the Board.

Item 4 — University Police IACLEA Assessment Plans (Information Only):
- **Chief Arnold Vasquez (Southern Command):** implementation roadmap, MOU progress, staffing vacancy improvement (22% in 2022 to ~8%), critical labor shortage designation, new website, Chief's Advisory Board (CAB), Community Police Academy, technology needs. (Regent Downs asked about Flock cameras — not used in Southern Command.)
- **Chief Eric James (Northern Command):** commended UNR/TMCC/DRI response during recent wildfires; recognized Dr. Amanda Wins; staffing, GBC/WNC coverage improvements, foot patrols, and drone use (confirmed in Northern Command).

Items 5 and 6: Pulled for the next meeting.

Item 7 — NSHE Cybersecurity (Information Only):
CISO Thomas Dobbert reported on: the Canvas/Instructure incident (~8,800 institutions affected worldwide; after-action report expected end of September), Workday "payroll pirate" scams, vendor professional-development presentations, a standardized cybersecurity awareness training baseline (with reciprocal acceptance across institutions), and a new Student Data Lifecycle Project. Regent Brown asked about making training mandatory (pending legal review).

Item 8: Pulled for the next meeting.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Adjourned.

Audit, Compliance and Title IX Committee Meeting

Roll Call: Chair Carvalho, Vice Chair Boylan, Regents Bautista, Brooks, and Brown — quorum present.

Public Comment: None.

Item 2 — Consent Items (For Possible Action): Approved. Motion by Vice Chair Boylan; second by Regent Brown; approved by voice vote.

Item 3 — Committee Orientation (Information Only): Presented by Chief Internal Auditor Lauren Tripp; overview of committee duties, dual reporting structure, and audit processes.

Item 4 — GBC Hosting Audit (For Possible Action): Findings included expense categorization, table purchases, and policy updates.
- **Motion:** Regent Brown moved to approve. **Second:** Regent Bautista. Approved by voice vote.

Item 5 — NSHE Single Audit Follow-Up (For Possible Action):
- **Motion:** Regent Brown moved to approve the report and institutional response. **Second:** Vice Chair Boylan. Approved by voice vote.

Item 6 — Internal Audit Work Plan and Status Report (For Possible Action):
Chief Internal Auditor Tripp described the risk-based work planning process, unannounced audits, and open-findings tracking. Discussion with Regents Brown and Boylan on how audits are prioritized and how a regent may request an audit (Title IV, Ch. 9, Sec. 5). Chair Carvalho highlighted five aging (2022) open findings at the system office; **CFO Leiser committed to prioritizing resolution**, anticipating most (social media policies, long-term leases) completed before the next committee meeting, with the vendor-contract-extension finding requiring more time.
- **Motion (amended for dates):** Regent Brown moved to approve the internal audit work plan for the six-month period ending December 31, 2026, and the status report for the six-month period ending June 30, 2026. **Second:** Regent Bautista. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item 7 — Internal Audit / Compliance / Title IX Updates (Information Only): Chief Internal Auditor Tripp reported on the external quality assurance review, external audit assistance, and an upcoming review of the internal audit charter.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Chair Carvalho adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.