Unofficial AI Minutes

Special Meeting of the Board of Regents

Nevada System of Higher Education

Date: Friday, October 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Location: System Administration, Las Vegas (4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room), with video conference connections to System Administration, Reno and Great Basin College, Elko

> These are Unofficial AI Minutes generated from the meeting transcript.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Stephanie Goodman called the special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was taken and a quorum was present. The following members were recorded:

- Ms. Stephanie Goodman, Chair
- Mrs. Carol Del Carlo, Vice Chair
- Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
- Mr. Aaron Bautista
- Mr. Patrick J. Boylan (participating remotely; noted he was ill with the flu)
- Mrs. Susan Brager
- Mr. Byron Brooks
- Ms. Heather Brown
- Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho
- Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs (participating remotely)
- Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez (participating remotely)
- Mr. Pete Goicoechea
- Ms. Jennifer J. McGrath

Regent Goicoechea led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Goodman read the Land Acknowledgment.

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1. Public Comment (Information Only)

Public comment was taken from all sites. Highlights:

- **Lucas Folletta** (attorney, Holland & Hart, Reno) — Introduced the issue of the NCAA's shift from a "four-in-five" to a "five-in-five" eligibility rule and the transition framework that excludes the high school class of 2022. Asked the Board to exercise its authority to restore fairness.
- **Jay Stobie** (UNR baseball player) — Shared his personal experience as a class-of-2022 junior-college transfer athlete who received no additional eligibility; asked the Board to direct universities to treat class-of-2022 athletes as eligible.
- **Dr. Bill Robinson** (UNLV, 47 years) — Raised concerns about PEBP benefit cuts and missing funds, inequitable treatment among campuses, and UNLV's long history of presidential turnover.
- **Chris Inglestead** (Inglestead Foundation) — Supported appointing Chris Heavey as permanent UNLV president.
- **Jan Jones Blackhurst** (Interim VP of Philanthropy, UNLV) — Supported Heavey, citing his ability to bring people together.
- **Greg McKinley** (Nevada Surplus Lines Foundation) — Credited Heavey's leadership with creating UNLV's insurance and risk management major (108 majors in year two).
- **Philemon Manansala** (community member, OLLI) — Supported Heavey's permanent appointment.
- **Jorge Fonseca** (UNLV Assistant Professor, Faculty Senate Secretary) — Supported Heavey; cited his defense of free expression and support of research.
- **Shelley Berkley** (Mayor of Las Vegas, former Regent) — Strongly supported Heavey's permanent appointment.
- **Michael Naft** (Chair, Clark County Commission) — Offered personal support for Heavey.
- **Brian Knudsen** (Las Vegas City Councilman) — Supported Heavey and continued investment in the Las Vegas Medical District.

- **Dr. Roberta Sabath**, **Minnie Wood**, **Bart Ritt**, **Doug Unger**, **Honghui Deng**, **Reza Faraji** (UNLV faculty) — Supported Heavey's permanent appointment.
- **Bianca Oliveira** (PhD student, GPSA) — Supported the appointment but raised concerns about unchanged GA stipends since 2023 and graduate student compensation.
- **Hugh Anderson** (Vegas Chamber), **Timothy Wong** (Asian Chamber), **Hara Armenian** (Armenian National Committee) — Supported Heavey.
- **Mark DeBrava** (former Regent) — Spoke on Item 7, praising collaboration on the Nevada Medical Journal.
- **Katrina Huddleston** (Hillel of Nevada), **Lilah Levaton** (Israeli-American Council), **Jolie Brislin** (Anti-Defamation League) — Supported Heavey, citing his support for Jewish and Israeli students after October 7.
- **Gregory Brown**, **Lisa Carter**, **Emmanuel Urbina** (UNLV faculty/ classified staff) — Supported Heavey.
- **Mikey Cruz** (NSHE student-athlete) — Shared his class-of-2022 eligibility experience; asked the Board to care about affected students.
- **Benjamin Cisneros** (UNLV College of Engineering, by phone) — Supported Heavey's appointment.

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2. Board Chair's Report (Information Only)

Chair Goodman reported on the listening tour she and Vice Chair Del Carlo had begun, describing it as one of her best days as a Regent and expressing optimism about moving the system forward.

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3. Minutes (For Possible Action)

On a request from Regent Brown, the June 22, 2026 and August 27, 2026 minutes were considered as two separate votes.

August 27, 2026 Minutes
- **Motion:** Regent Brown moved approval; **Second:** Regent Goicoechea.
- Regent McGrath experienced voting-app difficulties (new phone) and initially indicated she would abstain; the Chair offered a voice-vote option.
- **Result:** Motion passed.

June 22, 2026 Minutes
- Regent Brown noted, for the record, that page 16 reflected a Board directive for the Chancellor to provide a 90-day action plan on climate-survey findings and that the plan had not been delivered. She confirmed she had no changes to the minutes themselves.
- **Motion:** Regent Brown moved approval as written; **Second:** Regent Brager.
- **Result:** Motion passed.

Chair Goodman confirmed both sets of minutes passed unanimously.

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4. Annual Evaluation Summary — UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey (For Possible Action)

Regent Carvalho made a disclosure under NRS 281A regarding her status as a UNLV graduate student/graduate assistant and a family member employed at UNLV, stating she would vote.

Chancellor Matt McNair presented the annual evaluation summary, noting accomplishments including record enrollment (~34,000) and graduation (~7,000), maintenance of R1 status, record research expenditures (~$134 million, up 14%), a successful accreditation review (no recommendations, four commendations), School of Medicine accreditation reaffirmation, the Intermountain Health children's hospital agreement, and more than $75 million raised in philanthropy.

Discussion / Member Positions:
- **Regent Brown** raised concerns that the Board had not received a confidential summary of evaluation findings required under the Bylaws (Title 1, Article 7, Section 4(b)), and questioned why the 21 goals were not distinguished between personal and institutional goals as required. Special Counsel Chris Nielsen confirmed the rule as stated; Chancellor McNair stated the confidential summary is prepared, signed, and available for review and offered to confer with General Counsel on past practice.
- **Chair Goodman** and **Vice Chair Del Carlo** praised the evaluation and President Heavey's work ethic and fundraising engagement.
- **Regent Arrascada** sought clarity on whether unmet goals could be used as grounds for termination for cause; expressed concern that 21 goals in a one-year span was lofty.
- **Regent Brooks** praised numerous accomplishments but recommended clearer,

measurable targets and consistent standards across NSHE, noting 21 goals was unusually large.

Motion: Regent Brooks moved to approve/accept the annual evaluation summary; **Second:** Regent Brager.
Result: Motion passed **unanimously** (Regent Fernandez's vote recorded after a brief delay).

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5. Appointment of Chris Heavey as Permanent President & New Employment Agreement (For Possible Action)

Regent Carvalho repeated her NRS 281A disclosure and stated she would vote.

Constituency Input (as required by NSHE Code):
- **Michael Kagan**, UNLV Faculty Senate Chair — Reported the Faculty Senate voted **44 to 7** in favor of appointing Heavey. Emphasized the need for stable leadership and that a national search risked further instability.
- **Rafael Oganessian**, Administrative Faculty Committee Chair (~1,700 members) — Strongly urged appointment, citing damaging leadership turnover (four presidential signatures on his four degrees).
- **Lorena Giese**, Classified Staff Council Chair (~1,026 members) — Strongly supported the appointment.
- **Kalechi Odunze**, CSUN President (~27,000 undergraduates) — Reported CSUN unanimously approved a supporting resolution.
- **Trey Curtis-Brown**, GPSA President (~5,000 graduate/professional students) — Reported GPSA unanimously adopted Resolution 46-001 in support.
- **Michael Bonner**, UNLV Foundation Chair — Supported the appointment; noted individual letters of support would be submitted for the record.

Point of Order: Regent Goicoechea asked whether the appointment and employment agreement would be taken as one motion or two, expressing support for the appointment and the three-year term but concern about the compensation. Counsel/Carrie Parker noted that upon appointment of a permanent president, the interim contract terminates (per its terms, April 24, 2028 or upon appointment of a permanent president, whichever is earlier), creating a potential gap if the two actions were separated.

Discussion / Member Positions:
- **Regent Downs** — Supported the appointment but opposed the proposed salary, citing Board policy on salary-schedule adjustments, precedent that interim-to-permanent presidents without a search were placed at the low end of the range, and compression concerns. Stated he would vote no on a combined motion.
- **Chair Goodman** — Explained the salary reflected a good-faith negotiation; the figure matched former President Whitfield's departing salary, and President Heavey had agreed to a three-year term.
- **Regent Fernandez** — Strongly supported both the appointment and the salary as an investment; supported a single combined motion.
- **Regent Goicoechea** — Supported the appointment and three-year term but opposed the salary increase; preferred two motions.
- **Regent Brager** — Supported the appointment "100%" but opposed the compensation; wished to propose an alternative salary via a separate vote.
- **Regent Brown** — Strongly supported both; noted the salary matched the prior president and the other R1, that UNLV is larger, and that the position was budgeted. Moved the combined motion.
- **Regent Boylan** — Supported both as a package.
- **Regent Carvalho** — Supported both; cautioned against the Board overriding the Chair's negotiation.
- **Vice Chair Del Carlo** — Supported the salary as negotiated in good faith.
- **Regent Bautista** — Supported both as a package.
- **Regent McGrath** — Supported Heavey but voiced fiscal concern; wished there had been two separate votes.

Motion: Regent Brown moved to approve (1) the appointment of Interim President Chris Heavey as permanent President of UNLV and (2) the new employment agreement; **Second:** Regent Arrascada.
Result: Motion passed. (No numerical tally was announced. Regents Goicoechea, Brager, and Downs indicated they would vote against the combined motion due to the compensation; Regent McGrath expressed fiscal concerns.)

President Heavey addressed the Board, thanking the Regents, Chancellor, his colleagues, his wife (a 32-year CCSD employee), and UNLV faculty and staff.

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6. Tompkins Avenue Alignment and Improvement Project, UNLV (Information Only)

President Heavey introduced the item, deferring to CFO Chris Batone and Dennis Cederberg, Director of Clark County Public Works. CFO Batone presented an update on the Clark County road project (90% designed) and a potential overpass connecting Tompkins Avenue to campus. He discussed realigning the overpass along University Center Drive to preserve campus development potential, and coordinating with The Boring Company on relocating a planned station. A dedication-of-deed item and further details are expected at the December quarterly meeting. Mr. Cederberg thanked UNLV for the partnership. No action was taken.

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7. Nevada Medical Journal (Information Only)

Dean Paul J. Hauptman (UNR School of Medicine) presented plans for the Nevada Medical Journal, a peer-reviewed, online-only quarterly to be published jointly by UNR Med and the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. Site launch is targeted for Q1/Q2 2027 with first publication Q1/Q2 2028 and PubMed recognition sought within three years. Interim Dean Allison Netsky (UNLV) commended the collaboration.

Discussion:
- **Regent Arrascada** — Confirmed the journal will be online-only.
- **Vice Chair Del Carlo** — Asked about readership value beyond Nevada; Dean Hauptman noted national access similar to other state journals.
- **Regent Boylan** — Asked about cost to taxpayers; Dean Hauptman confirmed discretionary (non-state) funds would be used, with potential cost savings given existing publication spending (~$90,000 last year).

No action was taken.

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8. NSHE Target Funding Model (Information Only)

CFO Brody Leiser provided an update, noting the model is not yet supported by all institutions and that technical and policy concerns remain (part-time students/FTE vs. weighted student credit hours, enrollment growth/decline,

selection of target institutions, geographic adjustments, and student affordability). The proposal would retain baseline funding with a modest biennial increase and allocate new funding based on distance from a funding target.

Discussion / Member Positions:
- **Regent Goicoechea** — Emphasized preserving the small-institution factor for GBC, WNC, and others.
- **Vice Chair Del Carlo** — Confirmed the commitment not to bring a model to the Board without support from all seven teaching institutions; called the small-institution factor "a hill I will die on."
- **Regent Downs** — Asked about timeframe; CFO Leiser targeted the December meeting. Chancellor McNair clarified a two-session strategy, keeping the weighted-student-credit-hour formula for the upcoming biennium.
- **Regent Brager** — Asked about moderation among campuses and equity for smaller/rural campuses.
- **Regent Brooks** — Urged inclusion of mechanisms tying additional state investment to student outcomes and accountability.

No action was taken.

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9. Procedures and Guidelines Manual Revision — Regent Travel (For Possible Action)

Chief of Staff Keri Nikolajewski presented two substantive changes: (1) requiring additional detail on the purpose of travel with the initial request, and (2) requiring post-travel notification to staff of major meals provided. She noted no current deficiency but supported the change for transparency and audit purposes, and confirmed a template would be created.

Discussion / Member Positions:
- **Regent Fernandez** — Sought clarification on detail required; satisfied with explanation.
- **Regent Goicoechea** — Suggested a signed claim form; supported.
- **Vice Chair Del Carlo** — Asked about mileage reimbursement rules.
- **Regent Brooks** — Questioned whether a template/administrative process could achieve the goal without changing policy; expressed concern about changing policy absent a demonstrated problem.
- **Regent Boylan** — Opposed, calling it "a solution looking for a problem" and an added control on elected officials.

- **Regent Brown** — Opposed, agreeing it was "a solution looking for a problem"; suggested focus instead on timing/last-minute travel costs.

Motion: Regent Brager moved to accept the revision; **Second:** Vice Chair Del Carlo.
Result: Motion passed **8–5.** (Regents Boylan and Brown stated opposition; Regent Brooks expressed concerns.)

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10. Handbook Revision — Policy of the Board of Regents: Legislative Engagement (For Possible Action)

Chair Goodman and Vice Chair Del Carlo presented the proposal, which would require Regents to notify the Chancellor when attending a legislative hearing and obtain prior approval from the Chair and Vice Chair (in consultation with the Chancellor) before testifying or meeting with legislators on behalf of the Board. The Chair emphasized it was intended for coordination, not control.

Discussion / Member Positions:
- **Regent Fernandez** — Opposed as written; objected to requiring Chair/Vice Chair approval, arguing it conflicted with existing policy and his role as a duly elected fiduciary. Willing to notify/coordinate.
- **Regent Brager** — Cautioned about the importance of a coordinated, single voice at the Legislature based on her experience; saw value in coordination.
- **Regent Carvalho** — Wished for a more unifying "engagement" vision rather than a permission requirement; noted the Chancellor's duty to present NSHE matters.
- **Regent Boylan** — Opposed; viewed it as controlling elected officials; suggested a "Regents' Day" at the Legislature.
- **Regent Goicoechea** — Supported requiring Board approval before testifying on a bill or budget to avoid damaging missteps, but affirmed Regents' right to meet with legislators.
- **Regent Arrascada** — Raised First Amendment and lobbyist-coordination concerns. Vice Chancellor Jason Frierson clarified the policy's intent was coordination/communication and did not require approval from any lobbyist.

Chair Goodman offered to postpone for further discussion.
Motion: Regent Brager moved to postpone to the December meeting; **Second:**

Regent Carvalho.
Following further discussion and guidance from counsel (that taking no action would allow the item to be recreated), the maker and seconder **withdrew the motion.** The Board took no action; the item will be revisited.

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11. Overview of the Board of Regents Handbook and Proposed Plan for Review/Revision of the Bylaws (Information Only)

Special Counsel Chris Nielsen gave an overview of the Handbook's structure (four Titles, ~590 pages) and hierarchy, and proposed beginning with Title 1 (Bylaws). Suggested priority areas included: standing committees (number and charge, in light of the future reduction to nine members per AB 118), the Chancellor/president evaluation and discipline process, internal governance/ recourse policies, meeting attendance, and quorum/voting thresholds. Chief of Staff Nikolajewski reviewed the proposed timeline (quarterly meeting targets, completion by June, and a potential December item to form a special committee for Titles 2 and 4), and encouraged Regents to reconsider committee structure around strategic priorities.

Discussion:
- **Regent Brager** — Asked that staff identify which provisions are legislatively controlled and cannot be changed.
- **Regent Boylan** — Thanked staff for clarifying the Handbook structure; asked for and received an explanation of quorum vs. action requirements under NRS 241.
- **Vice Chair Del Carlo** — Requested the presentation be included for new Regents in January and that a process be established to keep documents regularly updated.

No action was taken.

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12. Executive Evaluation Process — Chancellor (Information Only)

Chief Human Resources Officer Yonata Rubin presented potential refinements to the Chancellor evaluation process: a more structured annual cycle with mid-year

check-ins, clearer measurable goals, and a possible third-party 360-degree leadership assessment (the Board Chair would retain responsibility for the evaluation).

Discussion / Member Positions:
- **Regent Fernandez** — Expressed discomfort with HR (which reports to the Chancellor) leading the process; advocated for an independent consultant to help develop standardized tools and build trust, with Board staff involvement.
- **Chancellor McNair** — Clarified the Chair would guide the process using HR and external parties as tools.
- **Regent Boylan** — Noted prior policy proposals to add the Vice Chair to the evaluation had failed; supported involving both Chair and Vice Chair.
- **Chief of Staff Nikolajewski** — Recommended the Board consider removing Regents from conducting the evaluation and using an external consultant.
- **Vice Chair Del Carlo** — Supported an outside evaluator administered through HR/Chancellor to ensure the evaluation is done annually with no surprises.
- **Regent Brooks** — Supported an outside organization building the framework and conducting the evaluation to ensure cleanliness and address an "absence of trust."
- **CHRO Rubin** — Noted a strong appetite for a third party; details to be worked out with Counsel Nielsen and Chief of Staff Nikolajewski.

No formal action was taken; direction was given to explore a third-party-assisted process.

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13. Business, Finance and Facilities Committee Report (For Possible Action)

Chair Arrascada briefly presented the report of the September 25, 2026 committee meeting.
Motion: Regent Arrascada moved approval; **Second:** Vice Chair Del Carlo.
Result: Following voting-app technical difficulties, a voice vote was taken. Motion passed; no opposition.

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14. Security Committee Report (For Possible Action)

Chair Boylan briefly reported on the September 25, 2026 committee meeting, noting the committee discussed its charter but could not vote due to lack of quorum.
Motion: Regent Boylan moved to accept the report; **Second:** Regent Brooks.
Result: Voice vote — motion passed; none opposed.

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15. Investment Committee Report (For Possible Action)

Chair Fernandez reported on the September 29, 2026 committee meeting, including acceptance of the Operating Fund Performance Report, maintaining the 2.75% annual distribution rate and investment parameters, and acceptance of the Endowment Pool Performance Comparison Report.
Motion: Regent Fernandez moved approval of the committee recommendations and acceptance of the report; **Second:** Regent Goicoechea.
Result: Voice vote — motion passed.

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16. New Business (Information Only)

- **Chair Goodman** requested a future item on an action plan addressing the key findings of the workplace climate and culture survey (per the Board's prior 90-day directive).
- **Regent Arrascada** requested two December items: (1) an update on 208 North Curry Street, Carson City, including a project timeline and estimated ADA compliance upgrades/renovations; and (2) a presentation of the updated NSHE 2027–2029 biennial state operating budget request for the 2027 legislative session.

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17. Public Comment (Information Only)

- **Jorge Fonseca** (UNLV faculty) — Urged the Board to prioritize a meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for faculty and staff in its legislative advocacy, citing rising costs and ~$1 billion in projected additional state revenue.

- **Michael Kagan** (UNLV Faculty Senate Chair) — Asked the Board to make PEBP health insurance premiums a high NSHE legislative priority, describing premium increases as effective pay cuts.
- **Seth Amram** (UNLV Hillel student president) — Congratulated President Heavey and praised his support for Jewish students.
- **Ben Sagman** (UNLV student) — Supported President Heavey, citing anti-Semitism training and engagement with Jewish students.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Goodman adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.