

# UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes December 30-31, 1980

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BOARD OF REGENTS

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SYSTEM

December 30, 1980

The Board of Regents met in special session on the above date in the Board Room, Carlson Education building, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Members present: Mr. Robert A. Cashell, Chairman

Mr. James L. Buchanan, II

Mrs. Lilly Fong

Mr. Chris Karamanos

Mr. John R. Mc Bride

Mr. John Tom Ross

Mrs. June F. Whitley

Members absent: Mrs. Molly F. Knudtsen

Dr. Louis E. Lombardi

Others present: President Leonard Goodall, UNLV

Secretary Bonnie M. Smotony

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cashell at 4:00 P.M.

1. Report of Gifts and Grants

Mr. Cashell recommended acceptance of the following year-end gifts received by UNR, DRI, NNCC and the System:

University of Nevada, Reno

\$50,000 from Mr. George Basta, Reno (DONOR DESIRES NO

PUBLICITY), \$20,000 to be added to the "George and Harriet Basta Athletic Scholarship Endowment", and \$30,000 is to be used to establish the "George and Harriet Basta Medical Sciences Equipment Endowment".

\$52,250 from the Estate of Nora Kawamura, to be used to

establish the "Nora Kawamura Student Aid Fund", which will support students pursuing careers in

professional Nursing.

\$ 500 cash gift and 25,000 shares of ASI common stock,  
from Mr. Jim Joyce to the Pinching Memorial  
Athletic Scholarship.

Desert Research Institute

\$40,000 cash gift from Mr. and Mrs. Sulo Maki, Las Vegas,  
to be used for purposes of the Desert Research  
Institute.

Northern Nevada Community College

A Multigraph, Model 1870, from Ken and Patty Maynard  
(original purchase price of \$7,500).

System

\$ 4,000 cash gift from Miss Helen Thompson, to be divided  
equally between UNR and UNLV and to be used for  
faculty travel.

Mrs. Fong moved approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Mc Bride,

carried without dissent.

In addition to the above gifts, Mr. Cashell noted that President Goodall had submitted a report of gifts received subsequent to the most recent meeting of the Board, totaling \$392,201.35, and recommended the Board's acceptance (list of gifts filed with permanent minutes).

Mrs. Whitley moved approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Buchanan, carried without dissent.

## 2. UNLV Application for Membership in Western Athletic Conference

President Goodall recalled that in February, 1977 the Board authorized UNLV to enter into negotiations with WAC concerning possible conference membership. He added that negotiations have continued under Presidents Baepler and Dixon and his own Administration, and he wished to report to the Board on where those negotiations now stand. Dr. Goodall distributed a report containing the following statement:

While I believe UNLV has met the conditions for membership set by WAC, recent discussions with the Presidents

of WAC Universities -- both individually and at their meetings in San Diego -- have convinced me that continued negotiations at this time will only result in additional delay in UNLV's potential entry into the conference. Dr. Bucher, our acting Athletic Director, and Professor Harp, our Faculty Athletic Representative, both of whom also attended the San Diego meetings, agree with me in this assessment.

The WAC Presidents have indicated a desire to take some action in January, and that action will almost certainly be some form of additional delay, either a tabling of the application or a move to place the application in what WAC calls "inactive status". Since I do not believe that further delay is in the best interests of UNLV, I am recommending that the Board authorize UNLV to consider other alternatives, including affiliation with other conferences or a decision to remain as an independent.

I have discussed this matter with the Intercollegiate Athletic Council, and the Council agrees on the desirability of looking into other alternatives.

I am not recommending a withdrawal of UNLV's application to WAC; rather, I am, however, asking the University's Legal Counsel to consider all of the legal implications of our WAC negotiations. In particular, the University has a number of future scheduling contracts with WAC schools in both football and basketball, and we don't want to jeopardize any of these agreements.

I have discussed this matter with several of the candidates for Athletic Director, and they have indicated the action will not diminish their interest in the position. This will give the new Director an opportunity to start anew in considering all possible alternatives for the program.

UNLV has some good supporters among the WAC Presidents, and I am most appreciative of their support. Six of the eight Universities have changed Presidents since discussions with UNLV began; however, and this has apparently caused some of the Universities to change their position on UNLV's entry into the conference, making it difficult to conclude membership discussions. There has also been a change in the Office of Commissioner. Commissioner Stan Bates and Commissioner Joe Kearney have both been

most cooperative in working with UNLV, and I express appreciation to them.

I believe there are some very good options open for UNLV. I look forward to working with the new Athletic Director and the Intercollegiate Athletic Council in exploring all possible options, and I am very optimistic about the future of Intercollegiate Athletics at UNLV.

Mr. Mc Bride moved approval of President Goodall's recommendation. Motion seconded by Mrs. Fong.

Mr. Buchanan objected to any action other than to pursue UNLV's application now before WAC, suggesting that it would be premature and not in the best interests of the Institutions. Mr. Buchanan proposed that no action be taken with respect to the application until WAC makes a decision and explains the reasons for its decision. In the event the decision by WAC is negative, Mr. Buchanan suggested the Board might wish to consider legal action, pointing out that, based on representations made by WAC, the Las Vegas Convention Authority spent \$5 million to expand the seating of the Las Vegas Stadium.

Mr. Cashell suggested that it would not be in the best interests of the University to bring legal action to gain admission to a conference.

Mr. Buchanan recalled that WAC had placed three requirements on UNLV for membership and since those requirements have been met, there is no reason for UNLV not to be a member.

Mr. Mc Bride questioned the desirability of UNLV attempting to force its way into a conference through litigation.

Mr. Buchanan recalled that the three requirements for WAC membership were: (1) a stadium capable of holding 30,000 people, (2) a basketball pavilion with a 15,000 seating capacity, and (3) compliance with all NCAA and WAC rules.

Mr. Buchanan stated that in his opinion, having met those requirements, UNLV is admitted to WAC.

Mr. Ross suggested, and Mr. McBride concurred, that the motion include the suggestion by President Goodall that any explorations of alternatives would commence after consultation with legal counsel.

Mr. Buchanan objected to any action that would put the Board



on record as looking at other options until after a definitive decision by WAC.

Mr. Mc Bride and Mrs. Fong agreed to a tabling of their motion until the meeting of January 23 on the assumption that the decision of the WAC Commissioners will be known prior to that time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Bonnie M. Smotony

Secretary of the Board

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