

# UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes February 13-14, 1992

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BOARD OF REGENTS

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEVADA

February 13, 1992

The Board of Regents met on the above date in the Computing Center Video rooms at the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for an special video meeting.

Members present:

Las Vegas: Mrs. Carolyn M. Sparks, Chairman

Dr. Lonnie Hammargren

Mrs. June F. Whitley

Reno: Dr. Jill Derby

Dr. James Eardley

Mrs. Dorothy S. Gallagher

Mr. Daniel Klaich

Members absent: Mrs. Shelley Berkley

Mr. Joseph M. Foley

Others present: Chancellor Mark H Dawson, Reno

President Anthony Calabro, WNCC, Reno

President Joseph Crowley, UNR, Reno

President John Gwaltney, TMCC, Reno

President Paul Meacham, CCSN, Las Vegas

President Robert Maxson, UNLV, Las Vegas

President Ronald Remington, NNCC, Reno

President James Taranik, DRI, Reno

Mr. Donald Klasic, General Counsel, Reno

Mr. Ron Sparks, Vice Chancellor, Reno

Mrs. Karen Steinberg, Acting Vice Chancellor,

Reno

Ms. Mary Lou Moser, Secretary, Reno

Also present were Faculty Senate Chairmen Bill Baines (TMCC),

Richard Egami (DRI), Larry Goodnight (WNCC), Candace Kant (CCSN),

Elizabeth Raymond (UNR), Lori Temple (UNLV), and ASUN President

Derek Beenfeldt.

Chairman Sparks called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. stating the purpose of the meeting was to provide members of the Board with information on the proposed plans for reductions to the UCCSN 1991-93 budget as requested by the Governor due to a revenue shortfall in State government. The meeting opened without a quorum, with Regents Sparks, Gallagher, Derby and Eardley present.

Chancellor Dawson referred to two handouts, distributed at the meeting, and filed in the Regents' Office: UCCSN Summary Schedules 1991-93 Biennium, and UCCSN 8% Budget Reduction Plans, 1991-93 Biennium.

Chancellor Dawson announced that a workshop on tuition and fees will be held during the February 27-28, 1992 Board meeting in Las Vegas, where the UCCSN current policies will be reviewed. A consultant will also be present to review national tuition and fee trends and policies from other states.

Chancellor Dawson stated that the Campus plans under discussion with the exception of UNLV, implemented the current Board policy on fees which call for the following fee increases in addition to the increases already in the 1991-93 budgets as approved by

the State Legislature:

Universities:	Undergraduate	\$ 3.50 per credit
	Graduate	1.00 per credit
	Non-Resident	75.00 per semester
	Good Neighbor	400.00 per semester

Community Colleges:                   \$ 1.00 per credit

UNLV:	Undergraduate	\$ 5.00 per credit
	Graduate	5.00 per credit

Chancellor Dawson stated he is recommending that merit pay to faculty not be granted until January 1, 1993, thus saving half the merit pool dollars. He stated that if merit pay is not granted, the UCCSN employees would be the only State employees who would not receive a raise above the cost of living amounts.

Chairman Sparks questioned whether the merit funds would be available to UCCSN next biennium if the decision was made to not give merit this next year. Chancellor Dawson replied that it would be up to the Legislature; however, it might be easier for them to not approve those funds once given up. He reminded the group that it has been a long, hard fight to get the merit funds and cautioned about giving them up all together at this time.

Mr. Klaich entered the meeting. A quorum was present.

Vice Chancellor Ron Sparks began a review of the System Summary Schedule, and referred to the footnote on page 1 which relates that UNLV has been forced to reduce its 1991-93 budget by \$1.7 million because of a loss of revenues caused by less enrollment than was projected.

1991-93 Operating Budget Reductions are as follows:

Operating Budget Reductions	\$14,824,701*
Defer Merits to January 1993	1,474,180
Vacancy Savings	4,337,931
Sub Total Operating Budget	\$20,636,812
Increased Fees from Increased Enrollments	
at CCSN	812,921
Tuition and Fee Increases	2,982,538
Minor Repairs and Improvements	8,772,000
"One-Shot" Appropriations	474,375
UCCSN Total	\$33,678,646*

\*The UNLV shortfall explained above

Vice Chancellor Sparks then reviewed the specific General Fund

Special Appropriations to be reduced:

Minor Repairs and Improvements

UNSCS	\$ 500,000
UNLV	2,000,000
UNR	4,800,000
CCSN	475,000
TMCC	475,000
WNCC	217,000
NNCC	250,000
DRI	55,000
Sub Total	\$ 8,772,000
Management Information System	274,375
System Administration - Staff Assistance	100,000
UNLV-Law School Study	100,000
Total	\$ 9,246,375

A review of proposed individual Campus budget reductions was held.

Mr. Klaich asked whether any enrollment caps had been included in the budgets. Vice Chancellor Sparks stated they had not.

However, in 1992-93 UNLV was to receive 53 new faculty posi-

tions, which will now not be filled.

At TMCC, 75% of the new dollars authorized for 1992-93 will be lost. WNCC will lose virtually all of the new 1992-93 dollars authorized, which was planned to take care of the growth of the College. Delay of merit to January 1, 1993 is recommended for DRI, System Administration, Press and Computing System.

If fee increases which have been included in these plans are not approved, an additional cut of \$2,982,538 will be necessary.

Mrs. Whitley and Dr. Hammargren entered the meeting.

During a discussion on fee increases, Vice Chancellor Sparks related that the Western states' average of fees, which is one of the measurements used in the current Board policy, increased this year because nearly all states have had to raise fees to meet budget problems in those states. It was explained that the System would be facing possible fee increases with or without budget reductions because of this rise in the average of Western states.

Vice Chancellor Sparks briefly explained the current Board policy on fees, stating that when it was developed many different ways

of setting fees were reviewed. He explained that the national average for fees is much higher than those at UCCSN. He added that the UCCSN policy is a very conservative one.

Dr. Eardley stated he did not feel the Community Colleges should reduce faculties. President Maxson stated that without an increase in fees, they would lose up to 110 positions, which would include 50-60 vacant positions this year and the 53 new positions allocated for next year. The increase would allow them to recover about 50% of these positions which would then assure students of classes for the coming year. He added that most of the State funds go into faculty and their support, which does not leave the Campuses much flexibility in making budget cuts. He assured the Regents that all categories have been reviewed and have been "hit" by the cuts.

President Crowley stated the objective of the cuts made on his Campus was an attempt to reduce as far as possible the burden on the students, to provide as many courses as possible, and to assure that students will be able to graduate on time. He also explained that the market for hiring superior quality faculty is at a peak now, inasmuch as some 32 states are in budget reductions, and that UNR is trying to retain 2/3 of the positions in this year's budget. President Crowley stated he felt the



merit pool should be protected and added that it has had a tremendous impact on the System and is a valuable hiring tool.

In the area of repairs and renovations, the President related that UNR is attempting to preserve funds for the priorities of classrooms and laboratories.

Mrs. Gallagher related that her concern with budget cuts was what was being sacrificed in quality, and questioned whether UCCSN would be educating more students with less dollars. President Crowley stated that his administration had discussed enrollment caps, but dropped that avenue because they felt it was dangerous for a long-term effect, although, it may come to that. The decision has been that there probably will be increased enrollment and more students would be serviced with less funds available; classrooms will have more students, there will be more LOAs teaching classes (which is not the best way to go), priority areas will be closely watched and funds will be held for these priorities. There is a possibility of running out of classroom space, which would then limit enrollment.

President Maxson stated that discussions have been held with most of the administrative units on the Campus: Faculty Senate, Student Government, Graduate Council, a second meeting with students. The Faculty Senate voted to forgo merit increases alto-

gether, the students agreed with a fee increase and only argued over what the fee would be, and the Graduate Council suggested an increase of \$10 per credit. UNLV will be losing \$1.7 million in the authorized budget because of the lost revenue from less than projected enrollments, and the projected fee increase of \$5, which is \$1.50 more than at other institutions, would offset that loss. Approximately 600 course sections would be gained from the fee increase.

President Maxson stated he felt the Campuses should be allowed autonomy in the manner of handling the budget cuts, that not all institutions should have to make those cuts in the same areas.

President Meacham stated they had developed a 32 step plan last Fall when cuts were first encountered and urged that CCSN be allowed to continue. They have been on a "slow hiring mode" since August. He stated that reductions could be handled without the loss of merit pay for faculty. He related that sacrifices by faculty are being made on a short-term basis only and that people are putting in extra time voluntarily. A Campus decision has been made to raise the part-time salaries. He mentioned that with the cutbacks already in place, CCSN is operating at a 27:1 ratio. Mrs. Gallagher questioned whether

this wasn't a dangerous practice, with the President replying that it was an emergency response to an emergency situation. He, too, encouraged the Regents to allow Campus autonomy in handling the situation.

President Gwaltney stated TMCC is utilizing faculty vacancies, although some of the particular positions being vacated would have been filled under different circumstances. Fee increases will also give TMCC an opportunity to expand class offerings. He related that TMCC is enjoying the largest Spring enrollment in its history and they are preparing for an increase of 3% in growth. They will use part-time instructors to fill a number of positions, although it would make quality control more difficult.

The President agreed with the deferment of merit until January 1, 1993, and cautioned against losing the merit pool altogether inasmuch as the Community College salary scale includes merit pay.

President Calabro stated WNCC will be able to make the cutbacks with a minimum of impact upon the students. They will plan to reduce all of the new support formula funds. The President stated that they must replace one Nursing instructor and one Computer Technology person. He agreed with delaying the merit until January 1, 1993, but added that the faculty had suggested

it be delayed all year.

President Remington stated NNCC has had a 50% increase in enrollment and had received funding for this increase. Some 20 positions have been hired, although some positions have been held in reserve. He cautioned that repairs and improvements, although being cut now, just cannot be held off forever. Part-time instructors will also be used at NNCC to handle the projected growth. President Remington expressed his hope that the Community Colleges would handle merit similarly and agreed with the half-year plan.

President Taranik stated they were not eliminating all Library funds at DRI, inasmuch as they have a new Library in their new Southern Nevada Science Center which must be established. Also, DRI has fought since 1987 for these funds; therefore, could not give them all back.

In answer to a question concerning how these reduced funds would be obtained in the future, Chancellor Dawson stated that it will be "very tough", and cited the \$132 million State revenue shortfall.

Mrs. Gallagher cautioned that this is the beginning of a dire

financial situation which may last awhile and again expressed concern over CCSN's 27:1 statement. Mr. Klaich agreed and stated he hoped the Presidents were also looking at this long-term, which could lead to some fundamental changes in the method used for budgeting.

Chairman Sparks stated she would personally prefer Campus autonomy in handling the cutbacks.

Chancellor Dawson again stated his recommendations: 1) delay merit to January 1, 1993; and, 2) Board attend a workshop discussion on fees and tuition before making a decision. Mrs.

Whitley expressed her displeasure with raising fees, citing access problems which would be caused. Dr. Jim Richardson, UNR, urged the Board to retain some kind of merit pool, and reminded the Board that UCCSN has been asked for cuts twice that of K-12.

UNLV Faculty Senate Chairman Lori Temple outlined the discussions held on the Campus, the decisions reached as reported above, and added that some of the Colleges don't agree with the decisions.

Dr. Candace Kant, CCSN Faculty Senate Chairman, urged the allowance of Campus autonomy and emphasized that their plans were developed by the faculty and Administration and all had been making sacrifices since last August. Faculty Senate Chairmen

Bill Baines, TMCC, Elizabeth Raymond, UNR, and Larry Goodnight, WNCC, each expressed support of Campus autonomy and expressed thanks for the amount of Campus involvement in developing the plans.

The Chairman expressed appreciation for the beneficial workshop and asked that if there were questions, the Regents should call the President prior to the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Mary Lou Moser

Secretary of the Board

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