

College of Southern Nevada Institutional Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Welcome, call to order and roll call

The regular meeting of the Institutional Advisory Council was called to order at 11:02am.

Roll was called:

Present

- Chair Randy Robison
- Vice Chair Peter Guzman
- Dr. Nancy E. Brune
- Tim Buchanan
- Vida Chan Lin
- Jaime Cruz
- Ken Evans
- Maria Jose Gatti
- Paul J. Moradkhan
- Shaundell Newsome
- Dennis Perea
- Jonas Peterson
- Jose Solorio
- Shari Wong
- CSN Faculty Senate Chair Maria Schellhase
- ASCSN President Karli McFarling-Kelly
- CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara

Absent

- John R. Bailey
- Colton Teerlink

Chair Robison welcomed and thanked Council members and guests for their attendance.

1. *Public Comment*

Chair Robison called for public comment. There was no public comment received.

2. *Approval of Minutes*

Chair Robison called for approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2020, IAC meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the November 10, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

3. *Report from the Council Chair*

Council Chair Robison provided a report on his activities since the last meeting:

- Chair Robison participated in a meeting with the other IAC chairs in which they discussed workforce issues exacerbated by the pandemic and ways to better interface with the Community College Committee.
- Chair Robison welcomed CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara, Regent Jason Geddes, Regent Amy Carvalho, and Regent Laura Perkins.

4. *President's Welcome & Update*

CSN President Dr. Federico Zaragoza welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and provided an update on several recent events:

- The 2021 Spring Convocation was held virtually with over 500 participants. The theme was, "Embrace the Moment," and featured keynote speaker Jeremy Aguero, CEO of Applied Analysis. Mr. Aguero's

address focused on the economic impact of COVID-19 and the vital role community colleges play in economic recovery.

- CSN, in collaboration with UNLV and NSHE, established a CSN vaccine point of distribution (POD) at the Henderson Campus. CSN nursing students are also administering the vaccine at the UNLV Student Union, and CSN nurses, nursing students, and student volunteers are assisting at all Southern Nevada PODs. CSN is positioned to open another vaccine POD at the North Las Vegas Campus.
- Last week, the Department of Commerce notified the City of Las Vegas and CSN that they were awarded a \$6.9 million grant to build a 10,000 sq. ft. education and training facility in the Westside. This will support the work of Councilman Crear to bring jobs to an area with high unemployment rates.
- CSN's spring enrollment numbers are similar to fall 2020, with enrollment down approximately 10% compared to last spring. CSN has an aggressive enrollment management and outreach program to recover some lost enrollment and hopes to offer several new short term accelerated programs and a weekend college program in the late spring.
- CSN has absorbed approximately \$25 million in budget cuts in the last year, and continued budget challenges are expected in the foreseeable future, including reducing the FY 22-23 budget by 12%. CSN expects to receive significant funds from the Coronavirus Response Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), also known as CARES 2.
- During the Governor's State of the State address, he asked the Legislature to work with NSHE over the next two years to develop a framework to transition Nevada community colleges to a new, independent authority that will focus on making Nevadans job ready.
- Dr. Zaragoza thanked Chancellor Rose for denouncing the violence on the Capitol, and he issued a statement, as well.
- CSN held its first virtual commencement ceremony in December of 2020. Governor Sisolak was the keynote speaker and Chancellor Rose and Regent Perkins provided remarks.
- In regard to workforce development, CSN is creating more student-friendly onboarding that includes collaboration with Workforce Connections. The workforce programming is generating national interest, and CSN delivered an opening day presentation at the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) Workforce Development Conference in January.
- CSN was the first NSHE institutions to use CARES funding to provide about 2,500 first-time, full-time in college students with free personal computers, and plans to continue this program in fall 2021 with new funding.
- CSN student, Precious Carrasco, of the CSN Mariachi Plata, won [third place in] the "Vocalist of the Year" award at the national mariachi competition. [Yesenia Duenes, of Mariachi Plata, won first place in the competition]. This is the second year that CSN has produced the top mariachi vocalist in the nation. Precious also performed at the Governor's State of the State address.
- The CSN baseball team is ranked first nationally, and men's and women's basketball will launch in the spring. The average student athlete GPA is 3.0, and Dr. Zaragoza commended Athletic Director Dexter Irvin.
- Lawrence Weekly is CSN's new Chief of Staff and Diversity Officer, and he will speak at the next IAC meeting.
- Vice Chair Guzman thanked Dr. Zaragoza for his incredible work, and commended Ms. Mariana Kihuen for her support of and passion for the Mariachi Plata.
- Mr. Shaundell Newsome congratulated Dr. Zaragoza and Councilman Crear on the grant to build an education and training facility on the Westside.

5. Report from the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges

Vice Chancellor Mackinnon provided a report on system activities and issues of interest:

- Vice Chancellor Mackinnon expressed how Chancellor Rose is a tremendous asset to Nevada and thanked the IAC for inviting her to speak today.
- Vice Chancellor Mackinnon congratulated CSN for receiving the EDA grant with the City.
- In regard to workforce, NSHE is moving forward with implementation of grants, including the Reimagining Workforce grant in partnership with OWINN, Workforce Connections, DETR, and others. The System was not awarded the Strengthening Community Colleges grant that distributed limited awards but hopes to reapply in the future.
- Vice Chancellor Mackinnon thanked Interim VP James McCoy for serving on the NSHE Dual Enrollment Taskforce that is comprised of participants from K-12 and higher education. The taskforce is working to reduce barriers by focusing on three areas: standardized price schedule, standardized faculty qualifications, and best practices when it comes to school and district support for dual enrollment students, teachers, and administrators. The taskforce has held numerous meetings since 2020 and also has a price subcommittee.
- NSHE is moving forward with its first centralized apprenticeship pathway registration. The goal of centrally registering the apprenticeship pathway is so the community colleges can use the standards and work with employers to design a program for apprenticeship in that field. Institutions can reach out to Vice Chancellor Mackinnon or Assistant Vice Chancellor von Collenberg if there are industries interested in apprenticeship programs.
- Vice Chancellor Mackinnon thanked Chair Robison for the conversation during the IAC chairs meeting.
- Last week Vice Chancellor Mackinnon presented at the Prosperity Caucus and the Nevada Technology Corridor.
- The Nevada Promise Scholarship was cut by about \$1 million during the special legislative session, but NSHE worked with the Board of Regents to use other sources of financial aid funds on a one-time, emergency basis. In the Governor's recommended budget, \$7.3 million was allocated for the Nevada Promise Scholarship for the next biennium. Vice Chancellor Mackinnon encouraged IAC members and all those in attendance to considering becoming a mentor, and if you are mentor then consider encouraging others to become one, too. The President's Office will send out a link to the IAC members today about how to become a mentor. Chair Robison also encouraged IAC members to consider becoming mentors.

6. *Report from Chancellor Melody Rose*

Chancellor Rose shared her vision of NSHE and discussed the upcoming legislative session and the role of community colleges:

- Chancellor Rose commended CSN for being awarded the \$6.9 million grant from the Department of Commerce; it is the type of partnership-driven work NSHE that is focused on and engaged in statewide.
- Chancellor Rose emphasized that she is grateful for the operating and capital budget that came out of the Governor's Office and is fortunate that the Governor is not recommending additional furloughs.
- NSHE, like the campuses, are focused on students. Chancellor Rose explained that she is a first-generation college student. In the fall she gathered with the college presidents to review the five strategic goals (student access, student success, closing the achievement gap, elevating workforce, and advancing our research function) adopted by the Board in 2018 and begin to elevate them. She has been working with the presidents to identify metrics and targets to deliver on those goals.
- Additionally, there is work being done to identify strategic initiatives and partnerships to move the needle. An example of a strategic initiative that is also a partnership is the work Chancellor Rose has

done with the State Superintendent regarding dual credit courses; access to dual enrollment should not be related to your zip code. They are also looking at the teacher pipeline. Chancellor Rose believes that workforce depends upon the educational spectrum.

- NSHE also established a Mental Health Taskforce that launched last Friday and is comprised of experts across the various institutions.
- Chancellor Rose explained that the best way to move a workforce and an economic agenda forward is for industry and higher education to be connected.
- Chancellor Rose is open to assisting in connecting the IACs to the Board committees.
- Mr. Jaime Cruz remarked that he met Chancellor Rose at Workforce Connections and we are fortunate to have her in Southern Nevada.
- Mr. Jose Solorio welcomed Chancellor Rose to Nevada and said that we are lucky to have her here. Las Vegas is very diverse with about 47% of K-12 students being Latino. Mr. Solorio looks forward to working with Chancellor Rose. Chancellor Rose responded that her passion is getting underrepresented groups into college and ensuring they complete, and she believes that NSHE has the ability to serve as a national model.
- Chair Robison asked, “What are the primary challenges you see and what are the primary opportunities that you see for our State and our higher education system?” Chancellor Rose responded that there are various challenges related to COVID-19 and the economic downturn. However, these crises also present opportunities and she is eager to determine the lessons learned from the economic downturn and the innovations that need to be embraced. For example, the importance of technology equity and access to quality online instruction; she commended the faculty who switched to online instruction last spring.

7. CSN’s Budget Reduction Plan

CSN President Zaragoza and VP for Finance & Administration Mary Kaye Bailey provided an update on the CSN portion of the NSHE state budget (*see also PowerPoint presentation*):

- Dr. Zaragoza thanked the Budget Reduction Taskforce as well as the committee chairs of the stakeholder groups.
- VP Mary Kaye Bailey explained that in FY21, CSN is experiencing a budget reduction of approximately \$21.4 million. The Governor’s recommended budget is \$103.3 million for FY22 and \$103.7 million for FY23. This is about 5% lower than the originally acquired FY21 budget. VP Bailey proceeded to breakdown the recommended budget by explaining the inflation/fringe adjustments, caseload growth, formula distribution, budget reductions, and capacity enhancement. She cautioned that the budget reductions, caseload growth, and capacity enhancements are not a wash because they would be for distinct areas and are not intended to supplant the base budget. CSN receives caseload growth as part of the formula when it grows from one even fiscal year to the next.
- In November, CSN received notice of an approximately 12.8% reduction for FY22 and FY23. The areas reduced were frozen and chilled positions, operating, and travel.
- CSN was allocated \$33.5 million in CCRSA (CARES 2) funding, and a minimum of \$7 million must be spent on student aid. There are provisions for how to spend the remaining \$26.5 million, including that it must be COVID-related and used within a year. CSN anticipates receiving the grant award notification soon and has created a preliminary spending plan for these funds, including contributing an additional \$4 million to student aid and \$2.5 million to upgrade technology infrastructure.
- The legislative session began on February 1, 2021, and NSHE has hearings on February 24, 2021, and March 17, 2021.

- Dr. Zaragoza said that CSN is cautiously optimistic that if everything continues as expected then the College will be able to retain the integrity of its delivery system and reposition to grow and support the community; it will depend on what occurs in the legislative session though.
- Mr. Dennis Perea commented that there was a lot of thought that went into the plan and presentation, and that there did not seem to be a lot of impact on students. This makes it easy for the IAC to advocate for CSN in the legislature. Dr. Zaragoza responded that CSN prioritized four pillars: instruction, academic support, advising and counseling, and compliance. He also ensured that executive level hires were kept to an absolute minimum. Mr. Perea asked, “Is it a safe assumption that it will be hard not to impact students with significant cuts going forward?” Dr. Zaragoza agreed and said there are a lot of moving parts. Changes in the capacity enhancements funds could alter the current plans.
- Mr. Solorio asked, “Is the weighted student credit hour funding the rate where community college classes are funded at a lower level than a typical four-year college like UNR or UNLV?” VP Bailey responded that there are some slight differences and in the recent past CSN has received some higher weights for CTE courses. Vice Chancellor Mackinnon asked VP Bailey to clarify that weighted student credit hours for courses taught at community colleges, Nevada State, and UNLV that are the same course have the same weightings. VP Bailey concurred with Vice Chancellor Mackinnon.
- Mr. Solorio also asked, “Is there anything [in COVID funding] for PPE, masks, or additional costs we incur because we’re having safer environments for staff and students?” VP Bailey responded that CSN does have some funding from the original CARES disbursement and from the Governor’s Office for PPE, and it is part of what CARES 2 funding can be used for.
- Mr. Ken Evans said he is happy to see that CSN is doing things to lessen or mitigate the impact to students. He also looks forward to advocating during the legislative session.

8. Update from ASCSN Student Body President

Student Body President, Karli McFarling-Kelly, provided a report on student activities and issues of interest, including how students are managing the pandemic:

- Ms. McFarling-Kelly said she is doing much better than she was in the fall.
- ASCSN donated a lot of funds to various organizations last semester, and hosted events such as a virtual Halloween costume contest and a seasonal photo challenge. ASCSN has more than 1,000 followers on Instagram thanks to the virtual events, including some that offered prizes.
- In the fall, ASCSN collaborated often with Campus Life, Career & Transfer Services, First Year Experience, and the Multicultural Center.
- IAC members are welcome to attend ASCSN meetings and can contact Ms. McFarling-Kelly for more information.
- This month, ASCSN students are recognizing pillars in the African American community. On February 26th, ASCSN and Campus Leadership Development will be hosting an African American step exhibition.
- Additionally, over the last week ASCSN has issued over 450 student IDs to the Health Sciences program students at the West Charleston Campus.
- Club rush was held on February 4th and included about 200 virtual attendees.
- ASCSN also hosted an event the day after the presidential inauguration in which students discussed how they felt, and students requested a second event that will be held on April 19th to discuss President Biden’s first 90 days in office.
- Ms. McFarling-Kelly thanked Mr. Weekly, the Women’s Alliance, Campus Life and Leadership Development, Student Life and Leadership Development, First Year Experience, Regent Perkins for

attending a recent ASCSN meeting, Ms. Kihuen, VP Chrysanthou, Interim VP McCoy, Ms. Michelle Word, VP Mugunth Vaithyalingam, VP Bailey, Dr. Maria Schellhase, and everyone in attendance.

- Mr. Newsome offered the opportunity for the students to connect with the business community. Mr. Newsome runs a marketing firm, and the firm has had a lot of success with interns and encouraged students to utilize this network to give students practical experience. In regard to civic engagement, Mr. Newsome encouraged students to not only ask what the President could do, but to consider what they can do to actively engage the administration and make recommendations.

9. Update from CSN's Faculty Senate Chair

Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Maria Schellhase, provided a report on Faculty Senate activities and issues of interest, including how faculty are managing the pandemic:

- Dr. Schellhase welcomed the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, regents, and other dignitaries, and thanked the IAC Chair and Council members for their service.
- The Faculty Senate discussed three policies and passed three additional policies at its February 5th meeting: E-Learning Policy, Lead Librarian Policy, and Curriculum Policy.
- The Faculty Senate elections will be held in the spring. Faculty are also completing a sabbatical cycle. Dr. Schellhase thanked Interim VP McCoy and Dr. Zaragoza for their partnership in encouraging the sabbaticals. The tenure cycle is also ending, and the majority of the faculty applying for tenure used the new digital tenure portal.
- Faculty members are concerned about the health benefit changes, and Faculty Senate is training faculty members how to have their voices heard during the legislative session. The Legislative Actions Committee is putting together short video vignettes of the great things happening at the College, as well as concerns, which will be shared with legislators.
- The Policy Platform is being finalized to help ensure there is a process to see policies through from start to finish.

10. IAC Member Spotlight

Vice Chair Peter Guzman provided a brief report on why he serves, how he can support CSN, and how the College can support his work:

- Vice Chair Guzman said it is an honor to serve on the IAC, and he is grateful to be able to reach out to his fellow IAC members for assistance.
- The reason Vice Chair Guzman serves is because education is important and CSN does it well. He supports Dr. Zaragoza, and it is an honor to serve with him. CSN offers incredible educational opportunities to students of all ages. The Latin Chamber also stands with CSN.
- Chair Robison thanked Vice Chair Guzman for all that he does for the IAC and the community.

11. New Business

Chair Robison called for new business. There was no new business.

12. Public Comment

Chair Robison called for public comment.

- Chair Robison offered for any Regents to share any comments, and Regent Carvalho echoed Mr. Guzman's comments that CSN is doing wonderful work in the community. Regent Carvalho also thanked Dr. Zaragoza for partnering with the City of Las Vegas on the Westside grant. The community colleges throughout Nevada are very important.

- Chair Robison said that the legislative session is underway and now is a great time for IAC members to reach out to contacts in Carson City and offer insight and counsel as a resource, as it could be crucial to CSN during this session.
- Ms. Kihuen added that CSN is finalizing a one-page document with legislative priorities, and she will distribute it to the Council as soon as it is available. She is also available to speak to anyone individually to expand upon CSN's priorities. The "CSN Day at the Legislature" is scheduled for March 31st.
- Mr. Solorio said it was his understanding that institutions that are more successful in their outcomes receive more money. If that is true, that would be equivalent to some local high schools receiving more money because they are more successful in their exams. He does not believe it should be based on successful outcomes per credit. Vice Chancellor Mackinnon replied that the funding formula remains based on weighted student credit hours completed; it is not dependent upon graduation. Vice Chancellor Mackinnon also said that he believes it is time to take a look at the community college funding formula especially in a post-pandemic world, and it is important not to develop a model that hurts the four-year institutions. The Board of Regents has not taken an official stance on this yet. The funding formula also does not recognize non-credit workforce courses. Mr. Solorio thanked Vice Chancellor Mackinnon for his response and explained that this is a very important issue for him that needs to be solved. Regent Carvalho said that while the Board has not taken an official stance, she is an advocate of community colleges and agrees that the formula should be looked at.
- Ms. McFarling-Kelly mentioned that Student Life and Leadership Development is creating a Student Leadership Institute which connects students with local businesses and provides internship and leadership opportunities. Chair Robison and Vice Chair Guzman commended the creation of the Institute and emphasized its value.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th at 11am.
- Ms. Kihuen thanked all of the staff who helped make the meeting happen and also Chair Robison.

13. Adjourn

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Stephanie Knoblach