

Western Nevada College and Great Basin College

Meeting Minutes for the Chancellor Candidate Open Forum and Joint Meeting of the:

- **Western Nevada College Institutional Advisory Council**
- **Western Nevada College Foundation**
- **Associated Students of Western Nevada**
- **Great Basin College Institutional Advisory Council**
- **GBC Foundation**
- **GBC Student Government Association**

Date and Time:

Friday, June 23, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Western Nevada College
2201 W. College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89703
Reynolds Building, Room 101

Video conference from Location to:

Western Nevada College - Fallon
160 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406
Virgil Getto Hall, Room 308

Great Basin College – Elko
1500 College Parkway, Elko, NV 89801
High Tech Center, Room 123

Great Basin College – Ely
2115 Bobcat Drive, Ely, NV 89301
Room 112

Great Basin College - Pahrump
551 E. Calvada Blvd., Pahrump, NV 89048
Room 122

Great Basin College – Winnemucca
5490 Kluncy Canyon Rd., Winnemucca, NV 89445
Room 108

Call to Order of the Joint Meeting of the Western Nevada College Institutional Advisory Council, Western Nevada College Foundation, Associated Students of Western Nevada, Great Basin College Institutional Advisory Council, GBC Foundation, and GBC Student Government Association (the "Institution Groups").

Members present from the Institutional Groups:

- Miette Lopez, ASWN Vice President
- Elizabeth Bounds, ASWN Senator
- Rob Hooper, WNC Institutional Advisory Council, Chair
- Amy Clemens, WNC Foundation, Chair
- Carol McIntosh, WNC Foundation, Vice Chair
- Kerstin Plemmel, WNC Foundation Board of Trustees
- Adam Huckleby, GBC SGA, Pahrump Senator

1. Public Comment

Information Only

Nick Vaskov, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, opened the meeting and called for public comment at each location. There was no public comment.

2. Open Forum with Dr. Thom Reilly

Information Only

Dean Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents, introduced Dr. Thom Reilly as the current director for the Morrison Institute for Public Policy and a professor at the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University, as well as professor emeritus from San Diego State University. Chief of Staff Gould added Dr. Reilly is former Clark County Manager as well as former director of the Child Welfare Division in Nevada. Dr. Reilly then introduced himself. Dr. Reilly discussed his experience and its relation to four aspirational goals for NSHE: (1.) Creating access and breaking down barriers to higher education; (2.) Improving completion rates for two-year and four-year degrees; (3.) Being responsive to and a leader in developing programs to meet the needs of a rapidly-changing workforce; (4) Developing an interdisciplinary approach by which students and professors engage with the community to solve pressing problems in the community. Dr. Reilly explained that, in terms of governance, the presidents and the board are his key constituents and the chancellor's office is the key communicator in aligning what the expectations of the Board of Regents are to the institutions.

3. Public Comment

Information Only

Chief of Staff Gould opened the floor for public comment.

- Adam Huckabee from Pahrump, SGA Senator asked Dr. Reilly how, as chancellor, he would improve the SGA oversight of the student government and what student government can do.
 - Dr. Reilly responded by explaining that shared governance is the underpinning of how higher education works and that students would have the best chance of having their voices heard by participating in committees like the Curriculum committee. While Dr. Reilly defers to the presidents in regards to student governments, Dr. Reilly has an open door policy to discuss larger issues students are interested in pursuing.
- Georgia White asked how Dr. Reilly perceived the different roles of community colleges, universities and the state college, in regards to “developmental education” or preparing students so they can take college level courses.
 - Dr. Reilly replied that, broadly speaking, because Nevada is one system, the transfer to the four-year institutions is more seamless than in states where community colleges are a separate system. Research and evidence suggests students who do transfer, do better academically and are more likely to graduate. Dr. Reilly is aware of the tension around the basic level of requirements that can be allowed for a student to transfer from a community college to a four-year institution and added there should not be issues around that. Dr. Reilly said that the challenges around that should be identified and solutions provided that benefit all students. In terms of preparation, Dr. Reilly said that requires a lot of support services so students are successful and they don’t get overwhelmed or drop out.
- Susan Howland, director of Computing Services at WNC, asked what role Dr. Reilly sees community colleges filling in the NSHE system.
 - Dr. Reilly said the community colleges should be at the forefront of workforce development and also an equal partner in the quest to provide education.
 - Ms. Howland agreed about the role of community colleges, but added community colleges are held to some of the same standards as the universities in terms of the funding formula and that is difficult because the community colleges serve a different set of students than the universities.
 - Dr. Reilly is open to continuing discussion on this issue and said he had heard that comment several times.
- Caroline Macintosh, at GBC Ely, asked if Dr. Reilly would be encouraging the other community colleges to replicate Western’s successful Jump Start program that allows high school students to graduate with an AA degree and high school diploma at the same time.
 - Dr. Reilly replied that he is anxious to learn more about the program because it sounds impressive and it is the type of thinking and programming the system needs to increase access.

- Ms. Macintosh added that the governor has added more money to the pot for this, so the governor is firmly behind it and wants to see more of it.
- Jim Strange, WNC Math Professor, Faculty Senate Chair and outgoing state president of the Nevada Faculty Alliance, said he is wearing his NFA hat while asking this question. The NFA has some concern, based on a book Dr. Reilly wrote, that Dr. Reilly is against public sector unions and is for at-will employment of public employees. Three of the four community colleges now have collective bargaining and this system has a long tradition of tenure for faculty. Jim Strange wondered if Dr. Reilly could clarify his position collective bargaining and tenure.
 - Dr. Reilly respectfully disagreed that was what the book said and stated he has never been opposed to public sector unions, although a distinction was made between public and private sector in the book. Nowhere in the book will one find that Dr. Reilly said collective bargaining isn't essential or important. The book did discuss the issue of at-will employment and that with other kinds of protections in place, it is a possibility to look at. In terms of collective bargaining and tenure, to ensure that the System is competitive it is extremely important. Dr. Reilly said that, as chancellor, the last interest he would have is to be involved with collective bargaining; that is best left to the institutions and presidents.
- Gemma Ramirez asked what thoughts and plans Dr. Reilly has on the recruitment and retention of the underrepresented faculty and students, and specifically DACA students.
 - Dr. Reilly stressed the importance of finding out what is preventing individuals from attending higher education and the institutions need to be aggressive in getting representation, not just the students to get them educated, but also to get representation in the faculty. Dr. Reilly said disproportionality is an important issue and the representation at the institutions should reflect the communities in which they are located and serve.
- Lilly Leon-Vicks, coordinator of Student Life at WN and member of the Ethnic Diversity and Inclusion Committee, asked if there are any specific strategies that would be expected of the various institutions and departments.
 - Dr. Reilly said there are tried and true measures to increase access and retention and most revolve around mentoring and providing resources. In terms of retention, one successful method is to employ coaches who make phone calls to students who aren't on track to graduate and find out what the barriers are and then connect the student with the appropriate support services.
 - Ms. Leon-Vicks clarified that the question was about faculty and staff.
 - Dr. Reilly said one of the best strategies to recruit and retain faculty and staff is not to rely on ads in the paper, but to find successful individuals in the community who would be excited by working for the institution and convince them that they would be

supported. The other part is groups like the one Lilly Leon-Vicks belongs to providing strategies to try.

- Rob Hooper, NNDA executive director and chair of the WNC IAC, took the opportunity to compliment WNC on the programs and solutions it has created and said there are organizations looking to expand to northern Nevada because of what is going on at Western. Mr. Hooper also thanked NSHE for creating the Institutional Advisory Councils because they provide the opportunity for the community to interface closely with the presidents as well as the chancellor and Board of Regents. Mr. Hooper said Carson City gets lumped in with the Reno market in terms of thought processes, planning and funding and, even though it is only 15 minutes away, it is a totally different market. Mr. Hooper asked Dr. Reilly how, on a system level, this can be used as a strength.
 - Dr. Reilly replied that the Issue of resource allocation is an ongoing conversation and needs to be very transparent. Dr. Reilly added that the different strengths, assets and populations need to be brought to the table and discussed; that the challenges the funding formula is creating need to be brought back to the table to determine what kind of tension is being created and how that can be reduced.
- Mark Ghan said funding is largely based on enrollment, so that makes WNC a competitor with the university to the north, much more so than collaborator. Mr. Ghan was curious what Dr. Reilly's take is on that.
 - Dr. Reilly responded that the model can create some tension and competition, but it is the model and NSHE is one system with a goal to educate. Dr. Reilly explained the challenges being created need to be brought back to the table for dialogue.
- Rich Vlaich, Veterans Pre-Admissions Advisor at WNC, asked Dr. Reilly to share his experience with veterans.
 - Dr. Reilly shared his experience and said much of the focus was on educational attainment and looking at the challenges to getting a four-year degree, as well as looking at innovative outreach and hiring staff who are veterans themselves and have a specific understanding of the challenges to getting degrees.
- Judith Cordia asked if Dr. Reilly were a kitchen utensil, what would he be.
 - Dr. Reilly chose a blender and provided an example of how Dr. Reilly took a leadership role in addressing an issue of homeless in the Las Vegas area and brought people from the various affected communities together to uncover the core issue and find a solution. Dr. Reilly added that, if appointed chancellor, he hopes to be viewed as someone who broke down barriers and helped all the institutions become the most effective they can be.
- Lilly Leon-Vicks said the Morrison Institute has a Latino Center and was created specifically because of the changing population in Arizona. Ms. Leon-Vicks added that by 2062, it is estimated that Nevada will be 60% Pacific Islander and Latino, and the narrative around that

isn't that positive right now. Ms. Leon-Vicks asked Dr. Reilly what the role of higher education is in changing the narrative.

- Dr. Reilly said one role is to tell the story through evidence in plain spoken language and engage community groups around discussion. Dr. Reilly added another role is to create think tanks and forums for discussion for civil issues around which disagreement exists. At the Morrison Institute, a conference on criminal justice reform brought together the ACLU and the Koch Foundation as sponsors. Dr. Reilly said providing evidence-based research that makes decision-making possible is also important.
- John Kinkella shared recent successes of WNC's Jump Start College and especially the impact on small, rural communities and encouraged Dr. Reilly to learn more about the program.
 - Dr. Reilly said he hoped that was an invitation and added that it was obviously a narrative that resonated with the governor and should be shared with the Board of Regents as well.
- Dean Gould asked if there were questions in any of the other sites and there were none.
- Angela Ramirez shared with Dr. Reilly how Jump Start College changed her life, including that it clarified she wanted to pursue a degree in engineering and thanked Dr. Reilly for wanting to learn about the program.
 - Dr. Reilly congratulated Ms. Ramirez and said getting more students and faculty in front of legislators to tell their stories would be impactful.
- Caroline Macintosh in Ely asked if Dr. Reilly could send out his curriculum vitae.
 - Dean Gould explained that Dr. Reilly's curriculum vitae is on the NSHE website under the agendas section for the meeting on Monday as one of the supplemental materials.
 - Dr. Reilly also said the curriculum vitae can be found at thomreillypublications.com.
- Eric York, Math faculty at WNC, said that today Dr. Reilly had mentioned access to higher education is a high priority and talked about the of role of community colleges in workforce development and also in terms of feeders to the System's universities and had said the discussion about resource allocation is a conversation that can be continued. Mr. York asked if Dr. Reilly is willing to commit explicitly, right now, to re-opening that dialogue and to re-looking at how resources within the system are allocated.
 - Dr. Reilly said yes, definitely and that it is an issue that constantly needs to be evaluated. Dr. Reilly added that the conversation needs to be really transparent as well. Dr. Reilly said a great step in the right direction is the recently hired Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges who will help give a voice to the issues that face the community colleges. Dr. Reilly also believes the discussion about whether or not the community colleges should be in a separate system — and Dr. Reilly feels they should not be separate — is a conversation that should be ongoing.

Chief of Staff Gould turned the meeting over to Vice Chancellor Vaskov who announced that the link to the survey is on the cards that were passed around or the link can be accessed from the NSHE website. The survey closes at 9:00 p.m. tonight to allow the information to be compiled and summarized before the special Board of Regents meeting on Monday.

Vice Chancellor Vaskov asked for any final public comment. Caroline Macintosh in Ely was grateful for the opportunity and wished Dr. Reilly the best of luck. No other public comments were made.

Chief of Staff Gould thanked all in attendance and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Conrad, Assistant to the President, Western Nevada College