

**SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES MANUAL**

**CHAPTER 15**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS**

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**Section 1. Community College Institutional Advisory Council, Formation, Charge and Procedures**

Nevada's Board of Regents is committed to ensuring that Nevada's community colleges are operating at their maximum potential, making the most effective and efficient use of available resources while meeting the unique needs of the communities they serve.

Community colleges have been identified as the workforce development engines of our nation, and therefore, the Board of Regents recognizes the need and value in having a direct line of communication with the communities served by the community colleges. As we collectively identify the workforce training necessary for the growth and sustainability of industries in our communities; and we maximize the potential for the community's college to deliver curricula that will meet the needs of a diverse population, the Board will form Institutional Advisory Councils to serve as active links between the college and community.

**a. Formation.**

No later than December 31, 2014, each Nevada community college shall establish an Institutional Advisory Council. On or before December 1, 2014, the Chancellor, after consultation with each college President and local stakeholders, will forward to the chair of the Board of Regents nominations for appointments to the Institutional Advisory Council. The chair of the Board of Regents shall appoint an advisory council for each community college, consisting of not less than seven or more than fifteen members composed of residents from the area in which the community college is located and serves. The elected chair of each local community college advisory council shall serve as an ex-officio advisory member on the Nevada Board of Regents Community College Committee. When circumstances dictate, either the college President or the chair of the college advisory council, upon consultation with the members of the council, may recommend the appointment of additional members to the Chair of the Board. In addition, the President of the college may request the Chair of the Board to name such ex-officio members of the college advisory council as the President may deem necessary or useful to better serve the purposes of the council.

Of members first appointed to the Institutional Advisory Council, one-half of the appointees shall be appointed for five years and the remaining appointees for three years, so that the initial terms shall end on December 31 of an odd numbered year (i.e. December 31, 2019, and December 31, 2017, respectively for initial appointees). Student members shall serve for one-year terms. Thereafter, terms of non-student members appointed to the Institutional Advisory Council shall be for four years. The members of an advisory council may be reappointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents for a second term. Members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation but any reasonable expenses incurred in attending the meeting shall be reimbursed.

**b. Institutional Advisory Council Charge.**

The purpose of the local Institutional Advisory Council is to ensure the linkage of the college to the community it serves and to anticipate future regional educational trends. The council will meet at least quarterly to advise the college President, the Vice Chancellor for community colleges, the Chancellor, and the Board of Regents Community College Committee on questions regarding operation of the college. The council shall function and exercise the powers set forth by the Nevada Board of Regents. The responsibilities of the council are to:

- Advise the college President, the Vice Chancellor for community colleges, the Chancellor, and the Board of Regents on the long-term educational needs of the area served by the college, as well as on other matters identified by the college President, the Chancellor, and Board of Regents. The council may provide advice, guidance, and information in the areas of student and employer engagement; access and affordability; operating and capital budgets; land and property acquisition and use; instructional programs, including proposed degrees and certificate programs; serving under-represented populations; diversity and inclusion issues and admissions and academic standards, including performance indicators.
- Serve, along with the college President, as body of liaisons between the college and area employers in order to facilitate assessment of employment, training and educational needs of students.
- Serve, along with the college President, as a body of liaisons between the college and local school boards, county commissioners, city councils, other local elected officials, and other relevant groups or persons.
- Respond to specific information requests from the Chancellor and the Nevada Board of Regents on behalf of the communities served by the college.
- Promote the college's programs and services.

**c. Membership.**

Except as it may be enlarged as provided above, each council will be comprised of seven to fifteen members who serve a term of four years and are recommended for appointment to the Chair of the Nevada Board of Regents by the college President. Representatives will include members from the various constituencies served by the college to ensure broad input from all critical stakeholders. The membership of the council shall be reflective of the community and stakeholders served by the college. In addition to members who are appointed to serve on the council, a representative of the faculty nominated by the respective faculty senate and a student nominated by the respective student government shall serve as ex-officio members of the council. If a member of the council resigns prior to the conclusion of their term, a replacement will be nominated by the college President. The nomination will be forwarded to the Chancellor, who will make the recommendation to the Chair of the Board of Regents for appointment.

**d. Election of Officers.**

The election of chair and vice chair will take place biennially, during odd numbered years, at the first regularly scheduled council meeting of the state fiscal year (the first regularly scheduled meeting following July 1). The term of these offices shall be two years. Nominations may be made by any member of the council, and the vote of a majority of the council shall be required to elect the chair and vice chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the council. The vice chair shall preside at all meetings of the council during the absence of the chair. Should both officers be absent, the college President shall preside. The council chair is to sign all documents to which the council is a party, and which have been approved by the council, including any recommendations made to the standing committee for its consideration. If the chair or vice chair resign or are removed for absenteeism as provided in these guidelines, the council shall elect a new officer.

**e. Meetings and Agenda.**

All meetings of the council shall be conducted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Agendas for meetings of the council shall be compiled by the college President in consultation with the chairperson. Individuals wishing to place items on the agenda must deliver supporting documents to the College President's Office or to the council chairperson not less than 14 days prior to the next meeting of the council.

**f. Minutes.**

The Office of the President shall be responsible for maintaining the minutes of the advisory council. A summary of council decisions and policy recommendations will be included at the conclusion of the minutes. All minutes of the council shall be forwarded to the Regent Community College Committee which may consider any recommendations from the council for inclusion on its next regular agenda.

**g. Attendance**

Council members who miss three (3) consecutive regular meetings may be replaced in the discretion of the chair and college President. An absence may be excused for good cause by the chair if the chair is notified in advance of the meeting. Replacement of any member who has not completed their term shall be made by the Chair of the Nevada Board of Regents from the name or names nominated by the college President.

**h. Council/Member Expenses**

The institution is not authorized to provide office space, cell phones, computers and IT equipment, or business cards to the council or its members. However, any reasonable expenses incurred in attending the meeting(s) shall be reimbursed upon approval by the college President.

(Added 9/15; A. 12/15, 9/16, 12/16)

## **Section 2. Institutional Advisory Council Operations**

### **a. Introduction.**

The Institutional Advisory Council bridges the community colleges and the community(ies) they serve, developing relationships, sharing community perspectives, advancing institutional missions, building partnerships, and providing advice. It is not a governing board, but a community link to the institution, designed to increase connectivity with our service region.

As stated in the Board of Regents *Handbook*, Article III, the elected board maintains exclusive control and administration of the Nevada System of Higher Education and its institutions as established in the Nevada Constitution. The elected Board is responsible for the management and oversight of the colleges and universities. It provides a strategic direction for each as part of a larger statewide plan and also ensures effective collaboration among the institutions to achieve those goals.

Each institution also operates using a shared governance model that requires communication across multiple administrative faculty, staff, and student groups and requires many operational and technical decisions to go through committee processes.

### **b. Purpose.**

Our community colleges are the workforce development engines of our nation, state and region; and the Nevada Board of Regents recognized the need and value of having a direct line of communication between the communities served by each college, the college administration, and the Board of Regents Community College Committee. Each Institutional Advisory Council, comprised of representatives from the communities' public and private sectors, is charged with providing counsel and feedback to the college President, the Vice Chancellor for community colleges, and the Chancellor on issues brought before the council related to the growth and sustainability of industries in our communities, and methods by which the college may maximize the potential to effectively and efficiently deliver curriculum that most appropriately meets the needs of the diverse population served. Also, in consultation with the college President, certain issues and opportunities will be presented to the Community College Committee for consideration and action by the Committee and/or the Board of Regents.

### **c. Council Composition.**

The Institutional Advisory Councils are comprised of community volunteers, nominated by the college President and appointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents, who are interested in advancing their college and the education, training and empowerment of their local community.

### **d. Council Guidelines for Meetings and Council Conduct.**

1. The council is to meet at least quarterly on a regularly scheduled day or sequence of dates mutually agreed to by a majority of the council and the college President. Additional meetings may be scheduled as deemed necessary by the council chair and vice chair, and by mutual agreement of a majority of the council and the college President. Notification guidelines, meeting agendas and postings must follow the Nevada Open Meeting Law, *Nevada Revised Statutes*, Chapter 241.

2. The college President in consultation with the chair is to set forth a meeting agenda comprised of issues or questions related to the operation of the college and the programs, and opportunities that will sustain or improve the delivery of service by the college to the communities it serves. Council members wishing to place items on the agenda must deliver a succinct and accurate description of the agenda item, with supporting documents to the College President's Office or to the council chair no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the next scheduled regular meeting of the council; or may propose future agenda items during meetings under "new business" on the agenda. Items suggested in the new business portion of any public meeting may be scheduled for inclusion on the next Institutional Advisory Council agenda at the discretion of the college President and council chair.
3. The council is to identify and advise the college President, Vice Chancellor and Chancellor of any long term educational needs of students, and provide guidance on how to best respond.
4. The council shall hear and respond to specific information requests from the Chancellor, the Nevada Board of Regents Community College Committee and/or the Nevada Board of Regents on behalf of the communities served by the college.
5. Collectively, the council may vote to recommend strategic-level counsel to the college President, the Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges, the Chancellor and the Board of Regents Community College Committee on any of the issues designated in the charge approved by the Board.
6. Collectively, the council may ask for documents, data or information from the college to make such recommendations and should do so either through the chair in consultation with the college President or by a vote of the majority during public meetings.
7. The council should promote the college's programs and services within the communities and constituencies served by the college. Collectively and with the college President's input and support, the council may decide to undertake the planning and implementation of events and activities that increase the connectivity of the college to the community. The President must approve of any said events and/or activities if any college resources, including property, equipment or staff, are required.
8. The council should act, along with the college President, as liaisons between the college and area employers to facilitate the assessment of employment opportunities, and the associated training needs; and provide a comprehensive report to the college President for potential inclusion and discussion on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council.

9. The council should act, along with the college President, as liaisons and/or ambassadors for the college with local school boards, city councils, county commissions, and other elected bodies and individual elected officials. However, a council member (or members) should not, under any circumstances, represent themselves as speaking for the college, the college administration, Vice Chancellor or Chancellor, without the express consent of the college President, and full knowledge of the council. Council members wishing to represent the council's opinions and decisions should do so only after the items have been discussed, evaluated and/or voted upon in open public meetings by a quorum of the council. Members of the council wishing to express personal opinions and perspectives about issues pertaining to the college should preface those statements as personal. However, any comments made at a public meeting should never refer to the professional competence or performance of any specific individual, because the Open Meeting Law requires prior written notice to any person whose conduct may be discussed at a public meeting.
10. Collectively, the council may provide community feedback to the college President on initiatives and programs related to their charge or on items that the President requests their input upon. Community feedback is defined as input from council members' professional and personal contacts that they deem representative of larger constituent groups that stand to benefit from college services. Council members may represent these perspectives by putting items on meeting agendas to discuss in a public venue, where they may collectively vote to discern the council's recommendation to be shared with the President, Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges, the Chancellor, and Board of Regents Community College Committee.
11. Collectively, the council may also deliberate and vote on perspectives to voice to the community to advocate on behalf of the institution and its students.
12. The council chair and college President may jointly create sub-committees, if necessary, that will work on issues beneficial to the work of the council as a whole; and are assigned by the chair, and college President. However, due to the resources the college will have to commit to the operation of sub-committees, the forming of them is discouraged unless absolutely necessary for the effective operation of the council. Procedurally, the chair and the college President (or their designees) shall be a member of each sub-committee. The chair of the sub-committee shall be a council member, and be appointed by the council chair. The membership of the sub-committee shall not exceed seven (7) members. The college President may assign additional college staff to subcommittees as non-voting members. All sub-committee meetings must follow the Nevada Open Meeting Law, *Nevada Revised Statutes*, Chapter 241.
13. Prior to the Community College Committee regularly scheduled meetings, the council chair, or vice chair in the absence of the chair, shall meet with the college President in person or via a telephone conference to review the minutes of previous council meetings or subcommittee meetings and determine any agenda items that are to be brought before the Community College Committee for their consideration.

14. The council chair is to provide a report to the Community College Committee on council activities and/or selected agenda items that have been discussed at regular council meetings.  
(Added 9/15; A. 12/15, 9/16)