

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Friday, February 22th, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center Room 523

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Alvarez called the Committee on Public Affairs meeting to order at 1:06 pm in Room 523, Fifth Floor of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. Presiding secretary, Dominique Hernandez.

2. ROLL CALL

Senator Alvarez, Ahmed, Green, Dobbs, and Westerman were present.

Senator Aziz was absent excused.

Senator Green was tardy excused.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vic Redding was the Vice President of Administration and Finance and he came to present to the committee. He said Hannah asked him to stop by and share his thought on the Legislature, where they were in the process, and what they could expect in the last three months of the legislative session. He had been back on campus for a year and a half as Vice President of Administration and Finance. Before that he spent 12 and a half years in the Chancellor's office where he was the Vice Chancellor of Finance so he was the Legislative point person for all things financial at the legislator for many sessions. He joked that he could talk about finance and the legislative process all afternoon but he would save them from that. He wanted to cover some of UNR's budget requests, where they stood in the process, and then leave a few minutes for questions. Their legislative process started as soon as a legislative session ended. They looked at where they were, at the initiatives to move forward, and to start planning. That process started with a lot of campus input. When Noah was the President of ASUN he had a seat at the table to help them develop what their priorities were. Through the process, it ultimately to the Board of Regents, their governing board.

Vic Redding passed around papers and said the first column was what they started out with as their request. Their main instructional budget was a formula budget. They got funded from the legislator by the amount of credit hours that students completed successfully. The credits were weighted because it took more to teach an engineering 402 class than it took to teach English 101. Those were done every even year. So last year, fiscal '18, all the credit hours across campus were gathered up and weighted to compare to fiscal '16 to see how much more work they had completed. Those were then covered into a dollar amount which was about \$165 per weighted student credit hour. That totaled in 6.4 million dollars in new money that was coming into the institution. If the 2019 session moved the formula funding forward, which he believed they

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would, they'd get funded for the next two years for fiscal '20 & '21 for the work they completed in fiscal '18. The 6.4 million dollars coming into the institution was to pay them for instructional activity they were already completing. While it seemed like a lot of new money, it was already obligated into the classroom and support functions. The formula funded everything from the instructional faculty to the operation in maintenance, student support services, advising, utilities and many other things. It was all inclusive. They had spoken about the new engineering building and the new research base that would bring to the institution. The state funded research based separately and they would get an additional 1.3 million and then 1.6 million in the second year. That was pretty much all obligated to maintenance associated with that research base. He credited the students last year that were part of the discussion last year about the tuition and fee increase that was proposed to the Regents and was recommended to the governor. The increase in fees covered their inflationary costs. If they thought of the university as a three legged stool, there was a state component which was the biggest, philanthropy and donor funds, and finally the student tuition and fees that made up a third of the operational budget. Therefore, it was significant that tuition and fees kept up with inflation just like the other parts of the budget did. The 4% increase completely stayed on campus and completely went to fund the costs associated. The governor did recommend a COLA, a cost to living adjustment, for all state employees including university employees, which would start July 1st of next year. It was good news because it helped them keep good employees and the state paid 100% of that cost so there was no university obligation on that. All of the requests in the governor's budget totaled 19 million new dollars for the next fiscal year and 24.8 new dollars for the next fiscal year. The university asked the state to consider some new programs and something in addition to inflation. One of their biggest bottle necks on campus was class labs, they were booked solid from dawn until dusk. But, the state only funded instruction for the fall semester, spring semester, and nursing summer semesters. It was an old school model because back in the day, everyone used to go back to the farms in the summer. It didn't seem to be like that anymore. The student body said if there were classes offered in the summer they'd take the classes and complete their degrees quicker and get out into the workforce quicker. From a financial standpoint, that was a great deal because they could use their facilities for 12 months a year. The only revenue they got in the summer was registration fees. Courses that used class labs were generally smaller, very labor intensive, and they costed a lot more to put on compared to registration fees. So, they asked the state to step up and do their commitment for instructions in the summer as well. The idea got a lot of discussion and a lot of support but unfortunately it didn't make it into the governor's budget. One thing he was optimistic about with the legislative session was that discussion would continue. The institution had also asked for some addition performance funding but that didn't get a lot of traction and wasn't in the governor's budget. One thing that was in the governor's budget though was a capacity enhancement. Their funding made it really difficult to start up new programs. For instance, if they started a new program this year they'd have to fund it out of reserves this year, next year, in fiscal '21 until the 21' legislature picked up the funding and funded them in '22 and '23. So it was really hard to grow new programs with that model. They asked for the ability to grow capacity in their targeted area, which was advanced manufacturing. The elevator pitch was how to make new things or old things with new technology. Tesla and Apple were great examples of advanced manufacturing. They asked the state for more money to stand up more initiatives for advanced manufacturing and this was in the governor's recommended budget so he was optimistic it would continue. It would enable them to hire 20 new faculty members that would start next fall. Five of them would support the advanced manufacturing, chemistry labs, and the really expensive microscopes. The other 15 would be ten year track research faculty in this area. In addition, they also got 25 graduate assistant positions built into this. It was science, engineering, business, communications, and everything that surrounded advanced manufacturing not just the nuts and bolts of the factory floor. The searches for the faculty members were underway. They wouldn't

offer them until they knew they had money in the bank but they wanted to be ready to move as soon as they did have the money. UNR had asked for addition faculty compensation but it didn't make a recommendation in the governor's budget. As the land grant institution in Nevada, UNR sponsored a lot of programs that benefited the entire state. They'd asked in some strategic growth in those areas but that also didn't make the governor's recommended budget either. By law, the Governor had to submit to the legislature a balanced budget. The economic forum looked at all of the revenue crosses across the state, sales tax, property tax, gaming tax, and now marijuana tax was a major component of the budget. They did a projection of how much money the state would have to spend. By law, the Governor had to balance to that, which he did. The good news was that they made it into his budget. The bad news was that there wasn't a lot of money sitting on the table. In order for them to add new initiatives in the legislature either had to take money away from someone else in the balanced budget and find a really big error in someone else's budget. The third option was when the economic forum group met in early May and redid their projections. Sometimes that added more money. He was optimistic about their other requests like the summer school budget but it would mostly be if that May economic forum meeting occurred and they put more money on the table. Every state agency had their list of unfunded priorities though so the competition for those dollars was really intense. The Governor submitted his budget in mid-February and they had their first meeting at the end of January which was mostly informational. Next Tuesday at 8 was when the real work on this started. They were going to do an in depth review with the legislature where they were really going to pick their budget apart program by program. It wasn't going to just be for UNR but for all the institutions. That was when they truly got a feel for the legislature's priorities and what they might not like. Hannah Jackson invited him to the meeting to speak about what roles students might have in discussions. From someone who had much experience with this, the legislators didn't want to hear from him they wanted to hear from their constituents. If students couldn't attend in person they did respond to emails as well even though they got a lot of them. Vic Redding said he would be happy to take questions.

Senator Westerman asked if the proposed funding for summer classes would affect student tuition or would it just provide the university with more resources to teach.

Vic Redding said it wouldn't increase the dollar amount the student body paid in registration fees and tuition. In his analysis, it really didn't cost the state anymore regardless. The state of Nevada was committed to providing state support for the rough 120 credits it would take to complete a degree. Students pay their registration fees and the state would pay the credit hours. Whether the state paid for it for the fall and spring model or the fall, spring, and summer model, it would still be 120 credits per student. Therefore it wouldn't cost the state any more money but it would just be a cost that came sooner. It would allow the university to use the buildings for 12 months out of the year. Higher education thought it was a winning situation for everyone. It was just that the state had to balance their budget and they'd have to pay for it now rather than later. If summer school interested students, it was definitely discussed in depth as they were putting the budget together. He usually wasn't very optimistic in Carson City but he thought this point had a chance.

Senator Alvarez said she understood that nursing students required one summer semester. She asked if that requirement would be expanded to multiple colleges throughout the University.

Vic Redding said absolutely. The first pilot case for summer school was for all the STEM fields because their bottleneck was those class labs. So, if they could get more stem students enrolled during the summer they could utilize the labs better and take some pressure off of the fall and spring semesters. It was also a much more manageable cost for the summer. For STEM field's

summer school would cost 15 and a half million. If they did it for all fields it was closer to 40 million which was just too big of an ask. Ultimately though he could see this rolling out to a lot more majors.

Senator Alvarez asked how they would be able to fund professors over the summer.

Vic Redding said there was a task force that the Provost administered. He believed there was student representation on it but he was unsure. There was a number of them who would prefer to do their research in the fall or the spring but they a lot of them relied on different environments so maybe they be more willing to do spring and summer or fall and summer. There was also a group of faculty that would prefer to be on 12 month contracts to teach all year round. Community colleges actually used that model a lot more. So, there were lots of options to make that happen but he thought it would probably be on a college to college basis depending on the faculty. They started putting those plans in place and were going to continue to do so in hopes that those plans got funded.

Senator Westerman asked if it would eventually affect colleges other than the STEM colleges. She said she was a liberal arts double major and she, as well as her friends, had trouble finding classes over the summer.

Vic Redding said he thought that was the end goal. He thought the fall-spring model worked 100 years ago but it didn't make sense to continue the model in current times. It was just a big culture change.

Senator Alvarez asked if students were interested in the faculty compensation. She said she understood the importance of it personally but she wanted to know how it impacted students overall.

Vic Redding said Nevada was losing ground in its faculty compensation. They wanted to avoid a lot of turnover in their faculty because it was very costly and it was even more damaging from a continuity standpoint. They wanted long-term, committed faculty that developed their research and service base here. It really turned into a recruitment and retention issue. Nevada was just losing ground on this as their peers in other states did continue to offer performance based salary adjustments. They used to offer regular, annual performance based adjustments for their faculty but it was halted during the recession. They were actually giving pay cuts to everyone during the recession. Since the recession has ended that was just one area that the state had not restored yet.

Senator Alvarez asked if he knew the current faculty turnover rate.

Vic Redding said he did not. It would vary by discipline though.

Senator Ahmed asked which enhancement request was the most important.

Vic Redding said the summer school, advanced manufacturing, and the performance pool were all ranked #1 by the Board of Regents so he would say those were all equally important. System wide, they'd heard that UNR and UNLV would advocate very strongly for the summer school and performance funding. As the Regents ranked these, the next on the list would be the faculty salary compression. The #1 UNR specific request was the cooperative extension build out. It was a much targeted growth in 4H and in other community based activities. From a director's perspective, it was the summer school and performance funding.

Director Worrall asked how the process went for these priorities to get decided as well as who was involved. Because she was laying groundwork for the future department of Legislative Affairs so they could be more involved in the process in the future.

Vic Redding said when the Legislature ended on the 24th and they got ready for the 21st session, the President started with their cabinet. They identified what happened in the 19th session and what they wanted to discuss further. The President also met with ASUN and GSA on a monthly basis and collects that input. He also met with faculty Senate and collected that input as well. They started putting it all together with the help of those groups to discuss what they would then propose to the chancellor's office next fall. At the Chancellor's office they would then go around campus and ask them for their priorities. Which would be different. TMCC would have a different priority than UNR would most likely. Then the Chancellor would meet with the President to make a recommendation to the Board of Regents. That process usually starts around January of '20. The Board of Regents, the elected board, and the governing board would determine NSHE's priorities and that took place around the spring of '20. They then would determine a final budget request in the summer of '20. By law, it had to be sent to the governor by September 1st of '20. The governor would take higher education requests plus every other state agencies requests. Then he would put together his priorities for the '21 legislature in January of '20. Then they'd do it all again. Input on campus would start late this summer and early fall.

Director Worrall said thank you.

Senator Alvarez thanked Vic Redding.

Vic Redding said he hoped to see some of them in Carson City next Wednesday.

Vic Redding and Dr. Beattie left the room at 1:35 p.m.

4. **MINUTES**

There are no minutes to be discussed at this time.

5. **REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

There was no report.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business to be discussed.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **S. Res. 86- A Resolution in Support of Sexual Assault Survivors in the State of Nevada**

Senator Alvarez sought a motion to favorable recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of Sexual Assault Survivors in the State of Nevada.

Senator Westerman moved to favorably recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of Sexual Assault Survivors in the State of Nevada.

Senator Ahmed seconded.

Senator Alvarez said that she wrote this resolution in regards to a lot of different factors that had been happening around the university. From what she had heard was that sexual assault had been a big factor on campus. Within the resolution itself she discussed Nevada's statistics from the Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, discussing how it impacted college students, going on into town hall comments. On page 3 line item 11-16 they had the comments made from town hall discussing the atmosphere of sexual assault on campus. Proceeding into all the campus resources, sexual assault didn't end when students left campus. The purpose was to push their assembly and state to consider further resources and protections for victims of sexual violence.

Senator Westerman said she thought this was a great resolution and it took a big step for their students. She thought making it a priority issue was great.

Senator Dobbs said she really liked it and supported it. She really liked page 4 where it mentioned the specific bills that were requested to be enacted.

Senator Ahmed said he fully supported the resolution. He was just wondering why page 2 line items 18 and 19 was included, "whereas 15% of college students experience sexual assault in either September, October, or November."

Senator Alvarez said she wanted to include that sexual assault did happen during a specific period. Particularly during the fall semester after legislature ended. She wanted to implement something after legislature ends to increase student safety because statistically, sexual assault is more likely to occur at that time. She understood the kind of length of the solution was a concern but she believed in order to be more convincing of why it was necessary was to make it as long as it was.

Senator Westerman said the last resolution they wrote refrained from naming the fraternity. She asked why the fraternity was named here and not in the previous resolution.

Senator Alvarez said for reference, it was page 3 line items 6-8. The reason why it wasn't included in the previous legislation was because it was written during the active investigation of the fraternity. Since that investigation had been closed she thought it was necessary to provide the name.

The resolution passed.

b. S. Res. 86- A Resolution in Support of AB-124

Senator Alvarez sought a motion to favorably recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of AB-124.

Senator Ahmed moved to recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of AB-124.

Senator Westerman seconded.

Senator Alvarez said this resolution was also lengthy. She was looking through the actual assembly bill 124 and she noticed that it actually discussed providing a medical care plan for female victims of sexual assault.

Senator Green entered the room at 1:42 p.m.

Senator Alvarez said it required all hospitals to create a comprehensive plan to provide to female victims of sexual assault as well as providing emergency contraception for them. On page 3 line items 22, 25, the entire page 4, and page 5 line items 1-12 just signified the actual language of the amendment that would be put on NRS chapter 442.

Senator Westerman asked if hospitals would be required to fund these emergency contraceptives or if they'd be state funded.

Senator Alvarez said there was no mention of how the emergency contraception would be provided. As far as she knew, emergency contraception was provided through a pharmacy so she thought there would have to be other logistical plans implemented in that within some form of committee but she wasn't entirely sure. She thought the Health and Human Safety committee would have to devise some form of funding.

Senator Westerman said she thought this was a great bill and she was happy it was going through the legislature.

Senator Dobbs said she hadn't had a chance to thoroughly look through assembly bill 124. She asked if the language in the bill said that hospitals were required to provide emergency contraception or required to offer it. Because it wasn't entirely clear in the resolution and she thought that was an important distinction.

Senator Alvarez said from her interpretation from the hospitals independent center for emergency care, was that it wasn't necessarily required but it was to give victims the opportunity to have access to emergency contraceptives.

Senator Dobbs said it was fine but she thought if it was going to pass the legislature the language was going to be very important.

Senator Alvarez said the bolded sections was where the language was word for word. In which they were going to be providing to NRS chapter 442.

Senator Ahmed said the very beginning of the on page 3 on line item 17 it said "each hospital independent center for medical care shall adopt a written plan to ensure" but page 4 line item 17 said, "is offered the opportunity to receive any emergency contraceptives or antibiotics available at the hospital." To him, it sounded like they needed to adopt a plan where if the person requested it, they had to give them whatever was available at the hospital. So, it was kind of required of the hospital.

Senator Alvarez said it was required of the hospital to provide the emergency contraception but not to make the individual take it.

Senator Dobbs said it was required of the hospital to offer it to the patient. The part that she noticed was unclear in the resolution was page 3 line items 18 and 19 said “whereas 124 requires the hospital or independent care center to provide emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault” She thought it should say that they weren’t required to provide but required to offer.

Senator Alvarez said she saw what she was saying.

Dr. Beattie said she was asking who was paying for it. If they offered it they could say “hey we have this” and then the patient would pay for it. If they provided it meant that the hospital paid for it. He didn’t know which one it was. If the hospital provided it would likely be paid for through fees. The cost was always passed onto the consumer. But it was whether it was passed onto the individual consumer or everyone paid whether or not they used the service.

Senator Alvarez asked if that was what Senator Dobbs meant for clarifications.

Senator Dobbs said yes.

Senator Alvarez asked Dr. Beattie whether they should change the wording in the word provide.

Dr. Beattie said that was something they could address when it hit the Senate table because they had a few days to research it. If they were supporting the bill though, they wanted to use the verbiage that was in the bill. As well as to understand what that verbiage meant.

Senator Westerman said that was where her original question summed from too. It was unclear to her as well who would be paying for this. Maybe they should use the most generalized verbiage as possible so that whatever the assembly decided to do about it, this resolution would apply to that.

Senator Alvarez moved to amend page 3 line items 18 and 19 to read, “whereas AB 124 also requires a hospital or independent center for emergency medical care to offer the opportunity to receive emergency contraception to a victim of sexual assault,” by unanimous consent.

The motion carried.

Senator Alvarez said that was the exact language that was provided in the bolded part on page 4 line item 17.

The resolution passed.

c. **S. Res. 86- A Resolution in Support of the Proposed Changes to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship**

Senator Alvarez sought a motion to favorably recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of the Proposed Changes to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship.

Senator Green moved to favorably recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of the Proposed Changes to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship.

Senator Ahmed seconded.

Senator Alvarez said this was a conversation they had been having for the past year. Nevada residents who graduated from a Nevada High School got the scholarship that was provided from the state through the treasurer's office. The first page discussed how it was enacted in the 1999 session of the Nevada State Legislature. It went into a lot more statistics about it. The GGMS was how she was going to be referring to it throughout the discussion. The main points of conflict were that the GGMS provided a 2.6 requirement during students first year of college and to maintain it. If students didn't meet that requirement they lost the scholarship overall. In order to gain the scholarship back the requirement was a 2.75. There was a little bit of unclarity in that. The two strike provision was currently enacted which said that students may lose it one time and they only go it back once more. The changes that would be made in this resolution was that the requirements would be a 2.75 overall to maintain the scholarship but they had two additional opportunities to get it back.

Senator Westerman asked if that was the proposed change or if that's how it was now.

Senator Alvarez said it was the proposed change.

Senator Westerman said she thought it was a good idea and it gave more opportunities for students.

Senator Green asked if there was no changed to this high school grade point average requirements.

Senator Alvarez said they couldn't change the high school requirements but they could change the college outcomes.

Dr. Beattie said he didn't know how the time frame worked and he didn't know what voting to change it would accomplish but they could find out.

Senator Westerman asked if this was something that would drastically affect the students who had the GGMS or if it was just a clarifying thing.

Senator Green said he thought it would definitely benefit students with the scholarship because he lost his millennium scholarship last semester due to his GPA. So, if he fell below again he would lose it for good. This gave students like him another chance.

Senator Alvarez said she wasn't provided the statistics on the students who received the millennium. She wasn't sure why. She asked Dr. Beattie why she had trouble finding the statistics.

Dr. Beattie said it was just Nevada high school students that met the requirements.

Senator Alvarez said she meant she couldn't find statistics on who currently had it. But from her understanding there was a lot of students who struggled with maintaining the scholarship.

Senator Ahmed said a lot of people in Senate were going to ask where the money was coming from. Ten years ago they were running out of money because they were using a tobacco settlement to pay for it.

Senator Alvarez said she did have the projected fund balance from the office of the state treasurer. So she was prepared. She didn't put it into the resolution because she didn't think it was important enough. But she understood where the question was coming from. They were expecting an annual growth rate from about 6% from students who were graduating from Nevada high schools. But this past fiscal year it grew to about 8% so it was a huge number.

Senator Westerman asked how making the amendment to the scholarship would affect the number of students in the future who were going to receive the scholarship because she knew it was running out of money. She thought the projections of everyone born after a certain year weren't even going to have the opportunity to receive the millennium scholarship. So she was just curious if she knew how it would affect future students.

Senator Alvarez said she was looking into what they had been proposing. She knew they were trying to find different ways to fund the scholarship. She knew that students were currently capped at a 10,000 maximum. Once they had reached the 10,000 maximum they wouldn't get the scholarship anymore. That was a discussion the treasurer's office was having and they didn't have the opportunities to venture into that or the resources to understand where the money would come from. But she would be happy to have a discussion into trying to find those ways. With the 2.75 raise, it would still be difficult to maintain but it gave students more opportunity. The main point of concern was the lack of clarity between their requirements.

Senator Ahmed asked what the 2 strike provision did now and how it was going to change.

Senator Alvarez said if they entered the university and didn't meet the requirement of a 2.6 they lost it once. Afterwards if they gained a 2.75 they could gain it back. But if again they failed to meet the requirement the following semester for a 2.75, they lost it again.

but can't gain it back. The change was now if they had a 2.75 they could gain it back twice.

Senator Green said instead of a 2 strike policy it was a 3 strike policy. He was in support of the resolution. He thought that increasing the GPA requirement but allowing for additional opportunities was a good idea and it would help the money crisis as well. He thought it would benefit a lot of students.

The resolution was favorable recommended.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee on Public Affairs meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.