HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM: A TIME FOR ACTION

Friday, Dec. 7, 2018
8:30 – 10:30 am
GREENSPUN HALL AUDITORIUM
The 2019 Session of the Nevada Legislature: The Agenda For Higher Education Reform

December 7, 2018 – Greenspun Hall – University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Who Am I? — A College Professor

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First: A Disclaimer

The Views Expressed in This Talk are Mine: Please Do Not Blame UNLV

College Faculty are Here to Stir the Pot and Cover Tough Issues—That's Me

The Better the University, the More it Will Address Controversial Issues
What’s in This Talk?

I Begin With a Brief Legal and Historical Context for Understanding How We Act to Reform Higher Education in Nevada

I Then Move On to Proposing Bills and Legislative Changes that Will Lead to Major Higher Education Reform
Amazon vs. Tesla: A Comparison

NSHE vs State Council for Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Amazon Approached SCHEV and it Forwarded Request to Virginia Tech

In Tesla Deal, Nevada’s Higher Ed Did Not Factor in the Decision
Consider the Case of APEX in North Las Vegas

A Major Firm Planned to Locate at APEX in North Las Vegas

NSHE Got Involved and Did Not Forward Request to UNLV

I Addressed the Incorrect Information from NSHE — Go Ask Mayor Lee
Lessons From Amazon/APEX

Businesses Do Not Want Uninformed Bureaucrats Between Them and the Expert Faculty at Land Grant Universities

If You Put Bureaucracy in the Way, Businesses Will Go Elsewhere — SCHEV Gets it, NSHE Does Not
There is an NSHE System Office and a Chancellor – for administration

And a Board of Regents of the University of Nevada – for governance

But There is No “NSHE Board of Regents”

This is Not a Trivial, or a Technical Point
NSHE is *NOT* in The Nevada Constitution

Only the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada is in State Constitution

That is the Legal Basis for the Actions We Suggest

The Nevada Legislative Council Bureau Lawyers Agree

Real Reform Can Start in the 2019 Nevada Legislature

Check Your Ballots
Step 1: Repass, Revote, Restructure

Repass AJR5, Which Then Goes to the Voters in 2020

Revote AB407, AKA the University of Nevada Land Grant Bill

AB407 Was Vetoed in 2017 After a Super Majority Vote

Restructure Senate Education Committees to Combine Higher Ed and Economic Development
Step 2: “The One-System Office Bill”

Create One Nevada Office of Higher Education — NOHE

Move NOHE to Capital — Just Like All Other States

Place NOHE Under the Presidents and Regents

Rename NSHE Chancellor to NOHE Executive Director
Step 2: “The One-System Office Bill”

Cut NOHE Bloat — Drop Staff From 240 to 70

Allocate the Savings From NOHE Cuts to Schools

Allow Non-University of Nevada Boards to be Appointed

Have the Governor Appoint the Boards From Vetted Lists
Step 3: “The Univ. of NV Equity Act”

UNR and UNLV are Equal Land Grant Branches

This Is True Since 1981, in AB662

Yet, the Two Branches are Not Equal in Resources

The Space, Services, and Funding Skew to UNR

UNLV—A Land Grant University
Step 3: “The Univ. of NV Equity Act”

The Act Would Fix the Inequalities in Resources

Universities Would Have Equal Space Per Capita

Recruiting Dollars Would be Equalized or Eliminated

Funding Per Student Would Be Equitable
Coop in Clark County

UNLV/UNR Would Also Share Cooperative Extension

Maintain Roughly Equal State Program Investment

Faculty Would be Assigned Equal Teaching Loads

UNLV/UNR/DRI Share the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada
Step 4: Two Interim Finance Studies

UNLV Medical School Finance Study and Building Plan

If We Want Donors Involved it Must Exclude Regents and NSHE

We Also Need to Redo the Higher Education Funding Formula

Formula in Place Screws Everyone But UNR and Lacks a Cost Study

UNLV Medical Education Building

The Study That Got Dan Klaich Fired

UNLV—A Land Grant University
What Can We Conclude

- Most of the Higher Ed Reforms Nevada Needs do Not Require a Change to the State Constitution

- Passing AJR5 is Still Essential to Completing Reform and Improving the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada

- A Key Reform Includes Creating One System Office Under the Regents and Presidents

- It Is Time to Create Equity Between the Two Branches of the University of Nevada
Finally …

- With the Reforms We Suggest, Community and State Colleges Move to Appointed Governing Boards
- Community and State Colleges Also Need Their Own Budget Line, Apart from the University of Nevada
- NOHE Needs to Fade into the Background as a System Office and Basically Get Out of the Way
- Poor Board of Regents Governance and NSHE Leadership Has Put the UNLV Medical School at Risk
Thank You