

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31—SENATOR RHOADS

APRIL 9, 2001

Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study of organizational structure of agricultural extension program at University of Nevada, Reno. (BDR R-1044)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of the organizational structure of the agricultural extension program at the University of Nevada, Reno.

1 WHEREAS, Many residents of Nevada have expressed concerns over the  
2 recent administrative separation of the agricultural extension program from  
3 the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the  
4 University of Nevada, Reno; and

5 WHEREAS, The residents of Nevada have enjoyed the direct benefits of  
6 research and related educational opportunities through the seamless  
7 integration of the Nevada Cooperative Extension, the Nevada Agricultural  
8 Experiment Station and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and  
9 Natural Resources, and until recently these efforts were supervised by one  
10 dean; and

11 WHEREAS, The result of the administrative change is a breakdown of  
12 the system whereby the community needs are reflected in the on-campus  
13 research agenda and research-based information generated by on-campus  
14 faculty researchers is disseminated by cooperative extension educational  
15 programs; and

16 WHEREAS, There have been suggestions that resources available for  
17 programming have been reduced as a result of multiple administrative  
18 units, where one administrative unit sufficed before; and

19 WHEREAS, The residents of Nevada are being denied a simple and direct  
20 means of accessing the complete resources of the University regarding  
21 agricultural issues; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY  
23 CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to  
24 appoint an interim committee to conduct a study of the organizational  
25 structure of the agricultural extension program at the University of Nevada,  
26 Reno; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the interim committee must consist of six members  
28 appointed as follows:



1 1. Three members of the Senate, one of whom represents the northern  
2 area of the state, one of whom represents the southern area of the state, and  
3 one of whom represents a rural area of the state; and

4 2. Three members of the Assembly, one of whom represents the  
5 northern area of the state, one of whom represents the southern area of the  
6 state, and one of whom represents a rural area of the state; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the chairman of the interim committee shall appoint a  
8 nonvoting advisory committee to assist in conducting the study; and be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the nonvoting advisory committee must consist of nine  
11 members appointed as follows:

12 1. Two members who represent the faculty of the University of  
13 Nevada;

14 2. Two members who represent agricultural organizations in this state;

15 3. Two members of the general public each of whom are  
16 knowledgeable of agricultural issues and reside in a rural area of this state;

17 4. One member of the general public who is knowledgeable of  
18 agricultural issues and resides in Clark County;

19 5. One member of the general public who is knowledgeable of  
20 agricultural issues and resides in Washoe County; and

21 6. One member who is a member of the State Bar of Nevada and  
22 knowledgeable of laws related to agricultural issues; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That each member of the advisory committee shall serve  
24 without compensation, except that while he is engaged in the business of  
25 the committee he is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel  
26 expenses provided for state officers and employees generally, which must  
27 be paid from the legislative fund; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

29 1. A review of the legal and administrative procedures that were  
30 followed in changing the organizational structure of the agricultural  
31 extension program to establish it as an independent unit of the University  
32 of Nevada;

33 2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the new organizational  
34 structure in promoting the integration of the educational programs of the  
35 Nevada Cooperative Extension with the research programs of the College  
36 of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources and the Nevada  
37 Agricultural Experiment Station;

38 3. A review of the compliance of the new organization with the  
39 requirements of applicable federal and state laws, statutes and regulations;

40 4. An assessment of the fiscal effects of the new organizational  
41 structure in terms of the increased administrative costs and costs of its  
42 programs;

43 5. An evaluation of the effects of the new organizational structure on  
44 the performance evaluations of faculty, advancements in rank and salary of  
45 faculty, and program direction and supervision, both in the College of  
46 Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources and Nevada  
47 Cooperative Extension;



1       6. A comparison of the different organizational structures for similar  
2 programs in the land grant universities in other states and their relative  
3 effectiveness; and

4       7. Specific recommendations with respect to the optimum  
5 organizational structure for this program, effective operating procedures  
6 and other mechanisms necessary to improve service to the public; and be it  
7 further

8       RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the interim  
9 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the Senate  
10 and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to the interim  
11 committee; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a report of  
13 the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to the  
14 72nd session of the Nevada Legislature.

