

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION**

**Seventy-fourth Session
February 26, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education was called to order by Chair Maurice E. Washington at 1:36 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2007, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Vice Chair
Senator Dennis Nolan
Senator Joseph J. Heck
Senator Valerie Wiener
Senator Steven A. Horsford
Senator Joyce Woodhouse

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst
Joe McCoy, Committee Policy Analyst
Sara Partida, Committee Counsel
Shauna Kirk, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Manuel Bayona, M.D., Ph.D., Director, School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Reno
Mary Guinan, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Victor A. Sandoval, D.D.S., Interim Dean, School of Dental Medicine, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Marcia Turner, Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, Health Sciences System, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Mitchell Forman, D.O., Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Touro University Nevada, Las Vegas
Robyn Nelson, DNSc, R.N., Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Touro University Nevada, Las Vegas
Renee Coffman, Ph.D., RPH, Dean, College of Pharmacy, University of Southern Nevada

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will hear five presentations today. We will start with Dr. Manuel Bayona's presentation.

MANUEL BAYONA, M.D. Ph.D. (Director of the School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Reno):

This is the second time that I have made a similar presentation. Today's presentation has been updated with additional materials that will be of interest. You have been given a copy of this PowerPoint presentation to follow along with my presentation ([Exhibit C](#), original is on file in the Research Library).

SENATOR NOLAN:

Are the 26 graduates with masters in public health also physicians?

DR. BAYONA:

They are not necessarily physicians. Some are physicians. There are 26 graduates who obtained their masters of public health in our school since 2005. There are a total of 44 counting those from the health ecology program. We have to remember that our school was developed from a successful program of health ecology in which the master's of public health started being offered six years ago.

SENATOR NOLAN:

What are the other areas that these people filter into, and how many of them stay in the State of Nevada?

DR. BAYONA:

I do not have the exact figure. I believe it would be more than 80 percent. Probably close to 90 percent stay in the State. The two people I know who are not in the State left because they were trying to get a doctoral degree, and we were not ready to offer a doctoral degree three years ago. Apart from that, most are working in Las Vegas and Reno. A lot of them work in the health

departments, and a few of them are in other health institutions including public health institutions. I have seen at least four or five in the Washoe County Health Department. I can get you that exact information.

SENATOR NOLAN:

That information is just fine. You do not have to worry about getting that data.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

You indicated in your summary page "extensive community services"; can you give some examples of what that might be?

DR. BAYONA:

We have both undergraduate and graduate level practice experience for our students. They develop this experience both at the Health Division, Department of Health and Human Services, in Carson City, as well as, the Washoe County Health Department. This experience is collaboration projects that our faculty and public health professionals have done. In addition, some of the faculty and I are doing some projects in collaboration with the Health Department.

MARY GUINAN, M.D., Ph.D. (Dean, School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

Can you see the first slide of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health's PowerPoint presentation ([Exhibit D](#))?

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We have a copy.

DR. GUINAN:

You can follow along with that copy as I go through it.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Are there any questions?

DR. VICTOR A. SANDOVAL, D.D.S. (Interim Dean, School of Dental Medicine, University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

I want to speak to you this afternoon about the School of Dental Medicine, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Despite being a young school, we still have the goal of creating a world-class School of Dental Medicine. I will give you

some of our history and some insights into our future with this presentation ([Exhibit E](#)).

SENATOR HORSFORD:

Dr. Sandoval, and the other presenters as well, on the slides regarding grants, it does not indicate a date or the term by which those grants were secured. Are all of you able to provide that information, and more importantly, are those grants keeping up or are they declining? If they come from the federal level, is there a declining level of support that we need to be aware of as a state to support your programs?

DR. SANDOVAL:

That is a good question, and I would need to come back with that information for you. I can give you one example. It is a small grant through the American Dental Association Foundation. That was renewed this year. Once again, that is a very small piece. I can come back and give you more specifics.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

If you send it to staff, we will make sure that the members on this Committee receive that information.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Is the figure of 1,294 on page 3 for the 2006 class, the first graduating class, or is that the number of applicants? I am looking for your graduation rate. Did you have a class graduate already?

DR. SANDOVAL:

Yes. The first class graduated in May 2006 with 71 graduates.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

This number represents the applicants that applied, and the rest are the projections. On page 3, it states the number of applicants.

DR. SANDOVAL:

Those are actual numbers of applications we received for the class that we will recruit and graduate in 2011. We expect that we are going to have in excess of 3,000 applicants for 75 positions.

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SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
Is that actual or projections?

DR. SANDOVAL:
We have already surpassed 3,000 applicants.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
Have you turned people away?

DR. SANDOVAL:
Yes.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
Your answer was 71 graduates for 2006. What is your projection for graduates for 2007?

DR. SANDOVAL:
I believe it will be 75.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
Do you know what the dentist-to-patient ratio is for Nevada?

DR. SANDOVAL:
No. I do not. I will get that for you.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
When I look at the dental slots, I am concerned that we still have so many sitting there. I understand that we still have the problem of recruiting in the rules. I do have a concern that we are holding those slots when we should be using them for nurse trainers, teacher trainers and some of the things we are really having some issues with. The only issue I have been told we still have is the rural areas trying to get dentists to stay there. I would hope that you would work with us on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) program to see if that is realistic or not. I have had some parents talk to me about their children who graduate from college and do not have dental insurance. They cannot go on their parents' program. If they do not have a job that provides those benefits, is there an income requirement or qualification requirement, or can anybody come to the clinic?

DR. SANDOVAL:

Essentially, anyone can apply to become a patient at the Shadow Lane Campus in Las Vegas. Since it is a teaching institution, there are certain situations we are not able to accommodate such as a person whose dental condition would take longer than two years to complete or if the situation is technically so difficult that we feel it is too tough for a student doctor to manage. In that case, we refer them to either the University of Nevada, Reno, the General Practice Residency program across the street, or to the American Dental Association for follow-up. In some cases, if their medical condition is so involved that we feel it could be handled best either by a specialist or someone out in the community, we do our best to make sure they are referred to the proper people. Those are two of the most general conditions where we would not be able to accommodate someone. There are no requirements for insurance or income. Our fees at the Shadow Lane Campus run about 50 percent less than the private sector.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Are you looking at taking over the buildings west of you?

DR. SANDOVAL:

There is discussion relative to the Health Sciences System that has not been completely worked out yet.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Are you not expanding any more? Have you have gone as far as you plan?

DR. SANDOVAL:

I will let Marcia Turner talk to you about that.

MARCIA TURNER (Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, Health Sciences System, University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

As part of the Health Sciences System Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), we are planning to build out what is referred to as Building B, one of the existing buildings on the Shadow Lane Campus. A large portion of the building is framed. At the present time, that proposal is to accommodate expansion of the School of Medicine and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Nursing relocation from the main campus onto the Shadow Lane Campus. What is included within the Health Sciences System CIP request is not going to include expansion of the dental facility.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Is there no growth planned for the dental school?

MS. TURNER:

The dental school will not be included in the CIP plan for the Health Sciences System.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Is that a yes or a no?

MS. TURNER:

The School of Dental Medicine is not included in the Health and Sciences System CIP request. They will not be occupying any of the new buildings or renovation that is part of the Health Sciences System.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Are we looking at expanding the dental program at all? That is what I am questioning.

MS. TURNER:

There is no expansion plan for the undergraduate class size. There is planned expansion of the graduate programs.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

On page 6 of the presentation, for what year is the new construction projected?

DR. SANDOVAL:

The new program will probably be a year from now. If it all works out, it will be the summer of 2008. That would probably be pediatric dentistry.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Is that in the public works budget?

MS. TURNER:

He is referring to a building that is currently under construction on the Shadow Lane Campus that will accommodate those programs.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I am still puzzled. Does the new construction mentioned on page 6, as part of the CIP program you are coming to the Legislature for money, involve the dental program in any way?

MS. TURNER:

No. That is a program outside CIP that is before the Legislature which the Health Sciences System is putting forth. The School of Dental Medicine had already made the arrangements. In fact, the building is in the construction phase now. It is not included in any of the CIP requests that are before the Legislature this year.

MITCHELL FORMAN, D.O. (Dean, Touro University Nevada, College of Osteopathic Medicine):

We have made some minor changes in a couple of the slides in terms of the order to move it quickly and smoothly. Please note the change when you look through the material presented to you ([Exhibit F](#)). Dr. Robyn Nelson, who is the founding Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Touro University Nevada, will assist me in this presentation.

ROBYN NELSON DNSc, R.N. (Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Touro University Nevada, Las Vegas):

I will read from [Exhibit F](#).

DR. FORMAN:

I will read from [Exhibit F](#).

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

What about robotic surgery? Has it come to Touro yet?

DR. FORMAN:

Not yet. We want to get involved. I contacted the company several months ago and I am still waiting for their return call. We want to pursue this. This is an interesting area for not only research, but practicality. The field of robotics is in its infancy. This would be an important addition to not only Henderson, but to the entire State. If you can assist us in pursuing this, we would greatly appreciate that.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I will. If you call Dr. Kowalski, she can get in touch with them. I know at Sunrise Hospital they just received the newest robot. It is a little smaller. She is teaching other doctors on that now. I am very hopeful that you will be a partner in that. Are we using you to the extent that we should? We are going to do a study, I hope, about private and public partnerships in the State of Nevada. I do not know if we are utilizing your facility the way that we could and extend this more. I do not want to put you on the spot.

DR. FORMAN:

I could not agree with you more. We have reached out from the beginning to collaborate. This is frustrating to me as well. As I mentioned Thursday, I happened to be on the group that is looking at graduate medical education. It consists of the hospital association, University of Nevada School of Medicine, five of the large hospital, and Touro. As we have met over the last several months, it is clear that everybody's self-interest became the most important factor. This issue of looking at self-interest more than the State's interest is what is going to present some difficulties that we need to aggressively address. There are things as a private, not-for-profit organization we can do very easily. If it sounds good, if it is the right thing, we can make it happen quickly. Because we are a private, not-for-profit organization, we do not have the same difficulty and bureaucracy that the University of Nevada School of Medicine has. We want to be a part of the solution, and not the problem. When we look at the academic Health Sciences System, to not talk about the private sector and how it is going to be integrated and utilized is unfortunate.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I think you hit the nail on the head. We are looking at the extent to which we can benefit every Nevadan. You have shown, in my opinion, standout quality in everything you have been doing, and everything has been well thought out. United States Senator Reid and Congressman Porter have some requests in about slots for the interns and the doctors' positions in our State. Assemblywoman Leslie will be putting in a resolution to help that happen. I am hopeful about that. It is unfortunate we have been overlooked for several years for that.

RENEE COFFMAN, PH.D. RPH (Dean, College of Pharmacy, University of Southern Nevada):

I want to give you a quick overview of the University of Southern Nevada, College of Pharmacy ([Exhibit G](#), original is on file in the Research Library).

SENATOR HECK:

I wonder if you could explore two issues. If you could go into some history of how the school actually started and where you are today. Can you address your plans for the poison-control center? Right now, Nevada is covered by two poison-control centers. The south goes to the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center and the north goes to the Oregon Poison Center. If the State is going to start paying for poison-control services, I would like to see our dollars stay in the State rather than going out of State.

DR. COFFMAN:

I mentioned that there were three founders. I was one of the three founders. We started out as a standalone College of Pharmacy. We were not becoming part of a university. Each founder provided \$5,000. We started with \$15,000 and from that point, we wrote a lot of grants. We received about \$250,000 in grant money over time. Unfortunately, we were not able to get the money from those grants until we actually had students. We had a well thought-out business plan. We worked lean and mean. It took much initiative and hard work on our part.

As to poison control, we started working on this about six months ago. We always had it in our plans to do a drug information center. There is currently no drug information center located in this State. A drug information center is a place in which the general public and health care professionals could call or write regarding health care questions. Unfortunately, a lot of the drug information that our health care professionals often get is coming from the pharmaceutical industry. It would be nice to have somebody provide unbiased access to some of the reports and provide that information in a neatly packaged form that is easy to digest. It will be a big advantage for the general public to be able call in and ask about medication. We have expanded that to also include a poison-control center. What we have now is a five-year plan starting with the drug information center and gradually ramping up to a poison-control center. A poison-control center requires a lot of resources. It needs to be staffed 24 hours a day. It has to have a medical director. Our hope is, as we phase drug information into poison control, that we will have those resources ready and

available. Our current plan does not ask for any State funding, but that does not mean we would not ask for anything in the future. We are looking at private donations and the University to have as part of their mission to support the poison-control center.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Will the drug information center be able to provide the retail and generic price of prescription drugs?

DR. COFFMAN:

That is something that it could easily provide. We would call the pharmacies and ask them.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

As we deal with transparency, we deal with not only the procedures that may be prescribed, but the medication that usually comes after the procedure.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

It has been much easier for people to call the 211 number to find out about poison. Would this be something we would be able to connect into our 211 number? It is used now, but is it not well known. We are working on expanding that. This could be another avenue. Do you work with the poison control centers?

DR. COFFMAN:

We have not. We have not had our own poison-control center. Perhaps, even more to the point, what I see us doing in Nevada is providing a voice that actually helps prevent the poisoning before it occurs and doing a lot of outreach. We could go out and talk to mothers and caregivers about the most common types of poison they will see, how they can prevent poisoning, and what to do to childproof your home.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Maybe you could be a part of First Lady, Dawn Gibbon's conference that we are doing. It will be this year with the Area Health Education Center in Las Vegas. Have you worked with them at all?

DR. COFFMAN:

No.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

As we proceed with the legislative process, we are taking into account the chancellors with the Health Sciences Center and we know there are a couple of satellite entities that are there. That is why we brought in Public Health, Dental Medicine and Touro to develop some public and private collaboration. The word collaboration has been bantered about during this hearing. I just want to know from your standpoint, how do you view the College of Pharmacy fitting within the constructs of this Health Sciences Center so that this Committee can get a general idea of what is going to transpire in the near future?

DR. COFFMAN:

An advantage that I have envisioned and has been talked about in the Nevada System of Higher Education is the idea that you can bring the students together in interdisciplinary training. We could be a part of that. We have students rotating through the primary site for the physicians at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Our faculty is in contact with the University of Nevada School of Medicine faculty, and works with that faculty already and works with the residents that are part of those programs.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Have you had any dialogue or conversation or have you been part of the planning process?

DR. COFFMAN:

Not really.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We were asking Dr. Coffman if the College of Pharmacy and maybe Public Health and Touro and the Dental School have had an opportunity to sit down with you and some of your staff to converse on how this collaboration might be built or put together.

MS. TURNER:

I know that Dr. Coffman has participated in at least one of our Health Sciences Committee meetings. We look forward to working with them as the whole Health Sciences System project comes together. I have not yet had a chance to meet with her or the faculty from her school directly. I know that our consultant and other people have been out to the school. There are many ways we can

have interaction. The interdisciplinary training is at the heart of the Health Sciences System.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

The same question would be proposed to Touro as they have indicated that they are willing to work with the Health Sciences Center and develop some collaboration. Have you had an opportunity to talk with them?

MS. TURNER:

I am happy to have the opportunity to address that question. As you look at the presentation that we gave to your Committee the other day, we have a lot of work to do within the inventory and assessment to identify what programs currently exist within the eight institutions, and do what we can to help foster the development of our internal programs and facilitate internal collaboration such as making sure all seven of our nursing programs are working together. We also need to do a better job of facilitating external collaboration. In Dr. Forman's presentation earlier, they did mention some of the collaborative agreements that they have with University of Nevada, Las Vegas. They also have collaborative agreements with the School of Medicine and the other programs. We all need to sit down and identify new opportunities for new partnerships and to enhance the existing relationship.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

I apologize if it seems we are anxious about this, but we have less than 120 days to put something together. If it seems we are pushing, we are, in order to accomplish what we need to get accomplished.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

That concludes the presentations. We have Bill Draft Request (BDR) 40-95. It revises provisions governing the Task Force for Funds for a Healthy Nevada. This is a recommendation that came out of the task force.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 40-95: Revises provisions governing the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada. (Later introduced at [Senate Bill 164](#).)

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SENATOR NOLAN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 40-95.

SENATOR HECK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

The meeting of the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education is adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Shauna Kirk,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair

DATE: _____