College of Southern Nevada – Institutional Advisory Council
Approved Meeting Minutes – Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Agenda item 1:
Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Agenda item 2: Roll Call
Virtual

Randy Robison
Peter Guzman
Dr. Nancy E. Brune
Maria Jose Gatti
Evan Louie
Vida Chan Lin
Shaundell Newsome
Jaime Cruz
Jose Solorio

Additional Online Attendees: Dr. Stacy Klippenstein, Tina Russom, Dr. Natalie Brown, Clarissa Cota, Lisa Bakke, Dr. Juan Avalos, Ruben Kihuen, Danita Simons, Eric Garner, Jim Ferrance, Jolene Romero, Rachel Lilly, Sondra Cosgrove, Chayvon Reeves, Brayden Boulter.

Absent: Paul J. Moradkahn

Agenda item 3: **Pledge of Allegiance.** Since the meeting was conducted virtually rather than in person, a pledge of allegiance was not observed; however, a moment of silence was held**.**

Agenda item 4: Public Comment
Randy Robison

- No one provided public comments.

Agenda item 5: **Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2026**
Randy Robison

- Motion to approve by Peter Guzman. Approved.
- Second: Seconded by Nancy Brune.
- Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda item 6: **Board Chair Report**
Randy Robison

- No significant updates were reported beyond welcoming remarks.

Agenda item 7: CSN President's Report

Dr. Stacy Klippenstein

- Expressed appreciation to committee members for attending virtually.
- The agenda features key updates from CSN—thanks to President Boulter for the student update, Dr. Brown for enrollment, and Clarissa Cota on legislative priorities. Dr. Avalos will share enrollment data.
- This is the start of the 2026-27 academic year, which we're excited to launch. Last Monday's Convocation was excellent, thanks to President Boulter for leading as MC, and to all of the student leaders.
- Welcomed three additional shared governance leads to introduce themselves.
    - Rachel Lilly, Administrative Faculty Association Chair.
    - Sondra Cosgrove, Faculty Senate Chair.
    - Chayvon Reeves, Classified Council Chair.
- During Convocation, we recognized outstanding faculty, staff, and years of service, reflecting a positive and celebratory day.
- This year's focus centers on four themes: rethinking CSN's future through strategic planning, reinvesting in student support, maintaining the daily operational efforts, and re-engaging with the community.
- CSN's Athletic Department has new leadership: Jason Herbers is CSN's new Athletic Director. Nick Aiello is the new baseball coach, bringing extensive experience from the College of Southern Idaho. CSN's soccer and volleyball teams are already seeing success.

Board of Regents & Budget Updates

- The Board was also expected to examine proposed revisions to the higher education funding formula, including a potential shift from full-time equivalent enrollment to student headcount. The proposed change is intended to better support community colleges and align funding with comparable institutions.
- Dr. Klippenstein will be meeting with the other NSHE community college presidents before the State of Nevada Public Works meeting to discuss Capital Improvement Projects and the Call-to-Action document, which may lead to key discussions. Details will be shared at the board level.

Financial Planning

- The Northwest Campus is the Board of Regents' top priority for capital improvements. Currently ranked #3 due to deferred maintenance, we aim to elevate its importance in Public Works' agenda.
- Approximately $45 million (35%) of deferred maintenance is high-priority and high-risk. CSN's goal, with NSHE and partners, is to secure additional state funding to address these critical issues.

Strategic Planning

- On October 1st and 2nd, CSN will host a Futures Summit with guest speaker Jaime Cruz representing the IAC in this effort and visit with faculty and students to develop a student experience statement, thanks to Brayden and ASCSN.
- On November 4th, the consultants from Campus Works, along with co-chairs Kevin Mitchell and Jyoti Senthil, will meet with IAC members to gather external perspectives on CSN's strategic plan and direction. This is an opportunity for IAC members to contribute insights into CSN's future.

Additionally

- On September 1st, the Acting Secretary of Labor will visit the Debra March Center of Excellence Manufacturing Training Center, hosted by CSN, Workforce Connections, Jaime Cruz, Irene Bustamante, the City of Las Vegas, and local Chambers. The visit includes a tour and roundtable with partners, followed by discussions with the Chamber, educators, and employers on Nevada's workforce and labor needs. Thanks to all who made this possible.
- The State of the College address is on September 9th in the afternoon. Inviting each I.A.C. member—it's a great opportunity to hear about past achievements, 55 years of history, and future plans for the institution.

Discussion:

Evan, a former Nevada State Commissioner of Minority Affairs, noticed the NSHE agenda proposes eliminating the IDEA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Access. He wants to know CSN's stance and the impact on faculty and students, especially ahead of the Board of Regents meeting. Previously active in DEI efforts with the NFL and Allegiant Stadium, he seeks insight into CSN's position on this issue.

Dr. Klippenstein's response: Over the past year, CSN has prioritized supporting a diverse student body, meeting metrics as a Black-serving, Hispanic-serving, and majority-minority institution. The demographic data reflects this diversity, driving efforts toward equity and inclusivity. While CSN has made progress, work remains and will continue the initiatives and dialogue. From an NSHE and Board of Regents perspective, the IDEA Council's use has been limited recently, especially under the current federal administration, due to concerns about negative perceptions from executive orders and policies. The Chancellor is exploring options and supporting diversity efforts through collaboration. Although strategies differ from past DEI initiatives, CSN's commitment to an inclusive campus endures.

Evan highlights that public sentiment is crucial. EDs of 513 nonprofits report that recent policies cutting DEI initiatives are damaging grant funding and private sector support. Companies are lowering DEI budgets, downsizing programs and staff, affecting the entire community—faculty and students included. This resistance must be considered in upcoming discussions.

Dr. Klippenstein's response: He appreciates that reminder and forgot to mention that on November 13th, CSN is hosting the Southern Nevada Diversity Conference with UNLV and Nevada State, featuring about 300 higher-ed professionals. Discussion on how to support CSN students and address the diverse make-up of the college community and student body.

Peter expressed appreciation to Dr. Klippenstein for his active presence in the community. Dr. Klippenstein's visibility is vital, and it's clearly making an impact. Keep up the great work as the IAC members and CSN representatives prepare for the next Legislative Session and focus on the core needs. Peter stated that Dr. Klippenstein and CSN are key to the community's success.

Jose shared two recent examples of CSN's impactful work: a 24-year-old Latina student's successful first-time onboarding with financial aid and enrollment, and a lunch with a judge running a program that helps at-risk youth earn diplomas at CSN.

These instances demonstrate the college's commitment to meeting student needs at ground level, regardless of DEI or presidential directives. From Dr. Klippenstein onward, staff prioritize serving students, which is why Jose stays on IAC membership.

Agenda item 8: ASCSN Report

ASCSN President Brayden Boulter expressed appreciation for the opportunity to represent and share student perspectives.

- Boulter reported that ASCSN plans to collaborate with campus partners to strengthen student engagement opportunities and increase student participation in institutional activities. ASCSN also seeks opportunities for student leaders to become more involved in college initiatives and governance discussions.
- ASCSN wants to invite public politicians to meet with students over pizza and discuss politics. Thanks to External Affairs and Student Government for coordinating these efforts, which require significant effort to connect with the right officials for each campus.
- ASCSN and Dr. Sondra Cosgrove will offer training to students before the Nevada Legislative Session on how to provide public comment, including phone-in options, since students may not be present during hearings. The more students mobilized, the stronger their voices will be with the politicians.
- Discussion with NSU Student Body President Stephanie Flores underway for a collaborative event at Henderson CSN and Nevada State University campuses. The goal is to host a Higher Education Day before the Legislative Session, celebrating local higher education and fostering collaboration. Dr. Klippenstein is aware and will coordinate with External Affairs to make it happen before February.
- The student government aims to modernize outdated bylaws, last ratified in 2014. After minor updates last year, the first in a decade, the need for a comprehensive rewrite was recognized. Planning to create a task force, collaborate with General Counsel to ensure legal integrity, and present the new bylaws to the Senate for ratification. Tackling this piecemeal would be inefficient; a complete rewrite is necessary to finish within one term.
- ASCSN needs to review the budget due to cost of living increases, which have made sustaining fun student events challenging under the current funding formula. The ASCSN board is exploring new income sources, but Boulter will first meet with Lisa Bakke to ensure suggested options are sustainable for the institution.
- Some ASCSN senators want to develop a website that provides more detailed information about ASCSN and encourages student participation in public meetings. Currently, the site lacks detail and doesn't invite students to join these meetings, which are vital for engagement. As student government grows, possibilities for all students to participate need to be made available, especially as student involvement is rising nationwide. The goal is to make the table accessible for anyone who wants to contribute.
- Boulter has spoken with other NSHE student body presidents, and they are also concerned that eliminating the IDEA Committee could harm diversity efforts by removing a process for student input, especially since these institutions serve a majority minority student body. Boulter plans to make public comment tomorrow at the Board of Regents Special meeting on behalf of students. If the IDEA Committee remains endangered of elimination, the

student government will consider sending a letter to the Board of Regents. Students need to communicate their concerns clearly to the Regents and advocate for a student-first approach.
- Boulter is aware of the concerns about the Call-to-Action document. He looks forward to the Board of Regents' discussion at the September meeting. He will bring the outcomes back to the ASCSN Senate to determine how best to communicate with students and the Board.

Discussion:
Jose commented: Elections are the first Tuesday in November. Leading up to that, candidate legislators are more likely to meet and listen—they need support. Use this time to share student ideas before the election. They'll remember it afterward.

Evan expressed appreciate to ASCSN President Boulter for advocacy for students and upcoming NSHE presentation.

Agenda item 9: **NSHE Report**
Dr. Natalie Brown appreciates the energy coming out of CSN for the beginning of the Fall semester. Great work on the social media platforms, community outreach, and the Communications Team.

- NSHE is expanding statewide awareness of Credit for Prior Learning. So far, two all-institution convenings have been held, one of which was hosted by CSN. The third and final convening will be on September 24th, with CSN hosting again. Dr. Brown is excited to hear updates from all institutions on next steps. NSHE received system-level recommendations from Student Ready Strategies to streamline NSHE policies and processes. Dr. Brown will review these with Academic Officers and Presidents to identify the most helpful changes for this fall. Additionally, NSHE is developing C.P.L. assets with consistent branding and messaging, which will be shared when available.
- Workforce Pell process, policy, and application are now live and approved by the Governor. Community colleges can submit applications through a defined workflow, reviewed initially by NSHE, then by the Governor's Workforce Development Board before submission to the Department of Education. The process and policy are detailed on the OWINN website. Dr. Brown is available to assist colleges with any Workforce Pell questions.
- As August ends, expect news on the statewide grant application for Round 6 of Strengthening Community College Training. Thanks to CSN for its vital partnership, active college and regional involvement is crucial. Now, NSHE awaits a positive response, which will support college capacity building and strengthen statewide data infrastructure for reporting and ROI analysis.
- At the September Board of Regents Quarterly meeting, the accrediting body's president will present on three-year degrees, reviewing current guidelines, the history of four-year degree discussions, and CSN's ongoing progress.
- Dr. Brown will provide an update on work with Education Design Lab over the past year, focusing on their efforts with community colleges and student-centered design to include student voices. They collaborated with 12 state systems to develop a micro-credential expansion plan and identify key pathways. Dr. Brown will share this work with Academic Officers, Presidents, and broader audiences next week, along with upcoming opportunities with

Education Design Lab. Dr. Brown looks forward to discussing this further with CSN colleagues.

Agenda item 10: Legislative Priorities and Northwest Campus Update
Vice President Clarissa Cota

- Excited about the upcoming Legislative Session. CSN's strong team includes Ruben Kihuen, who is tirelessly organizing meetings and strategy; Frank Woodbeck, CSN's ongoing consultant; and Jim Ferrence, a current lobbyist. Thanks to the executive team and Dr. Klippenstein for supporting the new full-time government affairs director position, which closes soon and aims for hire by early October. This role will focus on Carson City and collaboration with student bodies and governance groups. Appreciation expressed for the NSHE government relations team, now working with Vice Chancellor Jason Frierson and Assistant Vice Chancellor Alejandro Rodriguez.
- CSN has focused Legislative Priorities on these categories and operating priorities. Talking points and supporting collateral materials are being developed to support advocacy efforts. System-wide priorities will be shared after tomorrow's meeting, building on Dr. Klippenstein's coverage. CSN is monitoring a caseload adjustment, which accounts for institutional enrollment growth. Due to recent system-wide growth, this adjustment is now approximately $170 million, with about $19 million annually allocated to CSN. This will support CSN's ability to serve the increasing student enrollment and address the listed operational priorities.
    - Campus safety remains a top priority; CSN must continue advocating for a secure environment.
    - CSN continues efforts to align health sciences funding with peer institutions and improve student support resources.
    - Discussion included advising capacity and the goal of improving the advisor-to-student ratio from approximately 630:1 to 350:1.
    - Prison education programs are expanding across Southern Nevada, and additional funding is needed for staffing.
    - Requesting to receive the Silver State Opportunity Grant.
    - Requesting increases for Dual Enrollment and Workforce Development funding.
    - A key initiative is expanding co-requisite math courses, which improve degree completion; this requires more faculty—eight positions to support 1,700 students.
    - To attract instructors in high-demand fields like healthcare and IT, CSN must update the market-based salary policy, last revised in 2013.
- The capital improvement priorities have been set. CSN Northwest Campus is the top CIP priority after deferred maintenance. Additionally, CSN is requesting two other projects previously mentioned: a seismic retrofit for the North Las Vegas campus's Student Services and Library, and deferred maintenance at the Henderson campus.
- Northwest Campus update:
    - Since April, CSN has made significant progress, with strong momentum and city support. The goal was to rank highest at the May 21 Board of Regents meeting. CSN succeeded in becoming the

top new build project, which strengthens CSN's case for increased legislative funding.

- The City of Las Vegas has been a key partner. In June, they amended the cooperative campus development agreement to align with the BLM timeline—both now set for 2032, twelve years from the 2020 conveyance. CSN recently received city council approval and are scheduled to present an update later this fall.
- At the Southern Nevada Forum, the Northwest Campus was ranked a top priority, within the top 12 overall and in the top 3 for education. CSN is actively seeking additional funding sources and recently submitted a $20 million Department of Defense grant focused on infrastructure support, leveraging CSN's proximity to Creech Air Force Base. Awaiting the Department of Defense's decision in September. Support from Creech and Nellis Air Force Base officials has been strong.
- Dr. Klippenstein will present to the State Public Works Board. As the third-highest priority for NSHE, after deferred maintenance projects, the campus project will be reviewed, including funds allocated—over $4.8 million from state legislative budgets and CSN investments of about $3.4 million.
- CSN's current funding request for the project is $135 million, aimed at infrastructure development on the vacant land. CSN is working daily to reduce this amount through other sources, including $10.5 million committed by the CSN Foundation, supported by a capital campaign, plus $500,000 from the City of Las Vegas.

Discussion

Nancy inquired about CSN's operational priorities and last session's funding. V.P. Cota stated V.P. Lisa Bakke will review past requests: ~$1.4M for nursing, $300K for Northwest Campus planning, $1.8M for safety/security. CSN requests $2.5M this biennium. Cota will also reassess funded projects like nursing expansion to identify ongoing priorities and funding sources.

Evan asked if CSN has a presentation for the CSN Foundation to attract donors. Evan has upcoming meetings with Nevada family foundations and needs supporting materials. Clarissa will provide the slides.

Shaundell asked if federal budget cuts threaten programs like Nevada Grow, noting a 67% SBA cut and funding uncertainty. Shaundell emphasized Nevada Grow's importance in supporting small businesses, which employ 42% of the workforce, and cautioned against its elimination.

Shaundell also requested CSN to promptly inform the IAC of CSN Day at the Legislature or other key events in Carson City to aid member planning. Appreciation was expressed to President Brayden and team for supporting legislative efforts.

Clarissa confirmed Nevada Grow remains a priority; CSN is working with Senator Neal to secure $2 million in support this biennium.
Ruben added that CSN Day at the Legislature dates should be finalized in

November, pending legislative schedules and the new speaker's decision. CSN is building relationships with legislators to confirm requested dates and will keep the IAC updated.

Jose noted that per-pupil funding stagnation harms students. He suggested advocating for a Southwest Campus to gain support from southwestern legislators, which could benefit CSN's projects and help build broader regional backing.

Agenda item 11: **Enrollment Update**
Vice President Dr. Juan Avalos

- CSN's enrollment dropped 20% during the pandemic but has since stabilized, with for-credit numbers, headcount, and FTE steady. Waitlist numbers have surged, indicating high demand and efforts to expand sections despite campus distribution challenges. The goal is to convert waitlisted students into enrollment, serving both returning and new students with diverse needs.
- Demographics show mostly female enrollees, underrepresented minorities, first-generation, Pell-eligible students—46% Latino—and many older students, reflecting the CSN core community. Most are part-time; only 38% take 12+ units. West Charleston is the largest, fastest-growing campus; North Las Vegas has declined slightly. Online enrollment is rising across all formats. The broad geographic spread provides access but strains resources.

Discussion
Nancy appreciates the data, has no questions, and finds it insightful.

Jose is surprised by the number of online-only students and appreciates the online availability, noting COVID accelerated growth.

Juan explains the rise in online courses due to COVID and highlights benefits for busy students, with some programs centralized at specific campuses. Declines in North Las Vegas program enrollment is unclear but will monitor for causes.

Evan notes a decline in degree objectives and certificates, asks about initiatives to boost these and full-time credits.

Juan believes current numbers aren't concerning; student intent fluctuates, and advising capacity is limited. Overall, graduation numbers are growing, no red flags.

Stacy adds that data on dual enrollment, CTE credits, and apprenticeships is pending, which will provide a fuller picture.

Evan expresses interest in data modeling.

Jose emphasizes the importance of campus accessibility for student attendance, advocating for expanded geographic options to make access easier, especially for non-drivers.

Agenda item 12: **New Business**
Evan gave suggestions for expansion of the IAC:

- Key areas include economic diversification with growth in healthcare—City of Hope, Intermountain Health, and Kaiser Permanente expanding here. CSN can benefit with respected healthcare industry leaders on the IAC as advisors.
- Sports innovation is vital due to Athletics Baseball and potential NBA expansion in Nevada. Leaders in these sectors can provide valuable input.
- Technology and manufacturing sectors are crucial for workforce development, supporting both traditional and transitional career pipelines. CSN should consider candidates from these industries to join the IAC.

Jose commented that CSN students and representatives are vital. Valuing their input is key to serving both students and faculty. Staying focused on these priorities keeps the college advisors on track.

Agenda item 13: **Public Comment**
Dr. Juan Avalos

- CSN's Fall Career Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the North Las Vegas campus in the June Whitley Lounge. Visit the CSN website for details or contact Juan for more information.

Agenda item 14: **Adjourn**
Randy Robison

- Motion to adjourn by Nancy Brune
- Second by Peter Guzman
- Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am