



**College of Southern Nevada – Institutional Advisory Council  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**Agenda item 1:**

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Agenda item 2: Roll Call**

In-person

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

Virtual

Jaime Cruz  
Paul J. Moradkahn

Additional attendees: Dr. Stacy Klippenstein, Tina Russom, Dr. Yvonne Realivasquez, Clarissa Cota, Lisa Bakke, Sarah Tartaglia, Ruben Kihuen, Jose Solorio, Tracy Sherman, Dr. James McCoy, Dr. Vartouhi Asherian, Dr. Lawrence Weekly, Danita Simons

Absent: Jose Solorio

**Land Acknowledgement by Chair Randy Robison**

**Agenda item 3: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda item 4: Public Comment**

Randy Robison

- No formal public comments were recorded at this time.

**Agenda item 5: Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2026 Meeting**

Randy Robison

- Motion to approve by Peter Guzman. Approved.
- Second: Seconded by Maria Jose Gatti.
- Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

## **Agenda item 6: Board Chair Report**

Randy Robison

- No significant updates were reported beyond welcoming remarks.
- Acknowledged near-full committee

## **Agenda item 7: CSN President's Report**

Stacy Klippenstein

- Expressed appreciation to committee members for their continued engagement and meetings throughout the year.
- Attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Conference in New Orleans. Regent Carol Del Carlo will serve as incoming ACCT President
- Currently serving on the Workforce Connections Board, the National Junior College Athletic Association, and the President's Commission
- Highlighted CSN's continued community presence and recognition, including:
  - Hosting the National Metallica Scholars at the Coburg Conference, supporting students in technical education
  - Recognition at the Urban Chamber of Commerce Green Tie Event
  - Recognition during a Vegas Golden Knights game
- Noted ongoing collaboration with the Clark County School District (CCSD) to strengthen institutional partnerships.
- Participated in a tour of the law enforcement training academy in Henderson, Nevada, alongside the Chancellor; acknowledged a recent graduation ceremony.
- Encouraged continued support of CSN athletic programs through attendance at events.
- Announced CSN will host the Latin Chamber of Commerce Luncheon in January 2026

## **Board of Regents & Budget Updates**

- Announced the upcoming Board of Regents meeting at the CSN Charleston Campus on January 23, 2026
- Agenda items include tuition and fee increases, institutional budget considerations, special course fees, and continuation of a three-year synoptic IT contract.

## **Student Fees & Financial Planning**

- CSN is working collaboratively with Student Government regarding proposed fee adjustments.
- Proposed implementation of an Academic Success Initiative fee of \$5 per credit to support student services (aligned with similar fees at peer institutions)
- Proposed adjustment to the distance education fee from \$15 per course to \$7 per credit
- Combined fee changes are projected to generate approximately \$3.3 million in additional revenue.
- Noted that registration fee increases were previously scheduled for Board approval in December 2025. However, additional time was requested, and the item will return for consideration in January 2026.

## **COLA & Budget Outlook**

- The State provided partial funding for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), with CSN covering the remaining portion; future funding is not guaranteed.
- Over the next three years, proposed registration fee increases of 2%, 3%, and 4% for community colleges (compared to 3%, 4%, and 5% proposed by universities)
- Identified an estimated \$5.3 million budget gap related to COLA obligations.
- COLA-related items will be presented to the Board of Regents for consideration in January 2026
- CSN has established an Executive Budget Advisory Committee to support budget planning and identify strategies to address financial gaps.

### **Questions:**

Dr. Brune inquired whether the proposed fee structure, including potential increases of 2%, 3%, and 4%, had been reviewed or approved by Student Government.

The President confirmed that Student Government conducted a vote on November 21, 2025:

- Student Government voted in support of CSN-specific fee proposals.
- Student Government did not support proposed tuition/registration increases.

Student concerns centered on the financial impact of tuition increases. This feedback has been communicated and acknowledged in broader discussions.

Comment: Dr. Brune gave props to President for meeting external stakeholders and is noticed.

## **Strategic Plan**

- Strategic planning efforts will begin in Spring 2026, including the formation of a Strategic Plan Taskforce in partnership with a third-party consultant to help guide the College's future vision.
- The President invited participation from IAC members to serve on the Strategic Plan Taskforce

### **Questions:**

Mr. Guzman inquired whether the strategic plan includes efforts to secure additional funding.

The President confirmed that financial stability and growth are components of the strategic plan and align with upcoming legislative priorities. Efforts to revise the state funding formula are ongoing, prior proposals were not approved.

Additional funding priorities include the Northwest campus project and continued support for nursing programs.

Chairman Robison requested that updates on legislative strategy be shared with the committee to support advocacy efforts on behalf of the College.

The President acknowledged the importance of advocacy and confirmed that additional information will be provided as legislative priorities are further developed, with potential discussion at a future meeting.

- The President shared reflections from recent Spring convocation, including engagement with faculty, staff, and student leaders, and outlined key priorities for the next six months.
- Emphasized the importance of aligning institutional planning efforts, including:
  - Strategic Plan
  - Enrollment Plan
  - Academic Master Plan
  - Facilities Plan (noting the current plan is over a decade old)
- Highlighted the need to advance planning for the Northwest Campus, as well as evaluate space and capacity needs to support:
  - Expansion of health programs
  - Development of new workforce and CTE programs
  - Growth in IT, AI, and emerging technologies
- Noted continued efforts to strengthen state support through engagement with the Legislature and Board of Regents

### **Institutional Vision (“Moonshot” Goals)**

The President outlined aspirational goals for the College, including:

- Positioning CSN as the largest higher education institution in Nevada in both enrollment and graduates
- Increasing student enrollment and completion outcomes over the next several years
- Establishing CSN as the destination institution for high school graduates and adult learners
- Advancing CSN as the most nimble, innovative, and relevant institution in the state
- Strengthening CSN’s role as a key educational partner in Nevada’s economic diversification
- Promoting CSN as a top workplace for faculty and staff
- The President noted that these priorities will be further refined through the upcoming strategic planning process.

### **System Updates (NSHE)**

Natalie Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development, provided system-level updates:

- Announced an upcoming joint Interim Committee on Education presentation scheduled for February 17, which will include a system-wide update and legislative impacts from the previous session.
- Highlighted key legislative items, including:

- Safety and Security Equipment Enhancement Fund (AB 567)
- Development of a data dashboard and interim study on financial aid and food insecurity
- Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies (SB 293)
- Board of Regents professional development (SB 322)
- Provided an update on the Workforce Pell Grant, a new federal financial aid program effective July 1, 2026:
  - Expands Pell Grant eligibility to short-term, non-credit workforce training programs.
  - Implementation is in progress, with program approval to be coordinated through the Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation
  - Additional guidance and updates will be shared as details are finalized.
- Noted the upcoming ACCT National Legislative Summit (February 8–11, Washington, D.C.), with participation from community college presidents and CSN students.
  - The summit will focus on federal legislative priorities and advocacy for community colleges.
- Emphasized continued collaboration and support from the system office in advancing workforce development and advocacy efforts.

**Agenda item 8: CSN Northwest Campus Update and Discussion**

Vice President Clarissa Cota and Dr. James McCoy provided an update on the Northwest Campus project, including recent progress and upcoming efforts.

- Noted continued coordination with community stakeholders, legislators, and local partners to advance the project.
- Confirmed that the Bureau of Land Management timeline allows construction commencement through 2032, with efforts underway to align agreements with the City of Las Vegas
- Highlighted ongoing engagement efforts, including:
  - Reengagement of the Gold Ribbon Committee (anticipated to reconvene February 2026)
  - Meetings with local officials and community leaders to support project momentum.
  - Planning for a future capital campaign, in coordination with CSN leadership
- Provided an overview of planning priorities, including:
  - Alignment with academic programming and workforce needs
  - Development of sustainable facilities that support education-to-workforce pipelines.
- Encouraged continued stakeholder engagement and outreach in support of the project.

**Agenda item 9: CSN Enrollment and Dual Credit Update, Dual Enrollment Overview**

Dr. James McCoy

- Fall 2025 enrollment totaled 30,663 unduplicated students, representing an

- increase of approximately 1,500 students (5.1%) compared to Fall 2024
- Enrollment continues to recover following pandemic-related declines, trending upward toward pre-COVID levels.
  - Reported course fill rate of 89.2%, indicating strong course utilization and operational efficiency.
  - Emphasized the importance of enrollment in supporting CSN's mission of access, student success, and community impact.

### **Dual Enrollment**

- Dual enrollment was highlighted as a key strategy to expand access and support student success pathways.
- Noted that Nevada currently lags behind national benchmarks in funding support for dual enrollment programs.
- Emphasized the need for continued investment and advocacy at the state level to strengthen dual enrollment opportunities.

### **Agenda item 10: ASCSN Update**

Sovereign Hone, ASCSN President

- ASCSN hosted multiple student forums across campuses to gather feedback on proposed fee increases and engaged closely with college leadership to represent student perspectives
- Student Government formally:
  - Supported the Academic Success Initiative fee and distance education fee, with the expectation that administration will report back on outcomes and improvements resulting from the use of these funds.
  - Did not support proposed registration fee increases, citing concerns regarding financial impact on students.
- Students expressed concerns about affordability, particularly for low-income, first-generation, and part-time students, as well as a desire for greater transparency and demonstrated improvements tied to fees.
- ASCSN reported recent initiatives supporting student and community well-being, including:
  - Funding support for holiday meal programs for students experiencing food insecurity.
  - Participation in community outreach efforts addressing hunger and food insecurity.
- ASCSN is preparing for the upcoming semester, including recruitment to fill current student government vacancies.

### **Discussion**

- Additional discussion reflected student concerns regarding the financial burden of fee increases and the perceived impact on access and student experience.
- Students acknowledged institutional funding challenges but emphasized the importance of affordability and inclusion in decision-making.

## **ASCSN President's Report – Discussion on Registration Fees**

- Chair Robison inquired about student perspectives regarding the proposed registration fees and potential impacts of not addressing the funding gap.
- ASCSN President Sovereign Hone shared that many students feel they are being asked to address a deficit they did not create and do not view the fees as a favorable solution. Students also expressed concerns about not being fully included in prior fee-related decisions.
- While acknowledging that funding is needed and that potential cuts or reduced quality are a concern, students remain apprehensive about multiple proposed fees and their financial impact. Additionally, there is skepticism regarding whether increased fees will lead to noticeable improvements in the student experience.
- President Hone noted that, although students understand the situation, many do not agree with the proposed measures and, in some cases, perceive them as punitive.

### **Agenda item 11: Propose Future Meeting Date**

Chair Robison - Proposed Future Meeting April 2026

### **Agenda item 12: New Business**

Requests, Suggestions

- Enrollment in High School
- Entrepreneurship
- IAC Council Recruitment

### **Agenda item 13: Public Comment**

Layla Scott - expressed appreciation for President Klippenstein's leadership. She also shared support for dual enrollment initiatives, noting that access to such opportunities during her high school years would have positively impacted her educational and career pathway.

### **Agenda item 14: Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm