



**College of Southern Nevada – Institutional Advisory Council
Approved Meeting Minutes
Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

Agenda item 1:

Meeting called to order at 2:13 p.m.

Agenda item 2:

Roll Call:

In-person

Randy Robison
Jose Solorio

Virtual

Shaundell Newsome
Paul Moradkahn
Jaime Cruz
Maria Jose Gatti
Nancy Brune

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

Absent: Peter Guzman, Vida Chan Lin

Agenda item 3:

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda item 4:

Randy Robison – **Public Comment.** None presented.

Agenda item 5:

Randy Robison - Approval of Minutes

Corrections:

- Correction to the spelling of Jose Solorio on Agenda Item 11 on January 14, 2025, minutes.
- Similar correction on Agenda Item 9 on April 16, 2025, minutes.

Motion: A motion was made to approve both sets of minutes with corrections.

Second: Seconded by Councilwoman Brune.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda item 6:**Randy Robison – Chairman’s Report**

Provided brief remarks and acknowledged the council’s continued engagement, particularly during recent advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. Chair commends the Chamber of Commerce for organizing a successful trip and highlighted productive discussions with BLM officials regarding CSN’s Northwest Campus land patent issue.

Agenda item 7:**Stacy Klippenstein – President’s Report****Internal Engagement**

- Conducted listening sessions with faculty, administrative faculty, classified staff, and students.
- Met with councils, academic departments, and student groups to better understand internal operations and opportunities for improvement.

External Engagement

- Engaged with local leaders, chambers, workforce partners, and elected officials.
- Will serve on the boards of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA) and Workforce Connections.
- Participated in a podcast with council member Jaime Cruz.
- Noted strong community support for CSN.

Enrollment and Student Success

- Fall enrollment increased by nearly 8% over last year (approx. 2,000 more students).
- Dual enrollment and apprenticeship participation increased significantly.
- Retention from fall-to-fall is trending upward.
- CSN awarded over 5,600 degrees and certificates to nearly 5,000 individuals, the largest graduating class among Nevada institutions.

Accreditation

- CSN recently completed its mid-cycle accreditation evaluation with very positive feedback.
- Evaluators highlighted CSN’s student-centered mission, advising improvements, and institutional progress.

Campus & Regional Partnerships

- Celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the Westside Education Training Center.
- Continued progress on the Eastside Educational Training Center and collaboration with the City of Las Vegas on the Medical Education Training Center.
- Ongoing work with the City of Las Vegas, BLM, and industry partners.

Tuition and Fee

- System-wide dialogue underway regarding potential tuition increases (approx. 4 to 5% combined HEPI + state adjustments).
- CSN is considering two fee changes:
 - Academic Success Initiative Fee (\$5 per credit) supports advising and academic support services.
 - Converting the distance education fee from a course rate to a per-credit model.

Advising

- Current advisor-to-student ratio is 651:1, significantly above NSHE's recommended 350:1.
- CSN needs 36 additional advisors (approx. \$2.5M) to meet the target.
- The Academic Success Initiative Fee is expected to support expanded advising.

Council Feedback

- Mr. Solorio emphasized long-term funding fairness for CSN and concerns with "hold harmless" practices that disadvantage CSN.
- Councilwoman Brune stressed the importance of student advising and requested data on enrollment trends and student migration.
- Chair Robison requested details on proposed fee levels and enrollment forecasting.
- President Klippenstein affirmed CSN's commitment to transparency, strategic alignment, and legislative engagement.

Agenda item 8:

Stacy Klippenstein – Budget Update

- CSN experienced a \$16.6M annual caseload reduction due to pandemic-related enrollment declines.
- One-time funds partially offset losses, but structural budget challenges remain.
- CSN is covering an approximate \$12M gap through salary savings and temporary funding shifts (reserves and self-supporting accounts).
- CSN must identify permanent reductions before the next legislative session.

Executive Budget Advisory Committee

- A new committee will help:
 - Evaluate long-term budget strategies
 - Prioritize essential positions
 - Align resources with the strategic plan

Council Remarks

- Mr. Solorio recommended including legislative representatives on EVAC for clearer alignment with state priorities.

- Councilwoman Brune cautioned against cutting advising positions and requested analytical reporting on enrollment declines.
- Chair Robison emphasized sustainable resource alignment and financial transparency.

Agenda item 9:

Stacy Klippenstein – **CSN Legislative Update**

Funding Formula Revisions

- CSN emphasized the need for revisions to ensure equitable and adequate institutional funding.
- Maintenance of caseload growth funding, ensuring institutions experiencing enrollment increases receive proportionate support.

Campus Safety & Security

- NSHE received \$11M state funding last session (short of the requested \$20M).
- CSN received \$1.87M but identified a need for additional safety and security investments.
- Goal: Restore or increase funding closer to the original statewide request.

Increased Funding for SIP Code 51

- SIP 51 includes high-demand health fields such as nursing, respiratory therapy, and related programs.
- CSN advocated for increasing the weighting for health programs from 2 to 4, reflecting workforce demand and instructional costs.
- It would generate sustainable, ongoing dollars for CSN and peer community colleges.

High-Demand Faculty Recruitment & Retention

- Request for funding to support market-competitive salaries for faculty in critical shortage areas.

Increased Academic Advising Support

- Current student-to-advisor ratio of 350:1 is unsustainable and unfunded.
- CSN is seeking state support to expand advising capacity.

Dual Enrollment Expansion

- Funding needed to expand dual enrollment offerings, especially in CTE.
- Includes additional support for dual-enrollment faculty compensation and program growth.

Co-Requisite Math Instruction Adjustment

- CSN requested state funding to account for increased instructional load under the co-requisite model, where math faculty now teaches fewer sections due to higher credit demands.

Prison Education Program Support

- CSN requested continued and improved funding for correctional education programs.

Agenda item 10:

Clarissa Cota – Capital Projects Update

Westside Education & Training Center (WETC)

- Recently opened.
- Partnership with the City of Las Vegas.
- Funded through EDA (\$6.9M), city investment, and WIN funding.
- Offers advanced manufacturing, logistics, IT, healthcare, and construction trades.

Eastside Education & Training Center (ETC)

- Uses the same building footprint as WETC.
- EDA funding of \$5M was recently awarded.
- City of Las Vegas committed \$11M for construction.

Medical Education Training Center (METC)

- Four-story facility planned in the Las Vegas Medical District.
- EDA request: \$11.5M; City commitment: \$17M.
- First floor anticipated to include childcare, addressing a key student barrier.

Agenda item 11:

James McCoy - Northwest Campus Update

- CSN previously invested approx. \$9M in planning for the original \$156M campus design.
- Legislature approved \$300,000 this session to update planning materials.
- CSN is developing multiple phased approaches to reduce upfront costs and improve feasibility for the 2027 session.
- State Public Works will deliver updated cost estimates.
- CSN will consult with the City of Las Vegas and the IAC before choosing a preferred phased plan.
- BLM provided flexibility allowing CSN until 2032 to activate the patented land, relieving pressure on near-term deadlines.

Agenda item 12:

Randy Robison – Recruitment of New Members

President Klippenstein recommended the appointment of Evan Louie as a new member of the Institutional Advisory Council.

- Mr. Louie introduced himself and shared his background in government, workforce development, education advocacy, and community engagement.
- The council expressed support for his appointment.

Agenda item 13:

Proposed Future Meeting Dates

- January 2026

Agenda item 14:**New Business**

Mr. Solorio states that we need to honor those who came before us. Have a statue or some memorial showing indigenous people or the Mexican previous ownership.

Agenda item 15:**Public Comment**

- Sarah Tartaglia introduction
- Tracy Sherman introduction
- Vartouhi Asherian introduction
- Mr. Solorio – CSN needs to value staff and make sure they are a priority.

Agenda item 16:

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm