

AMBER JOINER
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
District No. 24



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-8559
Fax No.: (775) 684-8533
Email: Amber.Joiner@asm.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 9810
Reno, Nevada 89507-0810
Cell: (775) 338-6733
Twitter: @joiner4nevada
www.amberjoiner.com

State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of the State of Nevada
101 North Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786

Dear Governor Sandoval:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

At the Committee's meeting and work session on June 4, 2018, the Committee approved sending letters you as follows:

1. To encourage the development of plans and options to:
 - a. Support the Board of Regents' efforts to revise the faculty compensation structure, creating a competitive but sustainable compensation system that addresses salary compression and provides for in-rank salary advancement;
 - b. Support the allocation of State General Fund appropriations to address professional compensation, including in-rank salary adjustments, in addition to student registration fees, miscellaneous student fees, nonresident tuition charges, and state-allocated revenues;

- c. Support regular funding in every fiscal year (FY) for in-rank salary advancement for NSHE professional employees at a level comparable, as a percentage of the total personnel budget, to funding for the in-grade steps for classified personnel in the state; and
 - d. Fund a one-time base-pay salary adjustment in FY 2020 to partially address equity and salary compression and inversion issues. It should be noted that an independent study was conducted for the Board of Regents, and the findings of the study were later presented to the Committee during its May 8, 2018, meeting. Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. testified the one-time costs to address this issue could total as much as \$38.4 million for administrative faculty and \$49 million for academic faculty.
2. To highlight the need for dedicated, permanent funding for the GGMS Program and support its continuation. The Committee heard testimony that indicated the GGMS Program will require an appropriation of approximately \$42 million for the 2019–2021 Biennium to remain solvent. Specifically, projections indicate a shortfall in funding of \$11.7 million for the spring semester of 2020 and \$30 million for FY 2021. The amount is based on projections assuming 6.5 percent growth annually; however, the program experienced 8 percent growth from FY 2017 to FY 2018. The Office of the State Treasurer discussed the need to dedicate a permanent funding stream for the GGMS Program in addition to the tobacco settlement funds and unclaimed property transfers, which account for approximately \$15.7 to \$15.8 million and \$7.6 million each year respectively.
 3. To express the Committee’s support for increased funding for the Nevada Regents’ Service Program, which is the only state-supported work study program in NSHE. The Board of Regents established the Nevada Regents’ Service Program to provide meaningful work for students while they make a contribution to the critical needs of the community. The following table shows the last three years of available recipient data as provided by Renée Davis, Director of Student Affairs, NSHE:

Academic Year	Dollars Disbursed	Number of Recipients
2015–2016	\$877,731	361
2014–2015	\$1,081,684	358
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4. To express support for the concept of an increased/shared grant writing and management infrastructure for Nevada’s community and state colleges for the purpose of obtaining private and federal grant funding.

The Honorable Brian Sandoval

Page 3

November 5, 2018

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please contact me or Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst (jruedy@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6825) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning
the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education

AJ/jr:W181845

Distribution:

Governor Brian Sandoval

Senator Aaron D. Ford
Senator Michael Roberson
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
Regent Kevin J. Page
Chancellor Thom Reilly, D.P.A.

cc: Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (via e-mail only)
Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, LCB (via e-mail only)
Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents, NSHE (via e-mail only)
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State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Senator Aaron D. Ford
Senate Majority Leader
Nevada State Legislature

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Senator Ford:

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You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

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Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning
the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education

AJ/jr:W181845

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Senator Aaron D. Ford

Senator Michael Roberson

Senator Joyce Woodhouse

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton

Assemblyman Jason Frierson

Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

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Chancellor Thom Reilly, D.P.A.

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State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Senator Michael Roberson
Senate Minority Leader
Nevada State Legislature
P.O. Box 530940
Henderson, Nevada 89053-0940

Dear Senator Roberson:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

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The Honorable Michael Roberson

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Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning
the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education

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State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
Nevada State Legislature
246 Garfield Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89074-1027

Dear Senator Woodhouse:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

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The Honorable Joyce Woodhouse

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November 5, 2018

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Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning
the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education

AJ/jr:W181845

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State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Nevada State Legislature
5540 East Cartwright Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89110-3802

Dear Assemblywoman Carlton:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

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The Honorable Maggie Carlton

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November 5, 2018

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Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
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State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Speaker of the Assembly
Nevada State Legislature
7925 West Russell Road, No. 400187
Las Vegas, Nevada 89140-8009

Dear Speaker Frierson:

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State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
Assembly Minority Leader
Nevada State Legislature
P.O. Box 2135
Minden, Nevada 89423-2135

Dear Assemblyman Wheeler:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

At the Committee's meeting and work session on June 4, 2018, the Committee approved sending letters you as follows:

1. To encourage the development of plans and options to:
 - a. Support the Board of Regents' efforts to revise the faculty compensation structure, creating a competitive but sustainable compensation system that addresses salary compression and provides for in-rank salary advancement;
 - b. Support the allocation of State General Fund appropriations to address professional compensation, including in-rank salary adjustments, in addition to student registration fees, miscellaneous student fees, nonresident tuition charges, and state-allocated revenues;

- c. Support regular funding in every fiscal year (FY) for in-rank salary advancement for NSHE professional employees at a level comparable, as a percentage of the total personnel budget, to funding for the in-grade steps for classified personnel in the state; and
 - d. Fund a one-time base-pay salary adjustment in FY 2020 to partially address equity and salary compression and inversion issues. It should be noted that an independent study was conducted for the Board of Regents, and the findings of the study were later presented to the Committee during its May 8, 2018, meeting. Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. testified the one-time costs to address this issue could total as much as \$38.4 million for administrative faculty and \$49 million for academic faculty.
2. To highlight the need for dedicated, permanent funding for the GGMS Program and support its continuation. The Committee heard testimony that indicated the GGMS Program will require an appropriation of approximately \$42 million for the 2019–2021 Biennium to remain solvent. Specifically, projections indicate a shortfall in funding of \$11.7 million for the spring semester of 2020 and \$30 million for FY 2021. The amount is based on projections assuming 6.5 percent growth annually; however, the program experienced 8 percent growth from FY 2017 to FY 2018. The Office of the State Treasurer discussed the need to dedicate a permanent funding stream for the GGMS Program in addition to the tobacco settlement funds and unclaimed property transfers, which account for approximately \$15.7 to \$15.8 million and \$7.6 million each year respectively.
 3. To express the Committee’s support for increased funding for the Nevada Regents’ Service Program, which is the only state-supported work study program in NSHE. The Board of Regents established the Nevada Regents’ Service Program to provide meaningful work for students while they make a contribution to the critical needs of the community. The following table shows the last three years of available recipient data as provided by Renée Davis, Director of Student Affairs, NSHE:

Academic Year	Dollars Disbursed	Number of Recipients
2015–2016	\$877,731	361
2014–2015	\$1,081,684	358
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4. To express support for the concept of an increased/shared grant writing and management infrastructure for Nevada’s community and state colleges for the purpose of obtaining private and federal grant funding.

The Honorable Jim Wheeler

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November 5, 2018

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please contact me or Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst (jruedy@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6825) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning
the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education

AJ/jr:W181845

Distribution:

Governor Brian Sandoval
Senator Aaron D. Ford
Senator Michael Roberson
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
Regent Kevin J. Page
Chancellor Thom Reilly, D.P.A.

cc: Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (via e-mail only)
Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, LCB (via e-mail only)
Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents, NSHE (via e-mail only)
Michael J. Willden, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor (via e-mail only)

AMBER JOINER
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
District No. 24



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-8559
Fax No.: (775) 684-8533
Email: Amber.Joiner@asm.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 9810
Reno, Nevada 89507-0810
Cell: (775) 338-6733
Twitter: @joiner4nevada
www.amberjoiner.com

State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Kevin J. Page, Chair
Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-5371

Dear Regent Page:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

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- c. Support regular funding in every fiscal year (FY) for in-rank salary advancement for NSHE professional employees at a level comparable, as a percentage of the total personnel budget, to funding for the in-grade steps for classified personnel in the state; and
 - d. Fund a one-time base-pay salary adjustment in FY 2020 to partially address equity and salary compression and inversion issues. It should be noted that an independent study was conducted for the Board of Regents, and the findings of the study were later presented to the Committee during its May 8, 2018, meeting. Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. testified the one-time costs to address this issue could total as much as \$38.4 million for administrative faculty and \$49 million for academic faculty.
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Regent Page
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November 5, 2018

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please contact me or Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst (jruedy@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6825) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

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Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning
the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education

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Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-8559
Fax No.: (775) 684-8533
Email: Amber.Joiner@asm.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 9810
Reno, Nevada 89507-0810
Cell: (775) 338-6733
Twitter: @joiner4nevada
www.amberjoiner.com

State of Nevada Assembly

November 5, 2018

Thom Reilly, D.P.A.
Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-7530

Dear Chancellor Reilly:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education to express its support for certain matters related to the budgeting for higher education in Nevada.

You play a very important role in the state budgeting process relating to higher education, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our recommendations relating to the following issues: (1) compensation for the faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); (2) the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) Program; (3) the Regents' Service Program; and (4) grant writing.

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Chancellor Reilly
Page 3
November 5, 2018

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Sincerely,



Assembly Member Amber Joiner, Chair
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