

Public Comment, Interim Finance Committee, Feb. 9, 2022

For the record, my name is Bradley Summerhill. I am a faculty member in the English department at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno. I was hired in 2001. I achieved tenure in 2007.

In January, the 12-month measure of inflation hit a 40 year high of 7 percent. Even before considering effects on wages in the past year, already, following Consumer Price Index/Urban-West calculations, the salaries of Nevada System of Higher Education faculty had lost more than 20 percent in real value of net take-home pay over the prior decade. This includes all COLA and pay adjustments.

As higher education faculty help to build Nevada's twenty first century economy and workforce, legislative considerations have not only flatlined, but degraded our earnings. Institutions will finally receive 1 percent merit monies to be distributed July 1, 2022. At TMCC, it is the first time faculty have ever received merit pay even though we have been eligible for it since 2013. Meanwhile, the effects of inflation and housing outpace cost of living adjustments by double figures.

In the upcoming legislative session, please bear in mind that Nevada System of Higher Education faculty do not receive automatic COLA adjustments or step increases as may be the case for our deserving K-12 colleagues. Please bear in mind that we work the country's highest workloads for low starting wages that have become endemically stagnant. Our junior faculty across the system are especially hurting. We need legislative support.

Thank you for your time.

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