

From: [Kent Ervin](#)
To: [Interim Finance Committee](#)
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For your convenience in preparing the minutes, here is a written version of my oral public comments at today's IFC meeting.

Thank you.

Kent Ervin

Interim Finance Committee 12/13/2023

Kent Ervin, K-E-N-T E-R-V-I-N, Nevada Faculty Alliance

Good morning.

It has been one hour less than a week since the horrific mass shooting at UNLV on December 6th. Our colleagues and students are in pain, dealing with trauma, sadness, anger, and fear. We grieve the senseless murders of three of our colleagues -Dr. Patricia Navarro-Velez, Dr. ChaJan "Jerry" Chang, and Dr. Naoko Takemaru. The fourth victim, a visiting professor, is still fighting for his life. All underrepresented minority faculty members. We can hardly imagine what their families, friends, colleagues, and students are going through. Words cannot express our sorrow. Countless others at UNLV have suffered trauma from the lockdown and forcible evacuations.

On behalf of the Nevada Faculty Alliance, I would like to thank the University Police Southern Command for their heroic and professional response. Their fast actions saved lives. We thank President Keith Whitfield and so many others at UNLV, NSHE, and the community at large for their caring actions. We thank President Joe Biden for meeting personally with UNLV representatives including Doug Unger for the NFA.

After these events, our faculty, staff, and students do not feel safe. Across all NSHE institutions, we see safety deficiencies.

Therefore, we call on the Board of Regents to request and the Interim Finance Committee to grant emergency state funding to repair the extensive damage at UNLV beyond what self-insurance will cover and to improve security on all NSHE campuses. Along with our Faculty Senates, the NFA stands ready to take part in discussions of safety standards. We work to empower our faculty to be fully engaged in our mission to help students succeed. Empowerment at this moment means a learning and working environment where everyone feels safe.

Thank you.

Dr. Kent M. Ervin

Director of Government Relations and Past President

Nevada Faculty Alliance

