



TO: Interim Finance Committee  
Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024

FROM: Doug Unger, UNLV Chapter President, Nevada Faculty Alliance, and Chair,  
Government Affairs Committee – E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

RE: **Agenda item I. (2-8-24); & future emergency funding for UNLV & NSHE to support campus safety; & for agenda item D, 5, solidarity with Collective Bargaining for teachers before distribution of funds to the Lyon County School District**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Doug Unger, Nevada Faculty Alliance. Thank you Chair Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair Dondero-Loop, and Members of the Interim Committee for your consideration.

The UNLV Chapter of the Nevada Faculty Alliance supports the distribution of funds requested in Agenda Item I, for the “Expanding the Leadership” initiative, as one small part of UNLV’s continuing efforts to support diversity at one of the most diverse universities in the nation and, with this modest request, to seek to continue to influence and support the gaming industry to diversify industry leaders, much needed and long overdue. We ask for your approval.

We also come to you still with heavy hearts following the December 6<sup>th</sup> mass shooting on the UNLV Campus, which killed three faculty members and wounded a fourth, all from historically underserved minorities. Though we carry on with our mission to teach and serve our students and the community, we feel the loss every day. Many students and faculty are negatively affected by the trauma we experienced. We are applying trauma-informed teaching approaches to assist our students, and UNLV and NSHE have been admirable for a caring approach to making available additional counseling and well-being support services. Repairs to damaged physical facilities are ongoing. Still, all our NSHE campuses realize that many safety upgrades and improvements must be made in order for our students and faculty to feel safe and secure in an increasingly gun and violence affected culture. Education is harder to pursue and earn without a sense of personal safety. We hope the members of the committee will see the urgent needs and will support what may be a substantial request for necessary funding to meet these needs in the future.

The UNLV-NFA also expresses strong solidarity with the Nevada State Education Association in asking the Interim Committee to pause the Lyon County School District request for funds in agenda item D, subsection 5, until such time as the District’s Board bargains in good faith with its teachers and employees. Not to do so violates the intentions and spirit of NRS 288, which should not be condoned. Thank you for your time and attention, and for your service to our state.