

For the record, my name is Michael Stannard and I am the ASUN Director of Legislative Affairs. I am joined by recent UNR graduate and outgoing department member John Kucera.

We appreciate the opportunity to come before this interim committee and bring an important issue to light. We have spent the last three years bridging the gap between students and their representatives at the legislative and regent level. Today's topic of conversation relates to student representation at the regent level. Nevada is one of only eleven states without student representation on its board of regents.

We ask that you take whatever steps necessary to create an appointed, voting position for a Nevada student on the Board of Regents.

The Department of Legislative Affairs at ASUN has spent countless hours in Reno, Carson City, and Las Vegas speaking with Assemblymen, Senators, Regents, NSHE administration, community members, and the governor's office about this proposal. We have worked closely with other higher education institutions, especially UNLV; the need for a student regent is a sentiment shared by many across the state of Nevada. In addition to state-wide collaborative efforts, we have partnered with many regents, faculty members, and legislators across the nation who have shared the benefits of having a student regent.

While some may say there are existing avenues of student representation, the impact is neither adequate nor assured. Speaking at a regent's meeting or talking with a legislator is not the same as having a tangible impact on policy; having your voice heard and having a vote or crafting policy are in no way comparable. The addition of a student regent would not only remedy the existing representation asymmetry, it would also bring a perspective not currently enjoyed by the board: "Student [regents] are the only members who see policy both at the 30,000 feet level of the board and the ground level of the campus" (Elfreth 83).

The appropriateness of a student regent is not a large pill to swallow, as always the devil is in the details. We acknowledge that the board is elected and we have no intention or desire to disrupt the existing election process. The legislation we request would allow for the appointment of a single student regent alongside the existing board. When looking at other states, there are a number of working models that would match our state and system. Assembling parts from several systems yield, what we believe, the most appropriate options for Nevada:

- Selection option I
 - Each NSHE institution may submit up to three names (selection process to be determined by the individual institution)
 - Candidates will be forwarded to the governor for final selection
- Selection option II
 - Each NSHE institution may submit up to three names (selection process to be determined by the individual institution)
 - Candidates will be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final selection

Regardless of the option considered above, student regents would serve a two year term beginning July 1. Candidates will be required to have and maintain a 3.0 GPA as well as resign any appointed or elected student government position upon final selection as the student regent. Most importantly, **the student regent will have all the rights and privileges of a traditionally elected regent, aside from the reduced term.**

Over the last several months, we have put in a lot of time and completed much research on the issue. The next step is to entrust our state government to take action. We ask you to support this proposal, continue investigating the benefits of a student regent, and direct the Legislative Council Bureau to begin research on the language and legal action necessary to facilitate a bill draft request.

Thank you for your time.