

Nevada System of Higher Education
JAMES E. ROGERS, CHANCELLOR

5550 W. Flamingo Rd., Suite C-1
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103
Tel: (702) 889-8426
Fax: (702) 889-4360



2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
Tel: (775) 784-4905 x225
E-mail: chancellor@nevada.edu

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Board of Regents of the
Nevada System of Higher Education
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Board Members:

I am writing with respect to David Ashley, his pending evaluation, and my thoughts as to his continuing as President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As you may know, I did not actively participate in Dr. Ashley's evaluation. In fact, the evaluation consultant did not call me to ask my opinion of Dr. Ashley's performance. However, shortly after the second meeting of the Regents' evaluation committee, I began receiving calls by persons who did participate in that evaluation, expressing concerns that matters raised to the evaluation consultant did not appear to be reflected in the preliminary report. I informed the Chair of the Board of Regents that I believed I was obligated to follow up with a number of individuals to ascertain if there appeared to be an issue or issues that the evaluation consultant had missed.

On the first of June I spent virtually the entire day and into the evening on the phone talking to stakeholders from every group I could imagine who were interested in UNLV and its future. As a result of those conversations I became convinced that there were in fact serious concerns with the direction of leadership at UNLV. In addition, you are obviously aware of recent media coverage that has reported on a number of concerns.

Among the concerns that have been raised, which I believe were not adequately raised and addressed in the evaluation process (even though at least some of these concerns were raised to Dr. Welty), include such things as:

- Treatment of UNLV employees by the President's wife and by extension the President.
- Whether Dr. Ashley has fully performed his duties as President including attending necessary events.
- Whether Dr. Ashley has maintained an appropriate working environment at UNLV.
- Whether Dr. Ashley has developed the connections with the campus faculty and students, the Las Vegas community and the Board to be successful in his role as President.
- Whether Dr. Ashley's management style is conducive to the continued development of UNLV.
- Whether Dr. Ashley took appropriate and timely action in response to concerns that were raised.

I understand that my term as Chancellor will end at the end of this month and that you may not take action on Dr. Ashley's contract by that time. Based on my consideration of the concerns that have been raised, I recommend that Dr. Ashley's contract not be renewed and that you consider immediate termination of the contract as president. I have told Dr. Ashley, and I pledge to you, that I will make myself available to the Board at any time this matter comes up, and that I would be pleased to appear publicly and discuss the contents of this letter and submit to any questions that the Board or others have. I have done what I can in good conscience do to amicably resolve this matter, but my efforts have not been successful.

I am not happy to make this recommendation to you. While I do not know Dr. Ashley very well, a view apparently shared by many, I do like him. However, the problems that have become the subject of much media attention recently are the problems that I long ago asked him and expected him to correct. In my conversations with Dr. Ashley he has not identified any action he has taken to decisively address these issues, and in fact, I do not believe he acknowledges there are serious issues.

Sincerely,

James E. Rogers,
Chancellor

