

NINE TO FOUR PLAN:

A PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURING THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION (NSHE)

BACKGROUND

The budget for NSHE reflects a reduction of 29.1% in the next biennium (2011-2013). State general fund support for NSHE is projected to be reduced by \$163 million. The NSHE administration has directed each of the eight institutions to anticipate drastic funding reductions. The University of Nevada - Las Vegas portion of this proposed reduction in state funding is \$47.5 million while the University of Nevada – Reno reduction is \$53.3 million. All indications suggest that the NSHE Board of Regents will declare financial exigency (bankruptcy) in response to the 29.1% reduction in state funding. *The NSHE – System Center must consider dramatic restructuring in order to preserve the core mission of higher education for the State of Nevada.*

The NSHE system is comprised of eight units occupying nine campuses:

- Western Nevada Community College
- Great Basin College
- Nevada State College
- Desert Research Institute – North
- Desert Research Institute – South
- Truckee Meadows Community College
- University of Nevada – Reno
- College of Southern Nevada
- University of Nevada - Las Vegas

ACTION

Given what appears to be devastating reductions in state funding to NSHE, only four institutions should be maintained:

- One college – North
- One university – North
- One college – South
- One university – South

OUTCOME

The elimination of four NSHE units occupying five campuses would save over \$50 million of the state FY11 general fund. Savings from the closing of campuses and removal of unnecessary executive positions could prevent the need for a declaration of financial exigency. Common course numbering would allow seamless transition of displaced students to the remaining two colleges and two universities. Financial stability would protect the NCAA Division I accreditation of men's and women's sports at the two universities. Economic diversification and access to higher education would be protected by this NSHE re-organization.

REFERENCE

http://system.nevada.edu/NSHE-Hearing_012711.pdf