At the 4/11/13 UBAC meeting, Brian Burnett reported on the Regents meeting of 4/9/13, recent action by the State legislature, and new construction. Highlights of the Regents meeting: (a) there will be a 6% tuition hike for in-state graduate and undergraduate students and a 4% tuition hike for out-of-state graduate and undergraduates; and (b) this year’s raise pool is 3.1% for faculty and professional exempt staff and 3.6% for classified staff.

Highlights of recent legislative action (and inaction): (a) passage of the ASSET Bill (no one at the meeting could remember what the acronym stands for), which permits undocumented students to receive in-state tuition; (b) killing the bill that would have permitted community colleges to offer select four-year degrees; and (c) no change to the concealed carry legislation.

Highlights of new construction:
(a) $4.7 million has been appropriated by the state for design and other initial work on the Visual and Performing Arts Complex on North Nevada. The University expects to solicit architectural and design plans from a national pool and expects also to submit requests for perhaps as much as $25 million in construction money as soon the new fiscal year begins. Current projected cost of the building is in the $50 million range;
(b) the new office building on Austin Bluffs remains on track to open in August of 2014. This $15 million project includes only shelling in a fifth floor. However, the money needed to finish the fifth floor of the building (about $1.3 million) may yet be found.
(c) the new university village complex is on track to open in August of 2015. Plans currently call for 510 beds and some dedicated multipurpose space for the Gateway Experience of the campus-wide general education program, as well as other niceties. This is a $74 million project, funded by bonding future boarding revenue. Once completed, the University will be able to initiate a residency requirement for first-year students. Discussion on the nature and benefits of this requirement will soon begin.
(d) the addition to the Recreation Center is on track to open (I somehow missed the opening date, if it was given). This addition, currently expected to cost between $15 million and $18 million (all student fee paid), will include a new Health and Wellness Center, which is expected to cost an additional $3.5 million and is likely to become the new home of the Student Success Center, the Counseling Center, and other ancillary student support units.
(e) the new parking garage has already started construction and will, if I remember correctly, be completed in early 2014 so that construction on the university village complex can begin.

The next UBAC meeting will focus on budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

Rex Welshon