A special Senate meeting was requested by Board of Regents Chair James Dean Leavitt and Chancellor Dan Klaich. The entire agenda was “Discussion of the Selection of an Interim UNLV President. Parliamentarian Fernandez determined bylaws require a three day meeting notice, because that was not met, this was an informational Senate meeting. The meeting was called to order by Senate Chair John Filler at 12:49 p.m. in the Student Union, Ballroom A. The room was filled to capacity with not one empty seat: more than 50 guest seats and all open senate seats were taken; three walls were lined with faculty, students, staff and media. Due to the hastily convened meeting, not all senators were able to attend. Some found proxies, some did not. Those absent or without proxy will not have it counted against their attendance records due to the Parliamentarian ruling. No voting took place.


Single Meeting Proxies: Sylvia Lazos for Peter Bayer; Bob Woods for Bernard Fried; Kurt Stahura for Al Izzolo; Wes McWhorter for Janice Klaassen; Caroline Smith for Jennifer Fabbi; Cheryl Tillotson for Carolyn Hensley.

Absent: Patrick Carlton; Nasser Daneshvary (bereavement leave [Excused]); Jeff Gelfer; Greg Ginn; Peter Jakubowski; Cecilia Maldonado; Margot Mink Colbert; Rebecca Nathanson; George Pales; Matt Pedersen; Aly Said; Shannon Smith; An-Pyng Sun; Paul Traudt (Excused); Cory Tucker.

Senate Chair Filler turned the meeting over to Chancellor Klaich and BoR Chair Leavitt so that the limited time could be best spent on the subject at hand. They were both gratified to see such a large turnout of interested and well represented campus entities. Given the recent sad events of UNLV losing its President, the task now turns to selection of a new President. What qualities to look for, should that person be from within the system; should the university/Chancellor go directly to a national search or pick an interim president; should that individual be allowed to participate in that national search. How long before a search is begun? What would that person’s title be? Who would the campus like to see considered for this interim position? Should that individual be made permanent? Immediately? If not, how long do we wait before deciding? Chancellor Klaich and Chair of the Board of Regents Leavitt stated that their first priority would be to adjust or correct the funding formula for UNLV.

Many, many individuals spoke including faculty, senators, alum, regents, staff, and students. The final consensus was the recommendation of 3 names: Provost Neal Smatresk, former President Carol Harter, and former Law School Dean Richard Morgan. It was emphasized more than once that this did not seem to be an ideal time to do a national search due to the economy, UNLV receiving bad press nationally, and preferably select someone already familiar with current fundraising and budgetary issues. Definitely, the campus wants someone who is student “engaged”, passionate, can promote diversity, research, and is visible. If this person is to be “interim”, preferably “acting”, they should be fully empowered for the duration of the term and also permitted to be considered during the final presidential search.
Chancellor Klaich and Chair Leavitt promised to meet with campus faculty, administration and students, asking anyone to email them directly with comments and thoughts regarding who should assume the helm. They promised to make a decision very soon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.