

Approved June 21, 2024

**Remote via Zoom**

*Governors present:* **Chuck Nelsen, Chair**; Cathy Pleasant, Vice Chair;  
Tom Giustina; David Heinsen **Absent:** Past Chair, David Hodson  
*Ex Officio present:* Steve Perez, President **Absent:** Ahmad Boura, Vice President for University Advancement  
(CEO); Jamie Clyde, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance (CFO)  
*Staff present:* Pam Hollis and Robin Carter, University Advancement

**MINUTES**

Chair Chuck Nelsen called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Chair's Report: Chuck Nelsen**

Nelsen presented the Spring 2024 draft meeting schedule. He asked for any discussion, concerns, or comments. There were none, and the meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

Nelsen presented the agendas for the Spring 2024 meetings. He asked for any discussion, edits, or changes. Pam Hollis added an item to the Finance and Investment Committee Agenda. Dean Hassenzahl has made a request for one-time funding to support new faculty. Nelsen called for approval of the agendas as amended. There were no objections, and the agendas were unanimously approved as amended.

Nelsen informed the committee that there will be a vote to approve the selection committee's choice for the Gayle E. Hutchinson Presidential Award for Excellence. He also thanked the selection committee members for their time reviewing the nominations.

**President's Report: Steve Perez**

President Steve Perez gave an update on the university. There were 3,200 students eligible to graduate and a little over 3,000 students participated in six ceremonies over five days. It was a great celebration period. The downside of graduation is that we need to replace those students to keep up enrollment numbers. All our enrollment numbers are up except for the intents to enroll. The new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) rollout was not a smooth transition and has significantly impacted the intents to enroll, but Chico State has extended the deadline to June 1 and expects to see a wave of intents to enroll over the next week. It is expected that student housing will be close to capacity during the next academic year with Whitney Hall still closed for repairs. We have available academic space for students and will continue to admit students well into the summer.

The strategic planning process is underway. A steering committee has been formed. They are exploring and answering questions that will help align priorities across campus and tackle tough issues such as the budget situation.

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Perez gave an update on the impact to Chico State regarding protests over the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. There was some antisemitic graffiti on campus that was immediately removed, and a message was sent out about the unacceptability of this action on campus. The Academic Senate did not ask Perez to make a statement about a ceasefire or divesting and he does not intend to make a statement. The Senate did pass resolutions that called for a bi-lateral ceasefire; for Hamas to surrender; and denouncement of terrorists acts by Hamas and the killing of civilians during the conflict. Perez was proud of the respectful interactions within the campus community.

Perez is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Board June Retreat in San Diego.

**CFO's Report: Stacie Corona for Jamie Clyde**

Stacie Corona presented on behalf of Jamie Clyde. Corona gave an update on the 2024-25 budget cycle, the Governor's budget and May revision, the new Chico State budget process and an enrollment update. The cycle of the State, CSU and Chico State budget starts in September. The Governor's Budget was released in January with the announcement of a state budget deficit of \$38 billion. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) issues various reports during January through February and estimated the state budget deficit was closer to \$58 – \$73 billion. The preliminary budget memo is released in April and then the Governor issues a May Revise with the final budget set in June. The Governor has a compact with the CSU and UCs of an increase of 5% for five years. In 2024-25, we will be in year three of the compact. In the May Revision released on May 10, the Governor announced that he is going to defer increases for years three and four until 2025-26 and take away 8%. The net result is a 2% increase in 2025-26, not a net of 10%. In 2024-25, the Governor is asking the CSU to use their reserves and provide zero increase. The budget is not finalized, but this might be the best-case scenario. Fortunately, Chico State was expecting a tough budget cycle for the next three years, so we were already making plans to prepare for budget cuts. We are in a good financial position with our reserves. Other campuses in the CSU are not. Also in the May Revision, four scholarship and grant programs will see significant cuts, that also affect Chico State students. Reducing one of the programs, the Middle-Class Scholarship, from \$637 million to \$100 million will potentially affect 200,000 CSU students.

Chico State has been doing a lot of budget planning and training starting in February 2024. The university budget committee has 29 members from across campus. They are working on a three-year plan to balance our budget to take care of the \$30 million deficit. In March, the President put out a call to divisions to put together plans for discussion. This was then presented at the Cabinet level.

Corona echoed the President's report on enrollment numbers looking steady. Intents to enroll are down from last year, but we are optimistic the numbers will increase. We had a record number of attendees at Choose Chico in April - over 5,000 guests. Orientation registrations are up by 14% and housing applications are up 15%. Efforts are also being made to retain the students already enrolled.

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**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**EXECUTIVE Committee**  
Wednesday, May 29, 2024  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**CEO's Report – Pam Hollis**

Pam Hollis presented on behalf of CEO Ahmad Boura. She presented four new board members who will be joining the board in October: Ellie Carbajal '97, Ali Khorasaneh '96, Suzy McCreary '92, and Bob Nienaber '89. Additionally, Boura is working on three potential board members for 2025-26

Nelsen asked for any new business, comments or questions. There were none. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

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