

Nevada System of Higher Education

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January 14, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Nevada Graduate Student Workers-United Auto Workers

Attention: Evelyn Airam, UNLV, evelyn.airam@unlv.edu
Claire Williams, UNR, clairewilliams@unr.edu
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Tania Akter, UNR, takter@unr.edu
Mari Webb, DRI, mariana.webb@dri.edu

Dear Representatives on behalf of NGSU-UAW,

Thank you for your letter dated November 21, 2024, in which you requested a meeting to discuss formal recognition of your union.

Currently, neither the Chancellor nor NSHE presidents have authority to formally recognize or negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with your union. Additionally, concerns with “pay and benefits” identified in your letter may not be financially addressed through a collective bargaining process without corresponding legislative action. (See, e.g., NRS Chapter 288.505(1)(c)); Board of Regents’ Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 9). Nevertheless, the presidents of our respective institutions and I would like the opportunity to better understand the challenges Graduate Assistants may be facing and, in the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, explore potential solutions to those challenges outside of a collective bargaining setting.

While I understand this may not be the response you had hoped for, please know that I deeply appreciate everything our Graduate Assistants do to further the mission of our System, and I look forward to working with you to better understand and address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Charlton, Interim Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education

CC: Keith Whitfield, Ph.D., President, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Brian Sandoval, President, University of Nevada, Reno
Kumud Acharya, Ph.D., President, Desert Research Institute

DeRionne Pollard, Ph.D., President, Nevada State University
William Kibler, Ph.D., Acting President, College of Southern Nevada
J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D., President, Western Nevada College
Karin Hilgersom, Ph.D., President, Truckee Meadows Community College
Amber Donnelly, Ph.D., Interim President, Great Basin College