Board of Regent races determine UNS policy

The Board of Regents is the elected body that sets the policy for UNLV and the rest of the University System. The policy they set controls the general admission standards, tuition and fee policy, as well as the hiring and firing of the various administrations.

The Regents have been the source of controversy in the past year with the roles they allegedly played or did not play in the Maxson/Tarkanian fiasco. Some

of the Regents were charged, by the Tarkanian boosters, of collusion in what they call the forced resignation of former Runnin' Rebel coach Jerry Tarkanian. One result of the scandal was three failed recall efforts against the chair of the Regents Carolyn Sparks.

Who ever wins the election will stay in power for six years and determine, to a large part, what a diploma from UNLV is worth.

Subdistrict C

William Shields

from UNLV

District 23, Subdistrict C
Education: Bachelor's degree from the Merchant Marines
Academy in New York and a
master's degree in counseling

What are you views on the tuition increases?

"I think that they have no right to raise the tuition when they don't even know what they need it for. When they are going to take half of it and put it in a scholarship, they must not really need the money for tuition. There is something wrong when the regents tell you that. They are not telling you the whole truth. To me they're just trying to raise your tuition and make it sound good.

"The school should be able to make a contract when you first sign up to be a four-year or five-year student. You should know for the term, as long as you stay on track, how much it is going to cost you. I think you have to be able to make a commitment to the students when they first start coming to the university."

How do you propose to increase the positive outlook on the academic standards of UNLV?

"I think that U.S. News World Report is doing a real good job covering UNLV. They're showing it is an up-and-coming university. You can't lower your standards for admission, so that when the people do get in there you will have a good base to work with. Some courses will need to be combined at least at the doctoral level between UNLV and UNR."

What are your major goals if elected?

"I want to make sure we keep the education in Nevada at a high level. The waste we have in our system now is hurting us. When you can read in the newspaper that the state assembly is going after the regents because they are wasting money here and there giving \$6,000 to the President of UNR for a car that he doesn't need.

"Then when they go to get the money they need for buildings, the regents are facing a blank wall up there because the state legislature is saying you are wasting money.

"I would cut out some of the wastes in the budgets that our university presidents are turning in and put it into some educational areas."

Shelley Berkley incumbent

District 23, Subdistrict C

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science and history from UNLV and a judicial degree from the University of San Diego

What are you views on the tuition increases?

"I am against the increases and have continuously voted against them."

How do you propose to increase the positive outlook on the academic standards of UNLV?

"In the past 20 years we have made incredible strides. We still have a long way to go. We must strengthen our undergraduate education. We must enhance our doctoral programs. All of this will be accomplished, because it must be accomplished.

"I am working very hard (through academic master planning) so we can make a determination of what our priorities are. Where our choices are going to be concentrated.

What are your major goals if re-elected?

"To get adequate funding from the Legislature. I will be leading the fight to get funding for higher education. I will continue our academic master planning.

"I want to start educating our students in those fields (information related) that are going to be important in the 21st century. It is going to be a difficult task, because over the next couple of years we will be educating more students with less resources."

Subdistrict F

Maddy Graves
District 1, Subdistrict G

Education Began bachelor's degree in political science at UNLV and received B.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno

What are you views on the tuition increases?

"I think we need to look to better spend money we have available to us. I am not so sure that tuition increases are the answer. I also think out-of-state tuition needs to be brought in line because we have students from other states that can get educated in Nevada cheaper than they can in their own states.

"As the cost-of-living rates go up so does tuition. I think the regent's ruling on that is in my way of thinking. I would look long and hard on any tuition increase."

How do you propose to increase the positive outlook on the academic standards of UNLV?

"I think the Tarkanian-Maxson issue has to be put to bed. Ithink we have to somehow unite the community behind UNLV and pull together. Ithink we have to work closely throughout the system on transferability of credits.

"We have students in our own system, whether its UNR, UNLV, or the community colleges, that can't transfer inbetween their own schools. I think that is wrong."

What are your major goals if elected?

"Transfer of credits through the system is one. Basically, to master plan each and every institution that comprises the system.

"Institute a master plan for each of the institutions and integrate it throughout the system. With the advance of modern technology, such as teleconference, courses could be taught throughout the state.

"I think master planning of the institutions will account for our tax dollars better spent."

Nancy Price District 2, Subdistrict F

Education: Bachelor's and master's degree in communication from UNLV, Ph.D in public policy and a minor in public administration from UNR and an Associate's degree from Western Nevada Community College

What are you views on the tuition increases?

"My basic philosophy is that an education should be available to everyone. Raising tuition should be the last place to raise money.

"We have an obligation to the state of Nevada. From that perspective, we should not be tied to what other states are doing."

How do you propose to increase the positive outlook on the academic standards of UNLV?

"If we had a strategic planning with the cooperation of the rest of the education system we could come up with a policy on academic standards that would allow students that come from UNR to have a system of education that gears them to their highest level starting from kindergarten.

"This would be a procedure that is built in the system that says these students would be ready for that kind of challenge when they reach the university."

What are your major goals if elected?

"One is to educate, implement, and move toward total quality management. The second is to head a statewide telecommunication system where we cooperate and coordinate resources with federal and state governments.

"In this partnership, we would build a statewide communication system; like Australia and California where the entire state is working together to build one great system."

Subdistrict G

Kenneth Koester District 2, Subdistrict F

Education: Bachelor's degree in marketing from UNLV, master's degree in business from UNLV, minor in education and finance from UNLV and is currently on the Academic Standards Committee

What are you views on the tuition increases?

"I was appalled at what was proposed and am a great believer in the students being involved in their own investment (education). I think there are enough sources of income we can find that are nontaxable—there are a lot of private sources.

"Whatever I can do, I will do it to keep the tuition down. I don't want to see people who are really trying to get themselves through college end up not being able to do it because of tuition. If you don't pay attention it could get too high."

How do you propose to increase the positive outlook on the academic standards of UNLV?

"I would hope to do a lot of work with Les Rascho who is in charge of News and Publications at UNLV, in public relations and marketing. I have harped on students for years, when they leave the university the value of their diploma depends on what they do in the work place.

"A lot of it goes into educating the students and citizens about the value of their degree. You need promotional work within the community and within the country.

"We need a marketing budget to promote the school and the students who graduate from UNLV. People here still don't understand what a good university we have."

What are your major goals if elected?

"I think one is increasing the value of our degrees and making sure our academic programs are headed in the right direction and I think they are.

"I have some ideas to improve teacher education. I want to get the reputation of the school as high as the other university's reputations are on their campuses.

"Most of the best colleges have five-year programs that graduate teachers with a special education and a regular education degree. I want to get some serious apprentice programs to work in the fields they are going to be teaching.

"I want to bring the research to the university. We could be leading the world in solar technology. That is how a university becomes a Harvard or Stanford—with serious research. The super computer is just a beginning."

Jean Wright
District 1, Subdistrict G
unavailable for comment