

Regents plow through busy September agenda

BY JODY RICE AND BRIAN BURGHART

SPECIAL TO THE YELL

Thursday

The Board of Regents and UCCSN accepted the designation to be Nevada's official entity to oversee federal student financial aid programs for public and private schools.

The agency will develop regulatory standards for all state post-secondary schools (SPRE) that use the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

Richardson was informed by Gov. Bob Miller that "if a public or private education institution is experiencing a problem—such as high default rates, poor administration of loans, program instability, over reliance on financial aid funding or student complaints—the federal Education Department could call upon the SPRE to conduct an integrity review to determine whether

or not the institution should remain eligible to receive federal loan funds."

"This is a win-win for students and taxpayers," Richardson said. "Students seeking educational training, whether public or private, will gain more protection. Taxpayers win when student-loan default rates decrease and there's better accounting of how their public dollars are being spent."

Nevada's 1991 default rate was rated second highest in the country in a report by the federal Department of Education. Alaska had the highest default rate.

Also, the State of Nevada Public Works Board proposed a planning consultant be hired to study preliminary design work for additions to the UNLV James R. Dickinson Library.

Tom Stephens, director of the State Public Works Board, informed the regents about the two-phase, \$200,000 plan allocated by the 1993 Legislature.

During Phase 1, a \$50,000 study will be conducted focusing on all existing university libraries' facilities in Nevada. This will be used to determine future needs. The remainder of the appropriated funds will be used for Phase 2, planning and programming of the future changes.

The plan could renovate, replace or add to the 180,000 square foot UNLV library.

Friday's action

As part of the agenda, Regent Lonnie Hammargren requested a committee on athletics be established.

"During the last two years, UNLV has had multiple, massive problems in the area of athletics which did not come at a timely manner to Board of Regents perusal," Hammargren wrote in a memo.

The proposal stems from problems with controversy surrounding university athletes such as the Isaiah "J.R." Rider incident and the ban-

ning of UNLV in the 1992 NCAA Tournament.

"The regents in some issues did not deal on a policy level and meddled with administration when difficult problems were not handled in a timely manner causing severe public relations problems," Hammargren wrote.

Rider, a former UNLV basketball player, was the center of an investigation regarding the validity of his homework during the 1992-93 season.

The UNLV men's basketball team was banned for a rules violation.

Also at Friday's meeting:

Regents voted to allow UNLV to lease the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl stadium to Las Vegas Major Sports, Inc., a Canadian Football League member, for \$50,000 per game and 85 percent of the concessions, which could net UNLV more than \$1 million per year.

All of the regents, with the exception of Nancy Price, voted in favor of the proposal. Price, the newest regent, abstained from the vote on the lease because she said she did not have the necessary information to make an informed decision.

The football season begins in June and ends in November and should have no impact on the regular activities in the stadium. The lease is a five-year agreement, with an option to renew.

Gov. Bob Miller must approve the measure for final adoption.

Any similar business proposals must be approved by the regents and the governor.

After discussion, Regent Lonnie Hammargren withdrew his motion to form a committee on athletics.

The proposal was withdrawn because the regents said the committee would not allow the majority of members to have the needed information to make informed judgments on sports issues.

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campus.

"This building will be one of the most used buildings on campus," Maxson said during a brief ceremony at the construction site. "There is a tremendous need among students for this building."

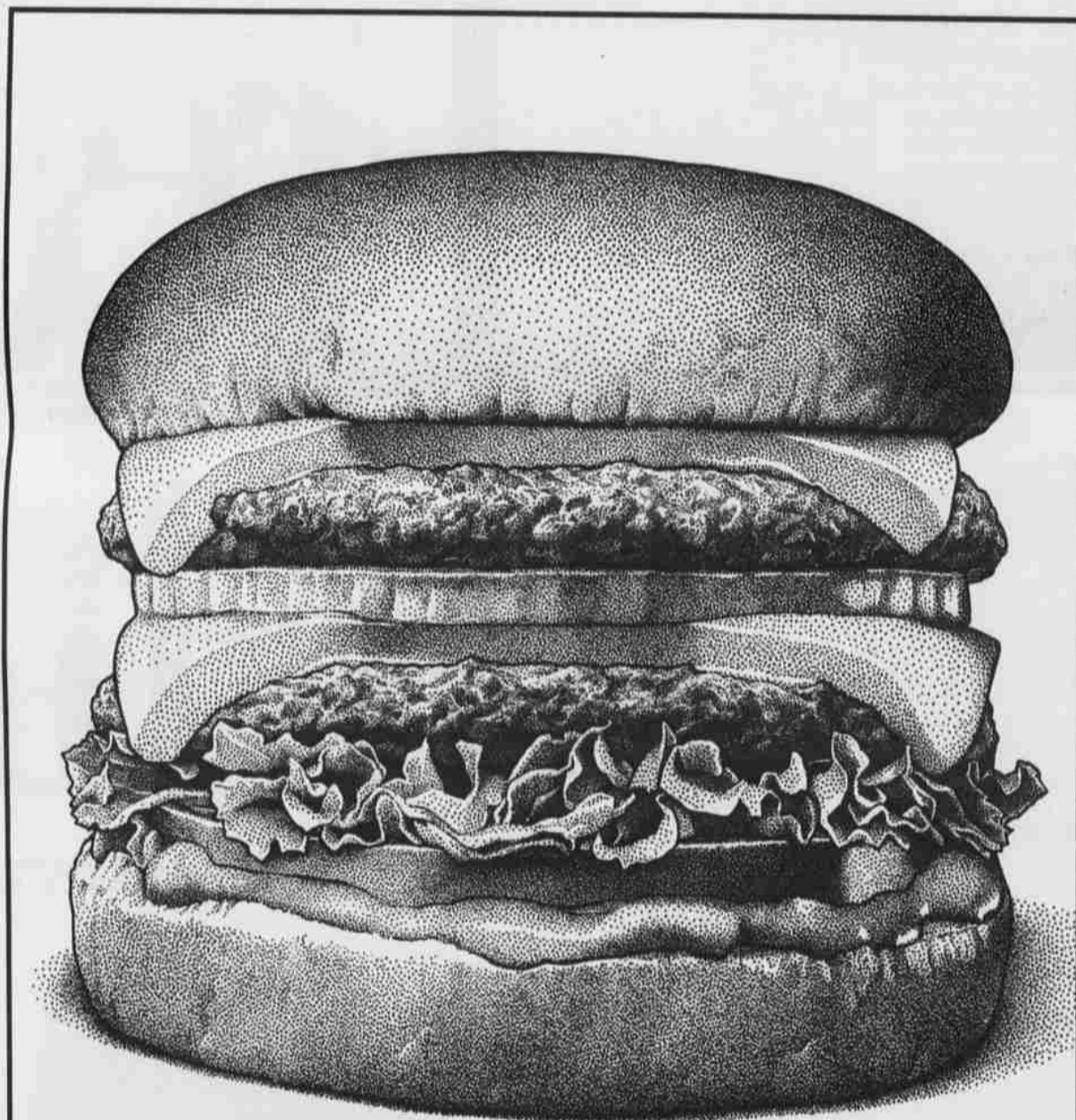
The three-story student center, scheduled for completion in March, will house nine offices, among them the financial aid and disabled student services. Adjacent to the building will be the enormous classroom/office complex, also under construction.

Robert Ackerman, vice president for student services, said the student center will give administration a chance to get "business done without having to travel all over campus to do so. This is the answer to our prayers," he said.

The student center also will house the international and multicultural studies offices, career planning and placement, and the cashier's and registrar's offices.

The student center will be joined by a lobby and entrance to the Newmont Student Development Center, where students will go for academic advising and counseling. Funding for the center was made possible by a \$1.5 million donation from Newmont Mining.

Nearby the Reynolds and Newmont centers will be the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, which was funded by a \$500,000 donation from Nidetch, founder of Weight Watchers.



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