

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison Committee Meeting
Held virtually, Wednesday, July 11, 2023

Chair Brent Wright, PE/SE, was absent. Matthew Gingerich, PLS declaring a quorum present for the virtual committee meeting. Also, present were Robert Fyda, PE; Patty Mamola, Executive Director; Derek Vogel, Communications. Lynnette Russell, PE, was also absent. PAL committee members present included:

Dave James, UNLV and NSPE
Dave Alexander, CMAA
Frank Wittie, NALS
Eric Denman, NALS
Sammy Real, Clark County
Kelly Callahan, Society of Women Engineers
Andrew Hansen, ASCE
Brian Kalina, NSPE
Nass Diallo, Southern Nevada Water Authority

1. Meeting conducted by Brent Wright, call to order and roll call to determine presence of quorum. Board members on committee: Matt Gingrich, PLS, Robert Fyda, PE.

Mr Wright was absent. Mr Gingerich chaired the meeting, and a quorum was determined.

2. Public comment period.

There was no public comment.

3. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves.

4. Approval of March 8, 2023, Professional Association Liaison Committee meeting minutes.

Mr Gingerich asked for a motion to approve the March 8, 2023, PAL committee meeting minutes. Dr James moved to approve. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Approval of May 10, 2023, Professional Association Liaison Committee meeting minutes.

Mr Gingerich asked for a motion to approve the May 10, 2023, PAL committee minutes. Dr James moved to approve. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

6. UNLV senior engineering design projects, consider any feedback/constructive input.

Dr James provided a brief history of his involvement with PAL, dating to early 2019, and how he solicited feedback on unlicensed engineering work performed by students. He said that the advice he received was to include a disclaimer on any student documents stating, “for educational research purposes only”.

Dr James continued by describing the 80-90 projects his senior design class has done since 2018. He summarized the projects and agencies his classes have worked with on the class projects. He said that Northern Nevada agencies are increasingly sponsoring student projects. He described one project, sponsored by NV Energy called Winnemucca Dunes.

Dr James invited meeting attendees to provide feedback to him on the senior design projects. He said that UNLV holds a design competition twice yearly that includes all the disciplines—entertainment, engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, and now construction management. He went on to say that beginning this spring, the construction management capstone is integrated with the civil engineering capstone project with the goal of increasing the emphasis on constructability, construction cost estimating, and construction scheduling.

Dr James then shared his computer screen.

He began by providing a detailed summary of the why, the what, the how of grading the projects, and how he assessed student projects. He explained the prerequisites, electives, and course descriptions in the syllabus. He used construction management to illustrate the course description. He explained the process and considerations that go into a student’s written report and oral presentation.

Dr James then explained the project schedule he assigns—10%, 20%, 30%, 40, 60, 80%, and 100% design thresholds for class submittals, with criteria for each design threshold. He continued with a very detailed explanation of how he documents and achieves student outcomes based on many considerations. He showed a detailed schedule and explained how it is assigned to students and how their progress is measured by percentages. He used a cam lock latch lab project as an example to explain the process.

Dr James said then discussed the assessment summary. He said he uses a 70, 70, 70 thresholds to determine success—70% of students must achieve a 70% score on the assignments, 70% of the time. He then explained the challenges he faces with this metrics and asked for candid feedback.

Mr Kalina said student interaction with a construction manager, or a different engineering discipline could be helpful.

Dr James replied that he needs construction professionals to help mentor the teams.

Mr Kalina said that Southwest Gas may have one or two who could help.

Ms Mamola offered that Dave Alexander with CMAA may be able to provide some assistance. She suggested anyone that had questions for Dr James they could send to her or they could correspond with Dr James directly.

Mr Alexander offered to distribute emails requesting volunteers thru the CMAA communications system.

Dr James thanked Mr Alexander.

Mr Gingerich thanked Dr James for his presentation.

7. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors activities.

Ms Mamola reported that the governor had lifted the moratorium on new regulations, so the board will begin to work on the next update.

Ms Mamola announced that the board has a new chair, Angelo Spata and new vice chair, Brent Wright.

Mr Gingerich mentioned that there is a board meeting on July 20th, and Ms Mamola confirmed that it will be held in Elko, Nevada.

8. Professional association/industry activities.

Mr Gingerich asks for updates from each member association.

Mr Alexander said CMAA has a golf tournament next spring.

Mr Hansen, ASCE, Truckee Meadows said the Marv Byers annual golf tournament was last week, and it was very successful and raised quite a bit of money for scholarships. He said ASCE is transitioning to new board members in September.

Mr Denman, NALS said there's an upcoming Northern Nevada golf tournament on August 5th for the NALS Lahontan chapter.

Ms Callahan, Las Vegas Valley SWE said officer elections were just held, she will remain as president, Amy Peckman will be treasurer.

Mr Kalina, NSPE had no updates.

Mr Vogel reminded the meeting attendees to email all upcoming events directly to him so he can include them on the board's professional association events calendar.

Dr James said that anyone is welcome to serve as a senior design competition judge.

Mr Denman said Clark County Museum opened an exhibit called a Survey of Surveying in Las Vegas. He said the museum is located in Henderson, NV on Boulder Highway.

Mr Gingerich commented that NCEES is considering adding a public land survey system module to the professional land surveyor's exam. Ms Mamola added that if anyone was interested in reading the details of the proposed NCEES land surveying modules, meeting, the information was in the posted meeting materials for the July 20, 2023, board meeting on the nvbpels.org website. She added that all the states licensing boards will be considering the item at the upcoming NCEES Annual meeting in August. If the NCEES motion passes, then NCEES will begin developing the new land surveying exam modules.

9. Open discussion topics.

There were no open discussion comments.

10. Next meeting date and location.

Ms Mamola said the next PAL meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 4:00 PM. She said she would email a calendar invite.

11. Public comment period.

There was no public comment.

12. Adjourn

Mr Gingerich thanked the meeting attendees and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Patty Mamola

Executive Director