



Richard E. Zehner

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Board of Regents

University of Nevada, Reno

Dear Regents:

I would like to register my extreme dismay at UNR's decision to reduce funding for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology ('NBMG') and place that institution under the College of Science ('CS'). Let me present my argument against this course of action as a set of bullet points:

- NBMG conducts basic research and produces essential maps and publications for the mining and geothermal industries for a state that ranks number one and two in these areas. Reduced funding for NBMG would jeopardize jobs, income, and taxes for Nevada, and strangle a growing geothermal industry. We depend on the NBMG and the Center for Geothermal Energy for many of our datasets.
- Budget reductions at NBMG total greater than 50%, while reductions for the rest of the University are about half that.
- NBMG derives much of its budget from outside the University, in the form of in-kind or matching out-of-state grants. Although UNR maintains only a small portion of NBMG's budget, reduced funding to NBMG would equate to an even greater reduction of NBMG's total budget due to loss of matching funding.
- NBMG also derives a substantial portion of its income from the sale of recent maps and publications. UNR reduced funding would lead to less research and lower map and publication sales, creating a self-reinforcing downward spiral.
- Placing NBMG under the CS and having NBMG faculty teach classes would divert their time away from research and publications to teaching, thus creating another downward spiral.
- Similarly, I fear that CS management would be less aware of the need for industry-specific research and would place a low emphasis on that relative to teaching.

While I empathize that budget cuts are always painful, I request that the funding cut for NBMG be reconsidered. NBMG is known throughout the country as perhaps the best State geological survey. I truly would hate to see it go.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Zehner, President