



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin

SUBJECT: Appointment of Shannon Tahoe as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs

DATE: October 3, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Shannon Tahoe as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs?

Reason for Consideration

Required by Regents Rules.

Proposed Handling

The Board of Regents will discuss this appointment in Executive Session on Monday, October 7, 2019. It will then come to the Full Board on October 8, 2019 for action.

Procedural History

Alison B. Bianchi, Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs, resigned from the Department, effective August 16, 2019. As of August 16, 2019, the position of Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs was vacant.

Background Information

The appointment of Shannon Tahoe as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs will provide continuity and leadership in the Office of Counsel. Ms. Tahoe brings extensive knowledge, distinguished experience, and a commitment to the important work of the Office of Counsel. Since September 2017, Ms. Tahoe has served

as Deputy Counsel, having previously served as an Associate Attorney since starting with the Department in 2011. Ms. Tahoe has provided legal advice and counsel to the Board of Regents, Commissioner and Department staff on critical policy matters and key initiatives. She is intimately familiar with the work of the Office of Counsel, having managed the day-to-day operations of the office as Deputy Counsel. Ms. Tahoe has also been directly responsible for oversight of the Department's legislative and regulatory initiatives and has handled some of the Department's most significant litigation. I am confident that Ms. Tahoe will continue to build on the Office of Counsel's record of success and tradition of providing the highest quality legal services to the Regents, Commissioner and Department.

Recommendation

Accordingly, I recommend that you take the following action.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents accept the appointment of Shannon Tahoe as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs, effective October 8, 2019.

Timetable for Implementation

The appointment will be effective October 8, 2019.