

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Agenda
December 3, 2020
7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.

Meeting Link:
<https://bluejeans.com/870636808>

ROLL CALL: Will Carrasco, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Gabrielle Clark, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Katie Dempsey, Great Basin College, SGA
Alyssa Fromelius, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
Dominique Hall, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN
Sidath Kapukotuwa, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
Karli McFarling-Kelly, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN
Joshua Padilla, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Suman Randhawa, Nevada State College, NSSA

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006 ("DIRECTIVE 006") ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NEVADA. THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE MEETING.

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO TCASERTO@NSHE.NEVADA.EDU OR VOICEMAIL: (775) 784-3442 OR (775) 784-3447. MESSAGES RECEIVED BY 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2020 MAY BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD DURING THE MEETING. ANY OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT, INCLUDING EMAIL SUBMISSIONS AND/OR VOICEMAILS, RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING WILL BE TRANSCRIBED AND INCLUDED IN THE PERMANENT RECORD.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

In accordance with NRS 241.020(6), supporting materials that are submitted to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Office of Academic and Student Affairs will be made available in advance of the meeting as follows: 1) from the NSHE Office of Academic and Student Affairs by calling Terina Caserto at (775) 784-3442 or emailing her at tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu; or, 2) by accessing the electronic version of the agenda posted on the NSA page of the NSHE website:

<https://nshe.nevada.edu/administration/academics-student-affairs/students/nevada-student-alliance/>

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons attending the meeting. Please call the Academic & Student Affairs Office in advance at (775) 784-3442 so that arrangements may be made.

1. **ROLL CALL**

NSA Secretary Karli McFarling-Kelly will take roll call of members and ask guests to identify themselves so that may be recorded in the minutes.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

INFORMATION

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The NSA Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

Pursuant to Section 2 of Directive 006, members of the public may participate in the meeting without being physically present by submitting public comment via email to tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu or voicemail: (775) 784-3442. Messages received by 4:00p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 may be entered into the record during the meeting. Any other public comment, including email submissions and/or voicemails, received prior to the adjournment of the meeting will be transcribed and included in the permanent record. Persons making comment should begin by stating their name for the record and spelling their last name. The NSA Chair may allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047 (April 27, 2001), as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the NSA Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the NSA, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on November 13, 2020.

2. **NSA CHAIR'S UPDATES**

INFORMATION

Chair Gabrielle Clark will give updates on the NSA goals for the year as well as brief the Alliance membership of informal group meetings she has participated in with various Nevada legislators.

3. MEMBER REPORTS**INFORMATION**

NSA members will each be invited to provide an update on current and planned events, initiatives and other activities or actions taking place on their campuses and within their student government organizations.

4. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT**INFORMATION**

NSA Chair Gabrielle Clark will discuss with the Alliance the contents of the Chair's Report that will be delivered to the Board of Regents later the same day (on December 3, 2020).

**5. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF NSA
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING JEWISH
HOLIDAYS ON NSHE INSTITUTION CALENDARS****FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Gabrielle Clark will lead a discussion and review of a proposed resolution in support of recognizing Jewish holidays on NSHE institutions' calendars. The body will discuss feedback gathered from their respective institutions and any additions or modifications to the draft resolution that may be approved and sent to the Board of Regents and NSHE Officers.

**6. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF NSA
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ELECTION DAY
AS A STATE HOLIDAY****FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Gabrielle Clark will lead a discussion and review of a proposed resolution in support of Election Day being designated a State holiday in Nevada. The body will discuss feedback gathered from their respective institutions and any additions or modifications to the draft resolution that may be approved and sent to the Board of Regents and NSHE Officers.

7. NEW BUSINESS**INFORMATION**

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under "New Business" is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT**INFORMATION**

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PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF DIRECTIVE 006, THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN NRS 241.020(4)(a) THAT PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDAS BE POSTED AT PHYSICAL LOCATIONS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEVADA HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4 OF DIRECTIVE 006, THIS AGENDA HAS BEEN ELECTRONICALLY POSTED ON THE NSA PAGE OF THE NSHE WEBSITE: <http://www.nevada.edu/studentgov/> AND ON THE NEVADA PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE (<http://notice.nv.gov/>) IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 232.2175.



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNIZING
MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS ON THE CALENDARS OF
NSHE INSTITUTIONS**

1 **Whereas**, the Nevada Student Alliance represents all 100,000+ students in the Nevada System of
2 Higher Education;

3 **Whereas**, the Nevada Student Alliance is comprised of elected representatives from all
4 NSHE institutions whose numerous responsibilities include voicing and lobbying student concerns
5 to their elected officials in local, state, and federal levels;

6 **Whereas**, there are a reported number of Jewish students at half of NSHE institutions such
7 as¹:

- 8 • 150 Jewish students at the University of Nevada, Reno.
- 9 • 750 Jewish students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- 10 • 10 Jewish students at Western Nevada College.
- 11 • 25 Jewish students at Truckee Meadows Community College.

12 **Whereas**, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno passed Senate
13 Resolution 88 “*A Resolution in support of recognizing Jewish Holidays*”;²

14 **Whereas**, important Christian holidays are recognized by all NSHE institutions and grant
15 some time off for students and staff;

16 **Whereas**, the Nevada System of Higher Education’s Title 4 Codification of Board Policy
17 Statements has a policy which states “It is the **policy** of the **NSHE** to be sensitive to
18 the **religious** obligations of its students. Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations or
19 any other class or lab work because of observance of **religious** holidays shall, whenever
20 possible, be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work.”³

¹ <https://www.hillel.org/college-guide/search#keyword=nevada&radius=null>

² http://de5u0yfu98nbk.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/01171355/10-7-2020_SenateAgendaFINAL.pdf

³ <https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/T4CH20GeneralPoliciesRegulatingStudentsandStudentGovernment.pdf>

1 *Whereas*, NSHE gives the discretion of the individual professors to allow classwork to be
2 made up;

3 *Whereas*, NSHE professors may not be accommodating to granting extra time for
4 assignments missed due to the practice of prominent Jewish Holidays.

5 *Whereas*, the United States Bill of Rights' first amendment, through the Free Exercise
6 Clause, allows for the freedom to practice religion;

7 *Whereas*, Jewish Holidays are not recognized by NSHE;

8 *Whereas*, Jewish students have a hard time using their first amendment rights to practice
9 their religion;

10 *Whereas*, the Supreme Court in 2003 did not meet because the Supreme Court was meant
11 to commence on the date of Yom Kippur and set a precedent to not meet on Yom Kippur⁴

12 *Whereas*, Yom Kippur and Sukkot days 1 and 2, are during the Fall semester;

13 *Whereas*, instructors at all NSHE institutions should be accommodating to the religious
14 practices of their students whose holidays are not accommodated in the NSHE calendar,
15 starting with prominent Jewish Holidays;

16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the
17 100,000+ students of NSHE:

- 18 • Supports the recognition of prominent Jewish holidays on the calendars of NSHE
19 institutions: AND
- 20 • Urges the Board of Regents to discuss implementing or advocating for the recognition of
21 Jewish holidays for NSHE institutions.

⁴ <https://www.jta.org/2003/09/05/archive/in-deference-to-jewish-justices-supreme-court-to-delay-opening>



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAKING ELECTION DAY A STATE
HOLIDAY**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance represents all 100,000+ students in the Nevada System
2 of Higher Education; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance is comprised of elected representatives from all NSHE
4 institutions whose numerous responsibilities include voicing and lobbying student concerns to
5 their elected officials in local, state, and federal levels; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a large population of the 100,000+ students are eligible voting citizens that can
7 participate in State and Federal elections; and

8 **WHEREAS**, a large majority of the faculty, staff, and administrators that make up the Nevada
9 System of Higher Education are also eligible voting citizens; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Nevada System of Higher Education follows the holiday calendar set forth by
11 the Nevada legislature in NRS 236.015; and

12 **WHEREAS**, every year on the State and federal Election Day (the Tuesday after the first Monday
13 in November) millions of Americans do not have the opportunity to vote due to obligations to work,
14 school or other public responsibilities; and

15 **WHEREAS**, multiple states including Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana,
16 New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have
17 election day as a state/civic holiday; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a coordinated advocacy campaign from the Nevada System of Higher Education to
2 the Nevada State Legislature could benefit all students, staff, faculty, administrators, and the
3 greater community in practicing their guaranteed right to vote.

4 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the
5 100,000+ students of NSHE:

6 • Supports the initiative that every election day be designated a State holiday in Nevada;
7 AND

8 • Urges elected student representatives of the Nevada System of Higher Education to
9 actively pursue resolutions from their institutions in regards to supporting Election day to
10 be a Nevada State Holiday; AND

11 • Urges the Board of Regents and Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education to
12 work to advocate the Nevada Legislature to pass Election Day as a Nevada State holiday.

13 **ADOPTED** by the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the 100,000+ students of NSHE:

Attest:

Gabrielle Clark, NSA Chair

Will Carrasco, NSA Co-Chair

