



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

**AGENDA
March 3, 2022
7:00 a.m.**

Nevada State College
Christenson Education Building (CEB)
Room 211/212
1300 Nevada State Drive
Henderson

MEMBERS: **Matthew Hawn, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Chair)**
 Caren Yap, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN (NSA Vice Chair)
 Austin Brown, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Secretary)
 Zachary Johnigan, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN
 Lauren Porter, Nevada State College, NSSA
 Darian Richards, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
 Andrea Sanchez de Loza, Western Nevada College, ASWN
 Zachary Stamp, Great Basin College, SGA
 Nicole Thomas, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
 Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

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.

The agenda and any supporting material, including materials submitted after the posting of this agenda but before the meeting, may be accessed on the Internet by visiting the NSA page of the NSHE website: <https://nshe.nevada.edu/leadership-policy/administration/academic-student-affairs/students/nevada-student-alliance/>, or by calling Terina Caserto in the NSHE Office of Academic and Student Affairs at (775) 784-3442, or emailing her at tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu. Any supporting materials provided to members of the NSA at the meeting will be posted to the NSA website within 24 hours after the conclusion of the meeting.

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 Austin Brown will take the roll call of members and any persons serving as a proxy for a member.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT**INFORMATION ONLY**

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.

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.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on February 11, 2022.

**4. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NSA RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA STUDENTS****FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

NSA Chair Matthew Hawn will lead a discussion and review of a proposed NSA resolution in support of undocumented and DACA students. The NSA will discuss the proposed resolution and suggest modifications to the draft. The proposed resolution may be approved or return at a subsequent meeting for formal action by the NSA.

**5. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NSA RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF A VOTING STUDENT MEMBER ON THE
NSHE BOARD OF REGENTS****FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

NSA Chair Matthew Hawn will lead a discussion and review of a proposed NSA resolution in support of a voting student member on the NSHE Board of Regents. The NSA will discuss the proposed resolution and suggest modifications to the draft. The proposed resolution may be approved or return at a subsequent meeting for formal action by the NSA.

6. UPDATE ON NSHE’S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS **INFORMATION ONLY**

Vice Chancellor Caleb Cage will provide a presentation on NSHE’s ongoing strategic planning process and discuss opportunities for student involvement. Additionally, Vice Chancellor Cage will request input on topics students would like to have considered on the agenda of an upcoming student-focused summit in support of the NSHE strategic plan.

7. MEMBER UPDATES **INFORMATION ONLY**

Members will provide an update regarding their respective campuses’ planned activities and events.

8. NSA CHAIR UPDATE **INFORMATION ONLY**

Chair Matthew Hawn will provide an update on the objectives and goals of NSA for the 2021-22 year.

9. NSA CHAIR’S REPORT **INFORMATION ONLY**

NSA Chair Hawn will discuss with the NSA the contents of the Chair’s Report that will be delivered to the Board of Regents during their March 3-4, 2022 meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS **INFORMATION ONLY**

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, and no substantive discussion may occur at this meeting on new business items in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.010 *et seq.*).

11. PUBLIC COMMENT **INFORMATION ONLY**

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Posted in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241), at the following locations:
CSN, Building D, 1st Floor, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146-1124
DRI, Maxey Building, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512-1095
DRI, Southern Nevada Science Center, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119-7363

GBC, Berg Hall, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, NV 89801

NSC, Great Hall, 1125 Nevada State Drive, Henderson, NV 89015

TMCC, Red Mountain Building (RDMT 200) 7000 Dandini Blvd. Reno, NV 89512

UNLV, Flora Dungan Humanities 9 (FDH), 1st and 7th Floors, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1001

UNR, Clark Administration, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557

WNC, Bristlecone Building Lobby, 2201 W. College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89703

System Administration, 4300 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89119-7530

System Administration, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512

Nevada Public Notice Website - <https://notice.nv.gov>

NSHE NSA Website - <https://nshe.nevada.edu/leadership-policy/administration/academic-student-affairs/students/nevada-student-alliance/>



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEVADA'S DACA AND UNDOCUMENTED
STUDENTS INCLUDING STRUCTURAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WHEREAS, the Nevada Student Alliance represents all 110,000+ students in the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

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

WHEREAS, the Nevada Student Alliance representatives assert and affirm the positive research and creative contributions of students who are undocumented as well as students who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) at each of our respective universities; and

WHEREAS, DACAmented and undocumented students belong to two separate communities with their own hardships and characteristics and therefore are not interchangeable terms.

According to [Tacoma Community College](#), “the term *undocumented* can be applied to any person who lives or works in the United States without the legal protections of a citizen or permanent resident. Undocumented people do not automatically receive protection from DACA, and may come from any country, not only those that speak Spanish.” In contrast, DACA students are under an executive order which allows people “who were brought to the U.S. as children to legally live, go to school, drive, and work if certain criteria are met: DACA does not include a path to citizenship.”

WHEREAS, students who are DACA/undocumented made up roughly 4% of our NSHE population during the 2020 fall enrollment; and

WHEREAS, according to [NSHE Institutional Research](#), DACA/undocumented students at four-year institutions have a higher graduation rate (67.8% in 2020) than the combined average of their peers (51.1% in 2020); and

WHEREAS, according to [NSHE Institutional Research](#), DACA/undocumented students at two-year institutions have a higher graduation rate (41.6% in 2020) than the combined average of their peers (21.6% in 2020); and

WHEREAS, Nevada's collective colleges and universities do not have a unified overarching structure for assisting the DACA/undocumented communities, leaving these institutions with inconsistent resources throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, NSHE must recognize that a number of career paths - such as careers in medicine, education, or law - are unobtainable for undocumented students post-grad due to their status, required background checks, and/or existing state/law regulations (<https://www.marquette.edu/diversity/documents/undocuguide-life-after-college-guide.pdf>); and

WHEREAS, according to the [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services](#),
"On July 16, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas held that the DACA policy "is illegal." The Court granted summary judgment on plaintiffs' Administrative Procedure Act (APA) claims; vacated the June 15, 2012 DACA memorandum issued by former Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano; remanded the memorandum to DHS for further consideration; and issued a permanent injunction prohibiting the government's continued administration of DACA and the reimplementation of DACA without compliance with the APA. The Court, however, temporarily stayed its order vacating the DACA memorandum and its injunction with regard to individuals who obtained DACA on or before July 16, 2021, including those with renewal requests...

Currently, the DHS is prohibited from granting initial DACA requests and accompanying requests for employment authorization. Also consistent with that order, DHS will continue to grant or deny renewal DACA requests, according to existing policy."; and

WHEREAS, there is no current path to citizenship or permanent U.S. residency for undocumented/DACA students, as well as a policy or structure in place for undocumented students to receive federal or state assistance, or to be paid for their labor and work; and

WHEREAS, research estimates from the [American Immigration Council](#) in 2018 suggest that undocumented immigrants in Nevada paid \$241.6 million in federal taxes, and \$121.3 million in state and local taxes; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the 110,000+ students of NSHE:

- Establish a universal Nevada-wide Alternative Need Form, which would replace FAFSA for undocumented, DACA, and international students.
 - o this will allow students to navigate between different colleges and universities without having to apply at each individual institution for aid

- Establish a DACA Renewal fund for Nevada students (to date, it is currently \$495 to renew DACA for two years)
 - o “The DACA program does not provide a pathway to citizenship or permanent residency for recipients, who are required to renew their status every two years for a fee of nearly \$500, which helps fund the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.”
<https://www.nnbw.com/news/2021/nov/23/report-quantifies-immigrant-contributions-northern/>

- Urges leadership of the Nevada System of Higher Education to work to find creative solutions and partnerships to address the needs of our undocumented student population; including updating website information and resources

- Urges leadership of the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide undocumented students with transparent information about their career options and push to provide an NSHE-wide undocumented student career guide or committing to eliminate career limitations for undocumented students, in various fields, at a state level by working with the regulatory boards of Nevada

- Urges the Board of Regents and Chancellor’s Office of the Nevada System of Higher Education to establish a detailed plan which addresses undocumented student needs in Nevada:
 - o specifically, a plan for undocumented students who do not qualify for DACA, according to the [Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) | USCIS](#):
 - ANY first time, initial applications for DACA
 - must have been under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
 - had to have arrived in the US before their 16th birthday
 - had to have continuously resided in the US from June 15, 2007 until the present day
 - were physically present in the US on June 15, 2012, AND at the time of filing your DACA request
 - have had no lawful immigration status on June 15, 2012;
 - any lawful immigration status or parole you’ve obtained in the past will disqualify you from applying for DACA.
 - must be currently enrolled in school, OR have graduated from a US high school or obtained a GED; OR honorably discharged veteran Coast Guard or Armed Forces
 - cannot have been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors and do not otherwise pose a threat to public safety or national security;
 - have to be at least 15 years or older

- Urges Local, City and State representatives to assist in procuring funds for any DACA renewals or scholarships for undocumented students as well as to openly advocate for the development of policy structures that are meant to support and protect the livelihood of those within the DACA and undocumented communities
- Urges Federal Leadership to challenge the July 16, 2021 U.S. District Court ruling from the Southern District of Texas by reinstating the filing and approval of first-time DACA requests and other accompanying requests for employment authorization:
 - o this would allow students who are undocumented to formally apply for the DACA program and employment authorization

ADOPTED by the Nevada Student Alliance on the 3rd day of March 2022.



ATTEST:

Matthew Hawn

NSA Chair & University of Nevada, Reno – Graduate Student Association (GSA) President

Caren Yap

NSA Vice Chair & University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Consolidated Student of the University of Nevada (CSUN) President

Austin Brown

NSA Secretary & University of Nevada, Reno – Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) President

Zachary Stamp

NSA Member & Great Basin College – Student Government Association (SGA) President

Zachary Johnigan

NSA Member & College of Southern Nevada – Associated Students of the College of Southern Nevada (ASCSN) President

Lauren Porter

NSA Member & Nevada State College – Nevada State Student Alliance (NSSA) President

Darian Richards

NSA Member & Truckee Meadows Community College – Student Government Association (SGA) President

Andrea Sanchez De Loza

NSA Member & Western Nevada College – Associated Students of Western Nevada (ASWN)

Nicole Thomas

NSA Member & University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President



Nevada Student Alliance
Nevada System of Higher Education

MARCH 3, 2022

A Resolution in Support of a Voting Student Member on the NSHE Board of Regents

Whereas, the collection of higher education institutions in the state of Nevada is known as the Nevada System of Higher Education, or NSHE;

Whereas, Article 11, Section 4 and 7 of the Nevada Constitution grants the Board of Regents the power to govern NSHE, which is made up of 13 elected representatives serving six year terms, with a Chair and Vice-Chair elected by the Regents for one year terms; ¹

Whereas, Regents are often Nevada institution alumni and/or higher education professionals, but there is currently no designated student member on the Board of Regents;

Whereas, thirty-nine (39) public state university Regent Boards have at least one student member, with twenty-nine (29) states granting voting privilege to the student Regents; ²

Whereas, the California State University (CSU) System is governed by its fully appointed 30-person Board of Trustees that provides oversight to 23 college campuses and over 485,000 students;

Whereas, over 85% (25 members) of the CSU Board of Trustees are voting members, and the other five (5) members are ex-officio;

¹ <https://nshe.nevada.edu/leadership-policy/board-of-regents/overview/>

² <https://www.texastribune.org/2010/05/12/student-regents-have-a-voice-but-no-vote/>

Whereas, the CSU Board contains two (2) student Trustees appointed by the Governor and proposed by the California State Student Association (CSSA) to serve staggered two-year terms;³

Whereas, the CSSA conducts a search process every academic year for 2-5 new trustee candidates to recommend to the Governor's Office;⁴

Whereas, candidates submit letters of recommendation, essays, and resumes and must have at least sophomore status and maintain good academic standing;

Whereas, the Arizona Board of Regents also contains two (2) student members, whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for two (2) year terms, with one (1) year as a non-voting member followed by one (1) year with voting privileges;⁵

Whereas, the Nevada Student Alliance is eager to engage in student regent appointment process, and recommends the following requirements and selection for the student regent:

1. The applicant must hold at least sophomore standing and maintain good academic standing as determined by their respective institutions for the entirety of the appointment process, as well as their term if chosen to serve as Regent.
2. The applicant must be a student body officer having served no less than six (6) months or have outstanding campus involvement credentials to be evaluated by the NSA.
3. The applicant shall provide letters of recommendation, resumes, statements of intent, or other portfolio items as determined by the NSA no later than two (2) months before the application deadline.
4. No member from one NSHE university or level of study shall serve two (2) consecutive terms in a row. For instance, if an undergraduate student from the University of Reno, Nevada serves during the current term, the next student Regent shall be a graduate representative from one of the other seven (7) institutions;

³ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/Pages/about-the-bot.aspx>

⁴ <https://calstatestudents.org/student-trustee-search-info-session-2/>

⁵ <https://www.azregents.edu/about/student-regents>

Whereas, in the interest of shared governance and balancing out student body officer responsibilities, the student Regent can sit as an ex-officio member of the Nevada Student Alliance;

Whereas, the Board of Regents' objectives include promoting affordable access to higher education and a "continued quest for excellence, economy and the balancing of basic goals that the public interest requires;"⁶

Whereas, students are directly affected by the pursuance of these objectives, as well as NSHE's rules, policies, and procedures;

Whereas, including students in the governing process is equitable and advances the public interest as students are currently experiencing education without representation;

Whereas, recent controversies such as Question 1 in the 2020 Election⁷ and a memo drafted by Chancellor Melody Rose in October 2021 detailing negative workplace incidents⁸ have caused the general public to re-evaluate the efficiency of the Board of Regents' procedures and consider possibilities of reform;

Whereas, one reform to create more communication and accountability among Nevada institutions is by including a direct NSHE constituent - a student – as a voting member of the Board of Regents;

Whereas, Regents who have not recently been students in NSHE are inhibited from truly comprehending the student experience; a student member diversifies the perspectives of the Board of Regents by providing firsthand representation of current student experiences in NSHE;

⁶ <https://nshe.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Agendas/2016/jan-mtgs/bor-refs/BOR-3b.pdf>

⁷ <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/indy-explains-question-1-a-measure-that-would-strike-the-board-of-regents-from-the-constitution>

⁸ <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/in-hostile-workplace-memo-chancellor-melody-rose-details-incidents-that-made-her-feel-undermined-by-two-regents>

Whereas, a student Regent provides for “an educated citizenry for public service” and cultivates the “general welfare,” bringing NSHE closer to meeting its mission of “[providing] higher education to the citizens of the state at an excellent level of quality consistent with the state's resources;” ⁹

Whereas, a common argument against student Regents questions whether students can remain impartial to certain issues like tuition rises;

Whereas, public service often calls for a balance and negotiation between a delegate and trustee role, and this position will give students a tangible learning opportunity to put this idea into practice, depending on the scope of topics presented before the Regents;

Whereas, not all Regents will vote from the student perspective as that is not their purview, therefore it is worthwhile to have an actual student member present on the Board of Regents with a different set of constituent interests;

Whereas, student Regents could recuse themselves on issues regarding NSHE personnel directly to avoid conflicts of interest;

Whereas, another common concern with student Regents is the opinion that students lack the maturity necessary to serve as full voting members, which includes but is not limited to understanding budgets, listening to long periods of public comment, and learning “buzzwords” directly related to educational governance; ¹⁰

Whereas, students eighteen (18) years of age and older juggle a plethora of financial, legal, and personal responsibilities as a legal adult such as living alone, paying for education and utilities, working a job, voting and more;

Whereas, candidates who have the time and qualifications can handle a Regent’s job duties if they are able to show consistent dedication to other obligations of their adult life;

⁹ <https://nshe.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Agendas/2016/jan-mtgs/bor-refs/BOR-3b.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/few-student-board-members-can-vote-should-that-change/2019/06>

Whereas, most NSHE student government bodies manage their own budget, practice parliamentary procedure, and develop bylaws that promote professional and intellectual discussion;

Whereas, studies show that internal political efficacy increases civic participation, meaning if students clearly see their interests represented, they will be more inclined to participate in NSHE'S governing process; ¹¹

Whereas, hence, maturity is an unfounded reason to bar students from holding this position;

Whereas, although students have the opportunity to make public comment and the Nevada Student Alliance meets regularly with the Regents and the Chancellor, a vote at the table is the most powerful and succinct representation of their voice;

Whereas, NSHE's student governing bodies have a larger responsibility to substantiate student voices in the System;

Whereas, in ASUN conversations with NSHE Chief General Counsel Joseph Reynolds, it has been concluded that the path to student Regent representation will require an amendment to the Nevada Constitution, as detailed in the process below:

1. Ideally, the Nevada Student Alliance shall contact Nevada legislator(s) at the start of the Spring 2023 session to draft legislation and garner support for a majority vote in both houses to suffice a legislatively referred constitutional amendment¹².
2. If the NSA wishes to begin the amendment process prior to the next legislative session or is unable to find support within the Nevada Legislature, a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State's Office¹³.
3. NSA shall coordinate with the counties in which an NSHE institution resides and obtain the signatures of 10% of the registered voters who voted in the last General Election before the deadline set by the Secretary of State's Office.

¹¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4894288/>

¹² https://ballotpedia.org/Legislatively_referred_constitutional_amendment

¹³ <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/initiatives-referenda/filing-a-constitutional-initiative>

4. Whether through the initiative or a legislative referral, the constitutional amendment shall appear on the next two (2) general election cycles to be passed by a majority of voters before being added to the Nevada Constitution.
5. This body encourages the NSA to delegate responsibilities amongst immediate officers, as well as encourage NSA officers to coordinate within their respective student body governments;

Be it resolved that, the Nevada Student Alliance supports the inclusion of a student member on the Board of Regents, whose votes will not just be advisory, but counted as part of the public record;

Be it further resolved that, the Nevada Student Alliance urges its institutions to pass resolutions or pursue advocacy relevant to this initiative;

Be it further resolved that, the Nevada Student Alliance supports continued communication with Nevada legislators and public officials into the Spring 2023 legislative session, as well as outreach to constituents and prospective voters to pursue the process of amending the Nevada Constitution necessary to include a student Regent;

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution be sent to the following:

- Secretary of State, Barbara K. Cegavske
- Governor, Steve Sisolak

ADOPTED by the Nevada Student Alliance on ____ day of _____ 2022.

Attest:

Matthew Hawn

NSA Chair & University of Nevada Reno, - Graduate Student Association (GSA) President

Caren Yap

NSA Vice Chair & University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Consolidated Student of the University of Nevada (CSUN) President

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