



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

**AGENDA
September 8, 2022
7:00 a.m.**

**Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
Elko, NV 89801
Leonard Center SGA Meeting Room 122**

MEMBERS:

**Dionne Stanfill, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (Chair)
John Fenton, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (Vice Chair)
Yvette Machado, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN (Secretary)
Tessa Espinosa, Nevada State College, NSSA
Matthew Hawn, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Issac Hernandez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Zachary Stamp, Great Basin College, SGA
Suzanna Stankute, Western Nevada College, ASWN
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

The NSA Secretary 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 two 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 August 12, 2022.

**4. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRADUATE
STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE AND STIPEND
INCREASE****FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Dionne Stanfill will lead a discussion and review of a proposed NSA resolution in support of increasing graduate student tuition assistance and stipends. The NSA will discuss the proposed resolution and suggest modifications to the draft. The proposed resolution may be approved or returned at a subsequent meeting for formal action by the NSA.

5. COLLABORATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Dionne Stanfill will lead a discussion on increasing voter registration on respective campuses and ask NSA members for ideas in collaborating and participating in a friendly competition between institutions.

6. NSA APPAREL**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Stanfill will lead a discussion on possible designs and logos of proposed NSA apparel. NSA members may authorize Chair Stanfill to seek approval for the use of a decided upon logo.

7. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT**INFORMATION ONLY**

Chair Dionne Stanfill will discuss with the NSA the contents of the Chair's Report that will be delivered to the Board of Regents later that same day, on September 8, 2022.

8. 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.*).

9. 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 INCREASED GRADUATE ASSISTANT BENEFITS
AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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 Graduate Assistants, of which there are over 6,000 in the NSHE system; and

WHEREAS, Graduate Assistants benefit all NSHE campuses by providing research, teaching, and professional development opportunities and support for all campus communities; and

WHEREAS, Graduate Assistants continue to contribute directly to the Carnegie R1 Classification of both the University of Nevada- Reno and the University of Nevada- Las Vegas through contractual and scholarly work, and

WHEREAS, international students are limited by their student visa to a 20-hour assistantship at their respective institution and are unable to generate additional income, and

WHEREAS, without the support and training of graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno, the \$330 Million received in Grants would not be possible without the research carried out by Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs), and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, graduate students will be significant contributors to the highly technical Nevada economy in Mining, Water Usage, Tourism, Industrial Manufacturing,

Electrical Infrastructure, Education, Green Energy, New Entrepreneurial Ventures, and emerging markets; contributing to and building the jobs of the future of Nevada, and

WHEREAS, graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno have contributed to the workforce from the investment of the local Reno economy through participation in the \$137M associated with capital for affiliated startups, 300+ companies/agencies/organizations through membership agreements, 39 companies based within University operations, and

WHEREAS, graduate students from the University of Nevada, Reno have supported efforts in the Nevada economy by providing workforce to \$8.7M Knowledge Fund Investment which has created \$32.5M in total grants on donations received, founded 14 spin-off companies, helped relocate 20 companies to Nevada, filed 42 patents by companies incubated in NCAR, and helped build the \$136.5M commercialization revenue with affiliated companies within the state of Nevada

WHEREAS, the current baseline stipend (\$11,250 at UNLV/ \$16,000 at UNR) for ten months as Graduate Teaching Assistants does not adequately provide funding for the rising cost of living in Nevada and does not [constitute a living wage](#)*, and

WHEREAS, the University of Nevada, Reno & University of Nevada, Las Vegas ranks highly among their peers concerning the stipend amount but after factoring in the cost of housing within the State of Nevada fall to bottom 3rd, and

WHEREAS, out of the 15% of the graduate student population in NSHE, 67% of graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno has stated that they struggle to pay rent regularly, while one out of every five students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas have reported struggling with basic necessities such as food and housing;

WHEREAS, Masters students spend 51% and Ph.D. students spend 48.5% of their stipend on housing in the Reno area. Masters students spend an average of \$1,500, and Ph.D. students spend \$1,750 on basic necessities to live in Reno and attend the University of Nevada, Reno – typically not providing any buffer against emergencies in health care and transportation for the two – six years they are here at the University.

WHEREAS, The University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas have each worked with their respective Graduate Schools and Graduate Student Governments (GSA & GPSA) to support Graduate Students by seeking an alternative for graduate student housing and fair compensation already available from the currently available state funds, however, additional state funding is required;”

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

-Be it further resolved that the NSA urges State Representatives to support NSHE's 2023 - 2025 Biennial Budget Proposal - Item Number 5 for Special Consideration - "GTA Funding - increase stipends, additional GTA positions.

- Be it further resolved that the NSA supports graduate assistant stipend increases and cost of living adjustments;

-Be it further resolved that the NSA supports and recognizes the collective value of graduate assistant labor and asserts the right for graduate students to seek out equal compensation for their work;

-Be it further resolved that the NSA urges the leadership of the Nevada System of Higher Education to seek out alternative sources of funding and support for graduate assistants, including affordable graduate student housing and fair compensation;

- Be it further resolved that the NSA urges the leadership of the Nevada System of Higher Education to continue seeking alternative sources of funding and support for graduate assistants, including affordable graduate student housing and fair compensation. Additionally, the NSA urges State leadership to support additional funding for the Nevada System of Higher Education's Graduate Student Programs.

- **Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges Local, City, and State representatives to meet with the University of Nevada, Reno's Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas's Graduate Professional and Student Association (GPSA) to discuss Graduate Education in the State of Nevada.
- **Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges those candidates running for Local, City, and State representation to meet with the University of Nevada, Reno's Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas's Graduate Professional and Student Association (GPSA) to discuss Graduate Education in the State of Nevada.
- **Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges Federal Leadership to focus on building new programs to support graduate studies within the State of Nevada which will keep graduates within the state of Nevada.

- Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the following, one copy before November 2022 with the contact information for the University of Nevada, Reno, GSA President

– Matthew Hawn (Mhawn@unr.edu & 775-351-5150) - and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA President – Nicole Thomas (nicole.thomas1@unlv.edu):

- NSHE Acting Chancellor
- All NSHE Elected Board of Regents
- NSHE Council of Presidents
- Elected Executive Officers for the Nevada Legislature
- Nevada Office of the Governor
- Currently Elected Representatives in Nevada Legislature
- Individuals currently running for elected office to represent constituents in the Nevada Legislature that are registered through the Secretary of State's website as Official Candidates in the State of Nevada for the 2023 -2024 legislative cycle.
- Individuals currently running for elected office in the Executive Office registered through the Secretary of State's website as Official Candidates in the State of Nevada for the 2023 -2024 legislative cycle.
- Individuals running for elected office to sit on the Board of Regents are registered on the Secretary of State's website as Official Candidates in the State of Nevada.
- All individuals elected to Federal Office for the State of Nevada.
- All individuals currently running for Federal Office for the State of Nevada.

- **Be it further resolved that** a copy of this resolution be sent to the following, one copy after the November 2022 Election:

- Nevada Office of the Secretary of State
- Nevada Office of the Governor
- All Elected Executive Officers for the Nevada Legislature
- All Elected Representatives that se
- The Nevada Legislature
- Individuals Elected to Represent the State of Nevada in Federal Office

* Living Wage for Nevada was calculated using the Living Wage Calculator provided by MIT. A living wage in Nevada constitutes a base salary of \$33,788 before taxes for one adult living with no children.

ADOPTED by the Nevada Student Alliance on the X Day of September 2022.



ATTEST:

Dionne Stanfill

NSA Chair & University of Nevada, Reno – Associated Students of the University of Nevada,
Reno - President

John Fenton

NSA Vice Chair & Truckee Meadows Community College - Student Government Association -
President

Yvette Machado

NSA Secretary & College of Southern Nevada - Associated Students of the College of Southern
Nevada - President

Matthew Hawn

NSA Member & University of Nevada, Reno – Graduate Student Association - President

Nicole Thomas

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

Issac Hernandez

NSA Member & University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada - President

Zachary Stamp

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

Suzanna Stankute

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