

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

June 5, 2014

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Truckee Meadows Community College

7000 Dandini Boulevard

Reno, NV 89512

Red Mountain Building, Room 122

Meeting called to order at 7:08 AM by outgoing NSA Chair Alex Porter.

Members Present: Ms. RJ Boyajian, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Mr. David Cortez-Lopez, Nevada State College, NSSA
Mr. Angelo DePerez, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Mr. William McCurdy, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN
Mr. Jake Pereira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN
Mrs. Stephanie Prevost, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA
Ms. Sharon Young, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA

Members Absent: Mr. Elias Benjelloun, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Ms. K.C. King, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Others present: Yesenia Cuevas, NSC
Renee Davis, NSHE
Pedro Duenas, WNC
Isaac Duran, GBC
Alejandra Leon, WNC
Brooke Nielsen, NSHE
Umram Osembela, CSN
Alex Porter, GBC
Bryce Powell, GBC
Deborah Schole, TMCC
Nicholas Vascoy, NSHE

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Former CSN Student Body President Umram Osembela welcomed the new NSA members, commenting that if any of the new members need help, they should feel free to reach out to him or any of the other NSA members from last year. He also recommended that the new members consider TMCC SGA President Stephanie Prevost for NSA Chair. In addition, Mr. Osembela pointed out that Nevada is getting ready to enter a legislative year. He recommends NSA designate a lobbyist so to ensure that students have a voice during the next legislative session.

UNR GSA President R.J. Boyajian apologized for not attending the NSA dinner on June 4, explaining that she is in the midst of completing her comprehensive exams for her Ph.D.

2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

INFORMATION

Outgoing 2013-14 NSA Chair Alex Porter welcomed the new members to their first meeting, as well as the three returning members who were elected for a second year as president of their organization: Ms. Boyajian, Ms. Sharon Young, and Mrs. Stephanie Prevost. Ms. KC King, not present, is also continuing in her presidential role. Mr. Porter echoed Mr. Osembela's comments. He stated that NSA has great potential, and pointed out that NSA members are looked to during the legislative session to provide a student perspective.

3. ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

NSHE Director of Student Affairs and NSA Adviser Renée Davis introduced herself and gave a brief orientation to the NSA election process. The election commenced with nominations for NSA chair. Ms. Demarynee Saili nominated Mrs. Prevost for NSA Chair, and she was elected unanimously. Mrs. Prevost nominated Ms. Young as NSA Vice Chair, and she was elected unanimously. No nominations were made for the office of secretary; the election of secretary was tabled until the next NSA video meeting on July 14.

4. OPEN MEETING LAW

INFORMATION

Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Brooke Nielsen provided a briefing to NSA members regarding Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML). Because all student body presidents receive a full training on OML from their campus legal counsels, Vice Chancellor Nielsen focused on the areas that generate the most questions or potential infractions. She began by explaining that deliberation on any item that might be discussed by NSA or the Board cannot be deliberated on by members of the Alliance outside of NSA meetings. She also covered the need for specificity in writing agenda item language and that minutes must be available within 30 days of the meeting, at least in draft format. She confirmed that NSA sub-committees are subject to the requirements of OML. In addition, she explained that discussion of individuals' professional behavior within a meeting must be preceded by official notice to that individual, particularly when the discussion is not positive. Ms. Davis mentioned the new requirement by OML for the posting of agendas on the Nevada Public Notices website. She sent out information on this requirement last year and is willing to provide information to anyone who requests it.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Chair Prevost asked if it was appropriate for the current NSA members to approve the minutes since six of 10 NSA members are new and were not present at the meetings in question. Vice Chancellor Nielsen confirmed that it was fine for the current members to approve the minutes. Ms. Boyajian made a motion to approve the minutes for NSA meetings held on April 14, April 30 and May 12, 2014. Mr. David Cortez-Lopez seconded the motion and all three sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

6. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT

INFORMATION

Mr. Porter offered to introduce Chair Prevost and Vice Chair Young to the Board during the upcoming chair's report at the main board meeting later in the same morning. Chair Prevost agreed to follow with some brief comments.

7. NSA REPRESENTATION ON NSHE COMMITTEES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Porter described his activities over the last year on two NSHE committees: E-Learning Task Force and ad hoc Institutional Service Areas Committee. Ms. Alejandra Leon talked about her participation in the Institutional Service Areas Committee. Chair Prevost asked if members were interested in having their names put forward as potential members of these two committees. Ms. Boyajian asked Ms. Davis if it is known what other NSHE committees may come up in the next year. Ms. Davis responded that the committees are appointed by the Board or the Chancellor, and she had not heard anything about new committees coming up during 2014-15. She confirmed that the next Tuition and Fee Committee would not convene until next year (Fall 2015). Ms. Saili and Mr. Angelo DePerez volunteered for the Institutional Services Committee. A volunteer to serve on the E-Learning Task Force was not identified, and this agenda item will be brought back to the Alliance at the July meeting. The volunteer for the E-Learning Task Force must be an undergraduate as there is already a graduate representative on the committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Ms. Prevost suggested discussion of an NSA lobbyist be added to the July agenda. Ms. Boyajian suggested that she and Mr. Jake Pereira invite ASUN Vice Chair Alex Bybee to discuss that student government's lobbying efforts. Ms. Davis mentioned that the NSHE Student Affairs Council asked that the proposed NSHE policy on medical marijuana be added to the next agenda. Vice Chancellor Nielsen said she would share with NSA members a memo and proposed policy she recently sent to campus leaders of all NSHE institutions.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Mr. Osembela reinforced his interest in NSA having a lobbyist and the need for a NSA lobbyist to begin reaching out to Nevada legislators as soon as possible. He also suggested that Vice Chancellor Constance Brooks be invited to future meetings as she has indicated her interest in working together with NSA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 AM by Chair Prevost.