

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

October 13, 2014

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Videoconference Sites:

Carson City-WNC Dini 105

Elko-GBC LCSL 122

Henderson- NSC DAW 218

Las Vegas-CSN CHEY 2638

UNLV SCS 102

Reno-System Administration, Room 134

Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. by NSA Chair, Stephanie Prevost

1. ROLL CALL

- Members Present: Mrs. Stephanie Prevost, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (NSA Chair)
Mr. Angelo DePerez, Western Nevada College, ASWN (NSA Secretary) – *arrived late*
Mr. William McCurdy, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN – *departed early*
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA – *arrived late*
Ms. Meghan Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA (proxy for Sharon Young)
Mr. David Cortez-Lopez, Nevada State College, NSSA
- Members Absent: Mr. Jake Pereira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN
Ms. RJ Boyajian, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Mr. Elias Benjelloun, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Ms. Sharon Young, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA (NSA Vice Chair)
Ms. Megan Johnson, Desert Research Institute, GRAD
- Guests present: Vice Chancellor Brooke Nielsen, NSHE
Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba, NSHE
Yesenia Cuevas, NSC
Renee Davis, NSHE
Adam Gudmundson, NSC
Adriana Mendez, GBC
Umram Usambela, NSC
Omar Suacedo, NSHE

Only four voting members were present at the beginning of the meeting; quorum requirements not met.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Adam Gudmundson, Nevada State Student Alliance Senator and NSC Soccer Club President, announced that he is arranging an annual soccer competition between NSHE institutions. He asked that interested parties from the various NSHE institutions contact him by phone or email: 661-349-5770 or adam.gudmundson@nsc.edu.

3. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR KLAICH

INFORMATION

Chair Provost invited members to ask questions of Chancellor Klaich. Umram Osembela asked the Chancellor about NSHE-supported bill drafts for Nevada's 2015 Legislative Session. The

chancellor discussed the issues previously approved by the Board of Regents and said that at this point he was not aware of any other bill drafts that specifically affect NSHE institutions.

Meghan Pierce asked the Chancellor for an update on the UNLV presidential search. He explained that his role in any presidential search is to suggest candidates to the firm hired to handle the search. From that point, the Board of Regents committee takes over and handles the process. As part of the search process and according to Board policy, campus forums are held, including time set aside just for students to interact with each of the candidates.

William McCurdy asked Chancellor Klaich if he was familiar with Senator Mumford's proposal for a bill draft that would require peace officers to have body cameras. President McCurdy also wondered if such a statute, if passed, would apply to campus police officers. The Chancellor explained he had not heard about such a bill draft, but if such a statute was created, it would need legal interpretation, but would likely apply to campus police officers.

David Cortez-Lopez asked how much input should students provide on the NSC presidential evaluation. Chancellor Klaich responded that student input was very important to the evaluation process and that, as in a presidential search, an open forum is conducted and time is specifically set aside for student input. In addition, President Patterson's evaluator has indicated that comments can be submitted electronically by the NSC community.

Angelo DePerez arrived at 4:19 p.m.; quorum requirements still not met.

Chancellor Klaich will be getting back to President McCurdy and circle back with Umram on any more BDR's that might have risen. He also mentioned that Vice Chancellor Constance Brooks is starting to prepare meetings with campus government affairs officers, and Umram will be included once those meetings are set up.

4. NSHE POLICY PROPOSAL: SPECIAL COURSE FEE - AUTHORIZATION FOR TEXTBOOKS

INFORMATION

Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba visited the NSA meeting and gave us some background information on the policy proposal and the direction it's headed. She began by explaining that fees fall into four categories:

1. Basic registration fees (approved by Board of Regents)
2. Student fees (defined in Board policy and broadly applied to all students)
3. Special course fees (this proposal)
4. All other mandatory fees, which are mandatory fees that are not explicit in the handbook, don't fall into the category of registration fees, but have been brought to the Board for approval at some point. Examples include UNLV Wellness Center fee and UNR Facilities Fee for Joe Crowley Student Union. These fees are applicable to all students in general.

Vice Chancellor Abba went on to explain that the proposal was brought forward by TMCC to combat the high cost of text books. There are many cases due to the issue of affordability that students don't buy text books. It makes it challenging to get what you need to get out of a class without the text book. TMCC has worked out an agreement with their bookstore that is specific to e-books. Although the policy is broader, TMCC hopes that the policy would allow the institution to charge an extra 50 dollars as a course fee and provide students enrolled in the class

with an e-textbook. If the student declines the e-text book, they have the right to purchase a new or used printed book, and the bookstore would credit them the 50 dollars to go towards it. This proposal is currently just to seek “authorization” for the institute to allow this. The institution has to decide if they want to go in that direction, but if approved by that institution, it can be applied to any course at any level class. However, a fee over \$50 would need to be approved by the Board.

This proposal may be considered by the Board of Regents at its December 4-5, 2014 meeting. If you have any further questions, you can email NSA Chair Provost and she can forward them to Vice Chancellor Abba.

5. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ADVISERS AND INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

INFORMATION

Vice Chancellor Brooke Nielsen apologized for missing the September NSA meeting. She explained she wanted to start the discussion and maybe later to draft a policy, which would then be broadly reviewed across the System. The question is whether a new Board policy might help student government in disputes, where the constitution may not be clear or even cover particular issue. There are two ideas that Vice Chancellor Nielsen has been thinking about.

According to Board policy, the institution can appoint a financial advisor, who is then responsible for reviewing all financial transactions, and there is an appeal process built right in to the policy. As to anything else that doesn't concern finances, there is nothing set up for this. So we are discussing having a same system set up where the institution can appoint someone to help go over everything other than finances. This position would function as the liaison to all sectors of the institution. She searched for models at institutions outside Nevada and found only one example at George Mason University, which is an extremely detailed policy that includes provision for an “Election and Disputes Commission.” The Commission is broken down into two separate boards, one side just for elections and the other for all other disputes. Each board consists of appointees from student government officers and appointees. Disputes are referred to a board, which provides for an initial hearing. A second level of appeal goes to the full commission, and then a third level of review by the faculty review committee. In this case, the Faculty Review Committee does come up with a decision, but still turns it back to the board to come up with the final outcome. The faculty is really just an advisory position. Vice Chancellor Nielsen is in favor of a body that would come up with a final outcome, not just advice from a faculty review committee. If adopted, such a policy would apply to the individual student governments and might require a constitutional revision.

Chair Provost shared that TMCC SGA has hired a parliamentarian who is paid out of the SGA budget. They have also created an election committee that handles election grievances. She will send TMCC's current constitution and information on the grievance process to Vice Chancellor Nielsen.

A question was asked by Secretary DePerez whether the intent of such a policy revision would be for all governments to have the same process or whether campuses would be allowed to keep existing processes. Vice Chancellor Nielsen explained that in her mind the Board would provide basic guidance, but all institutions are different. Student governments would have the authority to tailor processes to their own institutions. Secretary DePerez expressed support for pursuing this topic further.

President McCurdy asked about the intent behind this revision. Vice Chancellor Nielsen said the intent was to provide for a grievance procedure for student governments, on par with the existing policy for faculty and staff. President Cortez-Lopez said he was confused because NSSA already has a general advisor. Vice Chancellor Nielsen said the intent is to help with alternative ways to resolve grievances and disputes. An advisor is just one possible way. Renee Davis explained that most institutions already have a general advisor who works with student government. Vice Chancellor Nielsen responded that this would add the provision in policy. Chair Prevost reiterated the expectation that institutions would have the flexibility to determine their own processes. Ms. Davis also clarified that there are two parts to the potential policy proposal: 1) an internal dispute resolution process and 2) an advisor. She explained Vice Chancellor Nielsen may go forward with both, neither or just one of these concepts. Vice Chancellor Nielsen said she would bring a draft back to NSA for consideration at a future date.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO NSHE TITLE IX COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW POLICIES AND MODEL TRAINING OPTIONS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Chair Prevost introduced the item and stated she had been email by more than one president who is interested in serving on the Title IX Compliance Working Group. However, she pointed out that without quorum the NSA could not vote on this item. She asked for questions or discussion. President Cortez-Lopez expressed interest. Chair Prevost listed the interested parties: RJ Boyajian, Jake Pereira. Secretary DePerz asked his name be added to the list. President McCurdy asked about the time commitment. Vice Chancellor Nielsen explained the committee would be doing two things:

1. Review all policies and see what needs to be updated.
2. Review training on sexual misconduct and Title IX. This involves training for students as well as for faculty and staff. The committee will look for existing training that could be provided to the NSHE institutions easy use.

Vice Chancellor Nielsen went on to explain she was expecting 5-6 meetings with agenda information well in advance so that members are ready to sit down and work hard when they do meet. She would like to bring a proposal to the Board by its June meeting.

Chair Prevost added that President Benjelloun also emailed and expressed interest in serving on the committee. President Cortez-Lopez suggested that there be one representative from the North and one from the South. President McCurdy also asked to be considered for membership on the committee, explaining that he has been working with the national council on sexual assault awareness.

DeMarynee Saili arrived at 4:40 p.m. Quorum requirements met.

President Cortez-Lopez nominated President R.J. Boyajian to serve as the graduate student representative on the Title IX Compliance Work Group, and President McCurdy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Prevost requested a nomination for the undergraduate representative. Secretary DePerez nominated himself. Chair Prevost explained that a second on this motion would result in both

representatives coming from the northern half of the state. President Saili seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Prevost – yes
Pierce (proxy for Young) – yes
DePerez – yes
Cortez-Lopez – abstain
McCurdy – yes
Saili – yes

Motion passed. Vice Chancellor Nielsen explained that she would be happy to accept a second undergraduate member in order to get representation from the South, although this would need to happen at the next meeting since the agenda item specifically addressed two representatives. Vice Chancellor Nielsen confirmed she would schedule the next meeting after the final representative was determined.

7. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Chair Prevost has been working with Omar Saucedo to get the dates for education day at the Nevada State Legislature. There are two dates planned:

1. General Education day – Monday, March 2, 2015 (includes both K-12 and higher education)
2. Higher Education day - Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Chair Prevost mentioned she would like to see the NSA members agree on a common message prior to these dates that would be along the lines of “we stepped up and are paying higher tuition; it is time for the State to step up.” Chair Prevost would like to see as much student representation at these dates as possible.

President McCurdy departed from the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Umram Osambela has been talking to the various student body presidents regarding NSHE’s proposed BDRs. Chair Prevost suggested an information item for the next agenda and an action item for the following meeting so that each bill draft can be discussed and a statement can be formed from NSA for each one.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment was presented.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.