

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

September 4, 2014

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

**University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union
Rita Laden Senate Chambers
87 West Stadium Way
Reno, NV 89557**

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 a.m. by NSA Chair Stephanie Prevost.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Mr. Elias Benjelloun, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN

Others Present: Renee Davis, NSHE
Umram Osambela, NSHE
Meghan Pierce, UNLV

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

President William McCurdy made a quick mention of not being able to make the previous NSA meeting via IAV. Ms. Davis recommended that, for future meetings, he could always join at the NSC or UNLV locations if it was easier for him.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

President Young motioned to approve the minutes for NSA meetings held on July 14 and August 11, 2014. President McCurdy seconded. Minutes were approved by majority vote, with one abstention from President Boyajian.

4. NSA LOBBYIST

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Umram Osambela has volunteered to be lobbyist for the NSA at Nevada's 2015 Legislative Session. Umram shared the names from the last two (76th and 77th) legislative session. For the 76th session, six volunteers were listed: Orion Cuffe, Sebring Frehner, Kyle George, Stephanie Macgilo, Matt Smith and Casey Stiteler. For the 77th session, Curtis Blackwell was the only volunteer.

President Boyajian motioned to appoint Umram Osambela as the NSA lobbyist. President Cortez-Lopez seconded. The motion passed by majority vote, with one abstention from President Johnson.

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

INFORMATION

Ms. Davis mentioned that Brooke Nielson (NSHE Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs) has been approached by some of the institutions to look at both of these items. For the advisor part, there is actually a provision in Board policy for student government associations to hire a financial advisor that they can partially fund out of association fees. However, there is no policy regarding a general adviser. The second topic deals with creating an internal avenue for dispute resolution on the campus or within the student governments. Some past issues have had to be taken to court. Brooke is seeking any feedback that NSA members may have. If she does write the new policy, then she will bring it to the NSA for review. You can email her directly if you wish.

President Young recommended institutions perhaps writing up a job description for advisors and/or financial advisors. President Boyajian discussed that it's getting into a personnel issues because the advisors are paid by the institution and considered to be part of the faculty. Ms. Davis suggested we discuss this option with Vice Chancellor Nielsen when given the opportunity.

President Boyajian put an example on record in favor of drawing up a new policy that would allow the "employment" part of a contract to supersede the "elected position" part of the contract. In a previous situation where an elected officer acted with gross misconduct, neither the institution nor student government could force said officer out of their position. She continued with asking NSA members along with legal to come up with (legally correct) verbiage that could amend the constitution to enable us to remove an elected member in the event of gross misconduct.

President Prevost gave examples of past years where elected officials wouldn't do their jobs and little could be done to reprimand or remove them from their position.

6. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT

INFORMATION

TMCC Student Government Association has plans to have an education rally at this year's state legislature with the initiative that the state step up and do their part to help fund higher education. If anyone is interested in joining this initiative, please let President Prevost know. President Boyajian requested from the Chair, when possible, to supply dates and job duties as the rally gets closer so she can get a more dedicated group to join. President Young mentioned that Meghan Pierce is the GPSA Government Chair at UNLV and would be the contact for any further information. Ms. Davis mentioned to give Vice Chancellor Constance Brookes and Omar Saucedo a heads up, and perhaps they can be of some help. President Boyajian recommended that students apply for the paid intern positions offered at the legislature so we can have a bigger voice.

President Young asked if there was an update about Nevada Education Awareness Day. Chair Prevost has not been given an update.

7. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Two items were suggested for the next agenda: 1) invite Vice Chancellor Nielsen to attend and continue discussion of the student government adviser/internal dispute resolution item and 2) the NSHE BDRs that will be presented to the legislature in 2015.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Mr. Osambela has brought up the four BDR's (Bill Draft Reviews) that the legislature is going to be voting on.

1. Increasing the Millennium Scholarship to comply with "15 to Finish" program.
2. Need based State supported financial aid program.
3. Work force development.
4. Tobacco use prohibition on institution properties.

President Boyajian feels that the state sponsored financial aid is a good step. She doesn't think she can join in rallying against the state on this matter. She suggests to rally for something that can actually bring a positive win.

Ms. Davis believes that we should have a regular item on the agenda through session to keep everyone informed and hear their views. Mr. Osambela volunteered to send out an email and see what each student body president feels about each BDR.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 a.m.