

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

September 5, 2014

7:15-7:45 a.m.

**University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union, Room 420
87 West Stadium Way
Reno, NV 89557**

Meeting called to order at 7:17 AM 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
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA
Ms. Megan Johnson, Desert Research Institute, GRAD
Mr. William McCurdy, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN

Members Absent: Mr. Elias Benjelloun, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Mr. David Cortez-Lopez, Nevada State College, NSSA

Others Present: Dan Klaich, Chancellor, NSHE
Kevin Page, Chair, Board of Regents, NSHE
Rick Trachok, Vice Chair, Board of Regents, NSHE
Renee Davis, NSHE
Omar Saucedo, NSHE
Scott Young, NSHE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INFORMATION

3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD CHAIR AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION

Chair Prevost asked about the 15 to Finish campaign and how it related to the NSHE's proposed Millennium BDR. Chancellor Klaich explained the request is for the maximum funding level for the Millennium scholarship to be raised from 12 credits each semester to 15 credits per semester so it can assist the students that are enrolled in the 15 to Finish program and want to complete their program in time.

A question was asked about the available extensions for the Millennium Scholarship expiration date because six years may not be enough time for part-time students who are limited in the number of credits they can take each semester. Chancellor Klaich and Renee Davis explained that students can extend their period of eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship for up to 6 years from their original scholarship expiration date. In order to qualify for an extension, students must have either served in the military or participated in a charitable mission.

Chancellor Klaich explained that these types of limitations are one of the reasons the Board is putting forth to the legislature a proposal for a need based financial aid program (\$5 million) that would go to students at the community colleges and state college. He pointed out that 90 plus % of Millennium recipients are attending UNR or UNLV. It is hoped that by awarding students through this new program, it would make it possible to convince more students to take 15 credits and therefore be more likely to graduate. 15 to Finish, State-Supported Financial Aid, and the Millennium proposal are a package. The Board wants more students to graduate, but it also wants to help them not have to work a second job. It is a little bit of a tough love message.

President Young asked about an item on the Board of Regents agenda concerning the iNtegrate fee. To Chancellor Klaich's best recollection, he believes that the Board imposed that fee when the student information system was first implemented. And there was a discussion... might have even been a tech committee at the time that responded; "We'll review it" (about whether the fee would be continued after implementation of the student information system). One of the mistakes made in the first phase of iNtegrate was not taking the cost of back fill into consideration. If we are to go forth to the second phase of iNtegrate, which the Chancellor thinks is likely, he will recommend keeping the fee. It just has to be spent. Chair Page also mentioned at some point the fee should sunset as originally intended.

Chancellor Klaich asked President McCurdy how registration and financial aid is going at CSN. President McCurdy said things were pretty good, but gave a brief description of a situation concerning delays of the students' financial aid disbursement checks. Unfortunately, many students did not receive their checks in the promised timeline. President McCurdy said things are better, but there is room for improvement.

Chair Prevost mentioned how TMCC has been in a bit of the same situation. Some students have not been able to purchase books from lack of checks being sent on time.

Chancellor Klaich hopes that the next phase of iNtegrate and the work that CSN has done will benefit the entire system and help the processing of financial aid to be more efficient. Chair Page remarked that he would follow up on this issue.

Chair Prevost asked, "Who will be sponsoring the NSHE BDR's?" Chancellor Klaich explained that the Millennium proposal is being sponsored by Joyce Woodhouse and two others are coming out of the 391 Committee. Omar Saucedo explained that for the tobacco issue, NSHE is considering approaching a legislator from northern Nevada.

There was further discussion of the BDR specifically aimed at the use of tobacco on campus. The proposal would give institutions the authority in case they want to move forward on banning tobacco on their campuses. At some campuses, this means employees and faculty would be taking the biggest hit as they are the largest population of smokers. At other campuses, the graduate students are opposed to having a tobacco-free campus.

President McCurdy asked, "As tuition and fees increase, what can I do to increase monies for events on campus?" Chair Kevin Page responded, "Work with your President." Chancellor Klaich asked if the CSN Student Government receives monies for school activities from d by a

line item or a slice of the student per-credit fee? Ms. Davis said she would look into this question for President McCurdy.

President Johnson mentioned that she attended a recent special Board meeting where budgets were discussed. She explained that DRI budget rely on federal funding and they are affected whenever there is a government shutdown. Because students are funded by the same grants, she is wondering if any funds have been set aside to help students so they can continue their work when shutdowns happen. Vice Chair Trachok responded that in the NSHE budget request there is a section on back fill funding for DRI. How DRI allocates the funds is up to DRI. He recommended President Johnson talk to President Wells.

Chancellor Klaich remarked that this is an important time for DRI and an important time to be a student government leader at DRI. More attention needs to be paid to the students who swirl between UNR and DRI or UNLV and DRI. DRI's faculty senate and leadership is engaged in strategic planning, and Chancellor Klaich recommended that President Johnson should be involved in these discussions as well.

President DePerez asked about the monies from the institution hikes approved last year by the Board of Regents. Who's responsible to see that the monies go to the original plan? Vice Chair Trachok explained that every December the institution has to report to the Board and delineate how the funds are being spent. Chair Page recommended that the student body presidents meet with their campus presidents prior to Dec 4th and ask them about what they plan to report. That might help to ensure the funds were expended on students as planned. This specific requirement was set by the Board at the June meeting. It is the responsibility of student government leaders to see that the monies go where the needs of the students are.

President DePerez brought up the cost of text books. He asked if there are any controls that the Board or students can put on text books. While the Chancellor and the Board are not in the position to dictate to faculty which textbooks to use, the Chancellor feels that e-textbooks and open source are going to change this discussion going forward. Several strategies for saving on money were discussed by the various student body presidents. Regent Trachok recommended that students work together and approach their campus presidents on this issue. There was also a discussion of renting text books. It can save money. Ms. Davis recommended that student body presidents work with their faculty senates on this issue since faculty are the ones that actually make the decision on books. Chair Prevost recommended student body presidents work with their presidents, faculty and libraries to create strategies for helping students with access to textbooks. Vice Chair Trachok suggested this would be a good topic for him, Chair Page and Chancellor Klaich to discuss with faculty at their next meeting together. Chair Page recommended that other institutions look at the UNR model, where the book store is run by the student government.

4. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

No new business was brought forward.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

President McCurdy requested an update at the next meet on activities by NSA lobbyist Umram Osembela. Chair Prevost confirmed that is the plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.