

# NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

## **Minutes**

**February 9, 2015**

**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**

NSA Chair Stephanie Prevost called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

### **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. Elias Benjelloun, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN  
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. Angelo DePerez, Western Nevada College, ASWN  
Mr. Jake Pereira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN

Others present: Chancellor Dan Klaich  
Shannon Brazil, WNC  
Cheyenne Bryant, WNC  
Renee Davis, NSHE  
Caleb Green, UNLV CSUN  
Timothy Hoover, WNC  
Adrianna Mendez, GBC  
Priscilla Munoz, CSN  
Charles Nimsic, WNC  
Nierada Nititadukul, CSN  
Umram Osambela, CSN & NSC  
Donita Petean, WNC  
Meghan Pierce, UNLV GPSA  
Christel Marie San Diego, CSN  
Omar Saucedo, NSHE

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **INFORMATION**

No public comment was presented.

### **3. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR KLAICH**

### **INFORMATION**

President Elias Benjelloun asked Chancellor Klaich about the necessary steps for the UNLV President to consider locking in tuition rates. Chancellor Klaich asked Mr. Benjelloun whether

he was able to find the *Handbook* language. Mr. Benjelloun responded that it would be helpful if NSHE could forward the citation, and it was agreed that Director of Student Affairs Renee Davis would send that information to all NSA members. The Chancellor explained that the way the policy currently reads it is an institution option. He suggested that Mr. Benjelloun begin by discussing this issue with UNLV President Len Jessup. Mr. Benjelloun explained he had already begun discussions with President Jessup but wanted to know the next steps and that the policy citation would be helpful.

President William McCurdy brought up Assembly Bill Number 2, which allows guns on campus if they are left in locked cars. He asked the Chancellor for NSHE's position. The Chancellor said that it depends upon the pending amendments to the bill, which may make it more acceptable than the original version. There are other serious bills coming down the road on the guns on campus issue, and the Chancellor suggested students should be much more concerned about them.

Chancellor Klaich also pointed out there will be a number of bills on social issues that will be considered during this biennium. There has been a seismic shift in the make-up of the Assembly and Senate. Whereas both bodies were previously Democratic Party-controlled, they are now both Republican Party-controlled. He added that he expected a number of emotionally charged issues would be considered and that NSHE's plan was to try to stay out of the middle of these issues to the extent possible.

At this point, discussion jumped to Agenda Item #7:

**EDUCATION DAY AT THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Prevost opened the discussion by asking each President to give an estimate of how many students from their institutions that plan to attend Education Day:

TMCC – approximately 50

UNLV GPSA – 2

WNC – 8

UNLV CSUN – 120

UNR GSA – approximately 6 but President R.J. Boyajian indicated that more details are needed before UNR grad students will commit.

Chair Prevost said she expected students coming between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. She is working on getting a stage set up on the lawn. President Benjelloun has crafted an agenda. They plan to steer away from the 9 a.m. protest rally since there is nothing to protest. It is more about building support. Chair Prevost is looking for guest speakers. She is also looking at providing breakfast with NSHE covering the expense and finally attending the evening event NSHE is hosting. Chair Prevost explained what she has done so far in planning and promised to provide updates just as soon as possible to everyone.

NSC – 7

DRI – no more than 5

CSN – 50 to 75

ASUN – no representative at meeting

Chancellor Klatch clarified that the evening event at the Governor's Mansion did not have the capacity for all students to attend. Chair Prevost said she understood and that she and 3-4 students had been invited by the TMCC President's Office.

President Boyajian indicated UNR GSA would be willing to help with food costs. Chair Prevost said she had planned to ask for donations from each organization, but the Chancellor is covering the expenses so that is no longer necessary.

GBC – 5 to 6

Chair Prevost will reach out to President Jake Pereira for numbers.

President Benjelloun asked for some time to talk about UNLV CSUN's strategies for Education Day. He explained that they are not trying to exclude anyone. Any other interested institution is welcome to join CSUN for the luncheon and other endeavors they have in mind. They do not think a rally will not get CSUN the support they need from the legislature. The strategy moving forward is:

- Bus students to Carson City (arriving between 8:30 and 9 a.m.)
- Working with Governor's Office to get speakers (hopefully Governor and maybe Senators Ford and Roberson)
- Use luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m as "HQ"
- Breaking down student attendees from UNLV by district and splitting into teams to meet with their representatives.
- Key in on major points. For example, UNLV CSUN is in favor of the Millennium funding level increase from 12 to 15 credits per semester.
- There will be a live twitter feed and media coverage from Southern Nevada
- Asking for more support for each of the NSHE institutions
- It does not make sense for students from the different institutions to split up

Chair Prevost explained that since she just found out about UNLV's plans, she felt it was too late to change direction and that her plan was to move forward with the rally as previously discussed.

Chancellor Klaich said that students should focus on items in the budget that are not funded: increase in weighted student credit hour; professional merit pool; Millennium Scholarship increase from 12 to 15; state-funded need-based financial aid program; workforce development funding. There will be some specific things that each institution may want to address, such as bridge funding. It sounds like both UNLV CSN and NSA were planning morning activities. He recommended that they coordinate so that you do not divide the audience of legislatures. Any event after 8 a.m. should be focused around the legislative grounds because a number of the legislatures will not have time to travel away from the location. They should be able to walk easily to whatever is happening. UNLV CSUN said they are willing to collaborate on the morning event. President Benjelloun indicated the plan was to train their students to lobby on the bus drive to Carson City and also hold a short session that morning. Not much training is required.

Chancellor Klaich said he agreed with a lot of what President Benjelloun said. However, he made the point that "rally" does not necessarily mean "protest"; rather, he considered NSA's planned activities a support rally. There is no reason why there cannot be a significant student president because there are supporter within the legislature that would come out to a group of students. This should be followed up by individual students visiting with legislators. If there were leave-behind pieces or collateral, it would be nice if they were consistent among the various institutions. Chair Prevost is planning on having students visit with legislators. She also pointed out that under Agenda Item 5 the group would vote on the NSHE Legislative Policy Initiative.

President Benjelloun said that he agreed with much of what the Chancellor suggested. He asked the Chancellor if NSHE could provide shuttle busses from the institutions to Carson City. Stephanie echoed that question. The Chancellor said he would need to see budgets before he could consider helping, although he has an extremely limited budget. President Benjelloun said CSUN could cover their own expenses. Chair Prevost said that research TMCC had done indicated the least expensive option was using the state motor pool.

Discussion then moved to Agenda Item #5:

**NSHE LEGISLATIVE POLICY INITIATIVES**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair Prevost handed the floor over to NSA Lobbyist Umram Osambela.

- *Increase minimum number of credits funded per semester by the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program*

No new language. Senator Woodhouse will be the sponsor. It is still under a BDR—there is no bill yet. Chancellor Klaich indicated that there is some concern about increasing the minimum number of credits for community college students from 6 to 12. NSHE has heard that it may be suggested that the change is going to be from 6 to 9 instead. If the bill comes out with this recommendation, NSHE would still support it. Chair Prevost indicated that TMCC students do not support the minimum credit increase to 12 credits, but they would support an increase to 9. President McCurdy asked if there would be a problem with changing the minimum credit requirement to 9 instead of 12. He is concerned that such a change would cut out more students than it would help in changing behavior. Chancellor Klaich recommended the NSA vote on the two parts of the bill separately.

President Benjelloun asked if the increase of the minimum was being proposed as a way to support the additional funds needed to cover the increase from 12 to 15 (Senator Kirner's bill). Chancellor Klaich said he did not think that was the motivation at all, but, rather that is why he is proposing the phase-in from 12 to 15 over a number of years. Also, Senator Woodhouse's bill does not take this approach and goes directly from 12 to 15. President Benjelloun asked if there was an idea where the funding would come from. Chancellor Klaich said he had not heard discussion, but that it may need to come from general fund revenue. President Benjelloun said the Treasurer's office suggested two possibilities: doubling the slots tax or some sort of revenue transfer. Chancellor Klaich said that the stakes in this biennium are very high, especially for higher education. The Governor has taken on a huge lift with the revenue side of his budget. If the sunsetted taxes are not built back into the budget, there will be a \$1.3 million impact. The second half of the Governor's budget is measures that would raise \$500 or \$550 million dollars. They are very controversial with the legislature. If you take away the new revenue, you can forget about any NSHE budget enhancements. There is an enormous risk, including from the Treasurer's alternative budget.

Votes –

TMCC – no as presently proposed; yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

UNLV GPSA – yes as proposed, yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

WNC – voting member not present

UNLV CSUN – yes as proposed, yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

UNR GSA – abstain

NSC – yes as proposed, yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

DRI - no as presently proposed; yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

CSN - yes as proposed, yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

ASUN – no voting member present

GBC - no as presently proposed; yes if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

Result: Yes, NSA is in support of both as presently proposed and if increase of minimum to 9 instead of 12

- *Create a need-based state supported financial aid program for the NSHE community colleges and state college*

Chancellor Klaich indicated that Senator Kieckherer is working on a bill and has been in communication with System staff. The approach may differ from what NSHE recommended, but NSHE would likely still be supportive of a different model as long as it resulted in a state-supported need-based financial aid program for Nevada college students.

Chancellor Klaich asked students to let him know as soon as the plans are firmed up and sent to him, he will share them with Governor Sandoval and supportive legislators. At this point the Chancellor departed the meeting.

Votes-

TMCC – yes

UNLV GPSA – yes

WNC – voting member not present

UNLV CSUN – yes

UNR GSA – yes

NSC – yes

DRI – yes

CSN - yes

ASUN – no voting member present

GBC – yes

Result: Yes, NSA is in support.

- *Create a community college workforce development fund*

TMCC – yes

UNLV GPSA – yes

WNC – voting member not present

UNLV CSUN – yes

UNR GSA – yes

NSC – yes

DRI – yes

CSN - yes

ASUN – no voting member present

GBC – yes

Result: Yes, NSA is in support.

- *Authorize NSHE to prohibit smoking and use of tobacco products on NSHE property*

TMCC – no

UNLV GPSA – no

WNC – voting member not present

UNLV CSUN – no  
 UNR GSA – yes  
 NSC – abstain  
 DRI – abstain  
 CSN - abstain  
 ASUN – no voting member present  
 GBC – abstain

Result: No, NSA is not in support.

**4. CHAIR’S REPORT INFORMATION**

No report other than what has already been discussed.

**5. NSHE LEGISLATIVE POLICY INITIATIVES FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Covered above.

**6. NSHE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE INFORMATION**

NSA Lobbyist Umram Osambela and NSHE External Affairs Coordinator Omar Saucedo will provide an update on the coming 78<sup>th</sup> (2015) Session of the Nevada Legislature.

**7. EDUCATION DAY AT THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Covered above.

**8. NEW BUSINESS INFORMATION**

President Benjelloun asked if the NSA was interested in taking a position on concealed carry once more information is available. He stated that UNLV undergraduates had voted to oppose concealed carry on campus and AB 2. Chair Prevost said she would add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION**

President McCurdy suggested that everyone verify they are on the same sheet of music. In other words there needs to be more discussion among presidents so that things are well-coordinated and effective on Education Day. Chair Prevost said she would contact each of the student body presidents by phone before the end of the week.

ASCSN Secretary Nierada Nititadakul told the group that she had received many student complaints regarding the Excess Credit Fee policy. An Excess Credit Fee Workshop is planned with CSN Administrators on February 24. She is hoping once the workshop is complete that she will be in a position to pursue a policy change. Chair Prevost suggested this item also be added to the March agenda so that CSN can provide an update.