

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

March 6, 2015

7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

Frank H. Rogers Science & Technology Building

Room 182

Desert Research Institute

755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas

NSA Chair Stephanie Prevost called the meeting to order at 7:19 a.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. Timothy Hoover, Western Nevada College, ASWN
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
Ms. RJ Boyajian, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Mr. David Cortez-Lopez, Nevada State College, NSSA
Mr. Jake Pereira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA

Others present: Board of Regents Chair Kevin Page
Board of Regents Vice Chair Rick Trachok
Chancellor Dan Klaich
Renee Davis – NSHE
Lily Leon-Vicks – NSHE
Omar Saucedo – NSHE

Note: Quorum of members not present, but there were no action items on agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment was presented.

3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD CHAIR AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION

Chair Prevost asked Chancellor Klaich for an update on the bus routes issue at TMCC. The current service gap does not provide transportation directly from UNR to TMCC. Due to budget cuts, RTC cut that route. Now students living in Northwest Reno and the North Valleys, as well as those traveling from UNR, must travel to downtown and then back to the North. This can take 3-4 hours for students travelling to TMCC from Stead. Some students take a bus to the Washoe County Jail and then walk the rest of the way, which is extremely unsafe due to traffic and lack of sidewalks. The current bus that travels from down town to TMCC does not go up Virginia Street. RTC said it would cost \$250,000 per year to reinstate the route. TMCC is attempting to partner with UNR to add a shuttle between UNR and TMCC. That would cost 40,000 per semester. TMCC is considering proposing a student fee to support the shuttle, but fees are already going up as it is. Chancellor Klaich and Chair Page think NSHE needs to reach out to RTC.

Board of Regents Vice Chair Rick Trachok asked the presidents to pass on to their student bodies an explanation that it would be very helpful if students could organize their student bodies to walk their districts in support of the higher

education budget. The more pressure legislators feel from their constituents, the greater the likelihood that legislators will support the budget too. The revenue side of the Governor's budget is very important. Board of Regents Chair Kevin Page said he heard from CSN students that the governor had asked the students to be present to support his agenda. A picture was tweeted.

NSA Vice Chair Sharon Young explained that UNLV GPSA put together a document to help students contact their legislators. Also created a template to guide students about the types of things they can share, particularly for students who are unable to attend legislative hearings. She will share with the other student body presidents. Chair Page encouraged students to contact all legislators, not just those representing them specifically. Citing Arizona as an example, Chair Trachok and Chancellor Klaich explained that disinvestment in higher education is happening in a number of states, most likely due to the weak economic recovery combined with conservative legislators.

Lots of students attended the SB 148 hearing yesterday (concealed carry on campus), but did not get a chance to speak. The feeling was that students were not heard. NSHE Executive Vice Chancellor Catherine Cortez Masto asked those in the audience to stand up if they opposed the bill because NSHE was worried the hearing would be cut short. Chancellor Klaich says he is sure that the bill will pass out of the committee. The committee members are saying that there is no substantial evidence that guns on campus would create a safety issue or make campus more dangerous. Chancellor Klaich said there really is no evidence it will make campus safer either. Data is becoming a critical part of the hearings. Vice Chair Trachok asked if the members present voted in the last election. The Student Body Presidents all indicated they did, but also agreed that students in general tend to not vote. Vice Chair Trachok suggested that student leaders continue to work on their campuses to encourage students to vote.

Vice Chair Young asked if students are not getting the floor time they need a hearings, what should students do? Vice Chair Trachok suggested bombarding legislators with emails on all issues of concern. SB 148, revenue, NSHE budget – if you do not voice your concern, nothing is going to happen. Vice Chair Young suggested putting together specific email templates. Chair Page also suggested utilizing social media. Chancellor Klaich suggested focusing on Senate judiciary committee members and leadership in regards to SB 148. Timothy pointed out that WNC's budget is being cut, but there will be an expense if SB 148 passes. Chancellor Klaich explained that NSHE has not submitted a fiscal note because it is not constructed in such a way to allow one.

President William McCurdy asked if SB 148 is a violation of the Nevada constitution in that it gives the Board of Regents the power to run the NSHE campuses. However, Chancellor Klaich explained that while the Nevada Supreme Court has recognized the Board's power to govern the essential functions of the campuses, it has also ruled that the legislature can pass general rules that apply to the campuses without abridging the constitutional authority of the Board. Vice Chancellor Masto brought up the potential constitutional issues (both federal and state) in her testimony at the SB 148 hearing. This argument would have to be considered very carefully. Challenging the bill, should it pass, on constitutional grounds is worth considering, but it is a tricky way to move forward. President McCurdy asked who would decide on NSHE's behalf whether or not to pursue such an argument. VC Trachok said that they could ask an outside counsel to analyze whether the constitutional argument is viable or refer to Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Brooke Nielsen. He again encouraged students to find the most effective way to get the largest number of students possible involved in the discussion. Chair Page pointed out that the average age of legislators has decreased considerably, so it is likely that social media has an impact on them. If a groundswell can be created, there is a fighting chance.

President McCurdy asked about Excess Credit Fee. It has become a large issue, specifically at College of Southern Nevada. Student veterans with lots of accumulated credits are coming in and being charged an addition a 50% and having to pay out of pocket. Chair Prevost said it is an issue with TMCC High School students. Chancellor Klaich asked for the data. Vice Chair Trachok said if the Board made a mistake, they will reconsider, but they need the data. Chancellor Klaich said he has heard two good cases – dual enrollment and student veterans. Chancellor Klaich said he believes the rule is good, but there may be room for exceptions. Director of Student Affairs Renee Davis asked if students are making use of the appeals process and are their appeals being approved. President McCurdy said that yes, and he is a member of the appeals committee. While some students are using the appeals process, many are intimidated by it. Vice Chair Young asked how well the availability of an appeals process is advertised. Chancellor Klaich pointed out that students do get a notice when they are getting close, at least at UNR. That notice should include information about the appeals process.

Chancellor Klaich asked Chair Prevost about a proposed performing arts center at TMCC and associated expenses—a shuttle bus and parking lot. Possible fee is \$5 to \$10 per credit. Chancellor Klaich asked if it was the central mission of TMCC. Chair Prevost responded that there are only about 500 (of approximately 12,000) students in the performing arts program. What TMCC students are looking for is a student union.

4. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

No new business was presented.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment was presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 a.m.