

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

April 13, 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 4:02 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)
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
Mr. Timothy Hoover, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Mr. Jake Pereira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN

Others present: Chancellor Dan Klaich
Yesenia Cuevas, NSC
Renee Davis, NSHE
Caden Fabbi, UNR
Adriana Mendez, GBC
Nierada (Nina) Nititadukul, CSN
Umram Osambela, CSN & NSC
Shelly Thompson, CSN
Maribel Vera, GBC

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Caden Fabbi introduced himself as the new ASUN Student Body President. He will officially take office on Wednesday, April 15. Chancellor Klaich thanked President-Elect Fabbi and Chair Prevost on their comments in the Reno Gazette Journal article on the gun bill being considered by the Nevada Legislature.

3. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR KLAICH

INFORMATION

Chancellor Klaich began with a summary of legislative activities. Guns will be an issue (AB 148), and hopefully the hearing for the bill at Senate judiciary will be more even handed than in Assembly judiciary, where a lot of people did not get the opportunity to testify. There is a bill that he suspects will make it out of Assembly (AB 421) that would establish an independent

oversight “Sage” commission to make recommendations to the governor about higher education and that, in the Chancellor’s opinion, is horrible and also unconstitutional. He doesn’t know exactly where this bill will go. The common core bills have died. There is another bill that is still alive which encourages Western Nevada College to enter into a “good neighbor” program with California schools. This is another bad bill that NSHE will continue to fight against. In the context of good bills, Senators Kieckhefer and Denis are both sponsoring need-based financial aid bills. Senator Kieckhefer’s co-sponsors are Senators Kihuen and Woodhouse—good bipartisan support. The issue will be money. Workforce development fund for community colleges will be heard tomorrow in Senate Finance. Executive Director Woodbeck has been organizing testimony. There is a lot of traction on this bill. Again, the question is money. There are a number of Millennium Scholarship bills still in the mix, including bills to increase funding to 15 credits. Again, money is the issue. NSHE is not getting a lot of traction on faculty merit increases or increasing funding for the weighted student credit hour. NSHE continues to make the case for both of those priorities. There is quite a bit of traction on expanding public medical education.

President-Elect Fabbi asked which of the Millennium Scholarship Bills NSHE is supporting. Chancellor Klaich clarified that NSHE is neutral on Mr. Kirner’s bill (AB 111) and supporting the bill that does not have the phase-in (Senator Woodhouse’s bill, SB 128). There are actually a number of Millennium bills. There is another that had a provision for voluntary community service (Senator Hardy, SB 195). The Millennium provision was amended out last week. Another bill by Mr. Stewart (AB 150) provided for an alternative means of qualification via the ACT or SAT. That bill is still alive.

Chancellor Klaich explained that as the session moves along, one of the things that is uncertain at this time is whether there will be another budget hearing. NSHE does not have another scheduled budget hearing. The legislature may be moving to close budgets relatively quickly. Since 2005 when the Chancellor first became involved in regular sessions of the legislature, he has never seen so few budget hearings.

Chair Prevost state that the TMCC Student Government Association approved support for the bill, but is asking to change the bill to require 30 credits in one year, rather than 15 credits in one semester (in support of 12-12-6 model). She asked if Chancellor Klaich considered that a feasible request. The Chancellor explained that the sponsor of the bill has taken a hard line on the 15 credit requirement, but said 12-12-6 might be something he would be willing to look at and encouraged Chair Prevost to inquire with Senators Kieckhefer, Kihuen and Woodhouse.

President-Elect Fabbi asked about SB 464 – minors and consumption/minors in possession. This is the amnesty bill and was passed unanimously through Senate Judiciary. Chancellor Klaich indicated NSHE supports the bill.

NSA Lobbyist Umram Osambela asked about the business license fee that the governor is pursuing—is NSHE in favor of the bill as it stands or do they want amendments? Chancellor Klaich said this is a good question since all of the other discussions are hypothetical without the revenue. Both the alternative plans from NPRI and from the Assembly Republicans significantly cut the gov rec for higher education (approximately \$65 to \$100 million over the biennium). NSHE probably will not support any specific plan, but has supported the critical need for additional revenue. NSHE is supportive of governor’s plan. If someone has a better plan, that is fine, but he has not heard it yet. He is not sure what is still on the table at this point, since Spearman’s bill did not make it out of committee. It is up to NSHE to make the case very clearly

for why Board has made recommendations it has, that they are reasonable and put pressure on legislature to fund those. With no additional budget hearings being scheduled, leadership appears to be employing this strategy as well.

Chancellor Klaich thanked students for support on the gun bill. He congratulated the newly elected student body presidents and asked if any of them would be returning in the coming year. President Saili indicated she was coming back, as did President Boyajian. The Chancellor thanked President-Elect Fabbi and Chair Prevost for their testimony at the hearing earlier in the morning. The student voice is important. He is encouraging students to talk and faculty to talk, but not telling them what to say. Students are the more affected by this bill than anyone else in the system, so it is important to raise your voices if you don't think it will add to your campus.

CSN EXCESS CREDIT FEE WORKSHOP

INFORMATION

Item 7 taken out of order. Nina Nititadakul gave a brief description of the workshop which was put on by the Assistant Vice President of Student Services and the Registrar's Office. It was a successful event. A variety of concerns were expressed by different populations of students, including veterans who tend to transfer in a large number of credits and nursing students. In the Fall 2014 – 722 students applied for appeals – approximately 33% were denied. CSN is willing to share the presentation from the workshop with the other institutions. President Boyajian said that at UNR they are working closely with campus to education students about the excess credit fee and to make sure students connect better with advisors to make sure they are not taking too many classes. Ms. Nititadakul clarified that there is a huge backlog in the CSN appeals process so students are being charged the fee up front but appeals are not being approved until much later, often in a future semester.

4. NSHE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

NSA Chair Prevost asked NSA Lobbyist Osambela to provide members with an update of legislative developments since the March NSA meeting. Chair Prevost encouraged members to ask any questions they might have about the bills listed on the agenda or make a motion at any time about the bills.

1. AB2 – Mr. Osambela explained this bill died in committee. No need to take a position. Original sponsor will be working with Assemblywomen Fiore on AB 148. UNR GSA previously voted to oppose this bill.
2. AB111 – Mr. Osambela explained this bill has progressed to the senate floor and is moving ahead.
3. SB215 – Director of Student Affairs Renee Davis said this bill died in committee.
4. SB350 – President-Elect Fabbi said he thought this bill also died in committee.
5. SB227 – Chair Prevost reiterated that TMCC SGA has voted to support this bill but will ask sponsors to revise to require students to take 30 credits in one year to accommodate the 12-12-6 model. President William McCurdy agreed with supporting an amendment to support the 12-12-6 model or 30 credits in one year. He said he would not support the bill without such an amendment. Chair Prevost read the proposed resolution to the membership. She suggested a revision to the proposed resolution to indicate NSA's support for amending the credit requirements. Others suggested simply decreasing the requirement to 12 credits. Mr. Osambela said the alliance could approve the resolution with a strong recommendation. President-Elect Fabbi suggested 12 credits made sense so that it is aligned with the Millennium Scholarship minimum. President David Cortez-Lopez made a motion in favor of SB 227, with a recommendation to amend the

requirement to 12 credits and also to approve the resolution with amendment to the “resolved” section recommending 12 credits. President Saili seconded the motion. President Boyajian made a motion to amend President Cortez-Lopez’s motion to state 30 credits per year rather than 12 credits per semester. Motion was seconded by President Cortez-Lopez and passed (6 yea/1 nay). The amended motion passed (7 yea).

6. SB399 – Chair Prevost noted that the credit requirement is 12 credits on this bill. The proposed resolution was worded the same as the resolution for SB 227. President Cortez-Lopez made a motion to support SB 399 and approve the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded by President McCurdy and passed (7 yea).

5. AB 148 RESOLUTION

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Chair Prevost read the proposed resolution to the members. President Cortez-Lopez made a motion to approve the resolution, and it was seconded by President McCurdy. President-Elect Fabbi stated he did not know if the bill was inevitable or not, and students should fight as hard as they can to make sure it doesn’t happen. But, if it is inevitable, there are no provisions for residence hall or large capacity stadiums that were present in proposed bills during previous sessions. The lack of a resident hall provision is especially important to UNR as it is becoming increasingly a resident campus. Once it appears before Senate judiciary, he plans to bring up these concerns. He also pointed out that daycare center provisions have been removed from the bill. There is work to be done and students should make these concerns heard. Motion passed (7 yea).

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

President Cortez-Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes for NSA meetings held on March 5 and 6, 2015, which was seconded by President Megan Johnson. A correction to the spelling of President Johnson’s first name on the March 5 minutes was requested. Motion passed (6 yea, 1 abstain).

7. CSN EXCESS CREDIT FEE WORKSHOP

INFORMATION

Covered above (after Item 3).

8. STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT TRANSITIONS

INFORMATION

TMCC – Election held last Friday. New president is Spencer Schultz. He should be attending the May NSA meeting along with Chair Prevost and will take over as of June 1.

UNLV GPSA – Election ended Friday. New president is Surbhi Sharma, who will take office on May 4. She will attend next NSA meeting with Vice Chair Young, who will assist in the transition.

UNR GSA – Election will be held tomorrow. The new president will take office June 1.

NSC – Elections not held yet – committee created on Friday. New president will be sworn in on May 16.

DRI– Elections held in June, probably. Transfer of leadership happens at that time. President Johnson plans on attending the June Board of Regents meeting.

CSN – Election scheduled for April 28-29. New president will be sworn in May 8. President McCurdy will accompany new president to next NSA meeting.

UNR ASUN – President-Elect Fabbi will be sworn in on Wednesday.

GBC – Elections will occur next week, and results will be announced Friday, April 24. The new president will be sworn in May 1.

9. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

No new business was presented.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Director Davis asked guests to identify themselves so they could be recorded on the minutes.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.