

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

September 11, 2015

7:15 a.m – 7:45 a.m.

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

NSA Chair Caden Fabbi called the meeting to order at 7:18 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Caden Fabbi, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Chair)
Ms. Andrea Senda, Western Nevada College, ASWN (NSA Vice Chair)
Ms. Kylie Rowe, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Secretary)
Ms. Jessica Connolly, Desert Research Institute, DRI
Ms. Surbhi Sharma, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
Ms. Kanani Espinoza, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Mr. Spencer Schultz, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
Ms. Brenda Romero, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN

Members absent: Ms. Yesenia Cuevas, Nevada State College, NSC
Ms. DeMarynee Sali, Great Basin College, GBC

Guests present: Ms. Renee Davis, NSHE
Mr. Dan Klaich, Chancellor, NSHE
Mr. Rick Trachock, Chair, Board of Regents, NSHE
Mr. Michael Wixom, Vice Chair, Board of Regents, NSHE
Ms. Nicole Thomas, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Mr. Joseph Dagher, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Ms. Cheyenne Bryant, Western Nevada College, ASWN

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

- None.

3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICERS AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION

- Chair: asked NSA to share goals or any concerns within campus or organization
- Chancellor: it is an incredible opportunity for higher education in our state right now with the known support of the Governor
- Chair: in terms of aid and grants, Board of Regents wants to open up higher education to more Nevada families in order to fill jobs
- Chancellor: wants to leave clear path for two great Universities and very engaged colleges
- Vice Chair: NSA could be helpful in developing culture of completion; stated that 15 to finish is more than just catch phrase; want to get students through and complete which reduces cost to students and more cost to state; students are also moving into the workforce more quickly and begin to see ROI in life
- Chancellor: data shows that for every semester that graduation is deferred, the chances of ever graduating declines precipitously; have to look at policies that protect part-time students because so many have to work, but not doing those students any favor; Silver State opportunity grant is important because the grant allows students not to work full-time so can attend school full-time
- Surbhi, GPSA: asked whether there is data that suggests why students are unable to finish in four years; stated that at the graduate level, there are other issues, which include reduced number of graduate assistantships and stipends and larger courses to teach

- Chancellor: cannot expect students to graduate if do not provide clear pathways; should be better schedule and utilization of classes; there are not many classes being offered on Fridays
- Vice Chair: one assumption we have why people do not complete is due to financial reasons, but maybe students are not provided with enough counseling or information
- Kylie, GSA: students that graduate without any industry experience are less competitive and not all programs build in the time or credit that applies toward graduation to gain internship or industry experience while in school; students that work in the industry while in school are more competitive when they graduate and they are filling the industry need now, despite that it takes those students longer to graduate
- Chair: there is no state law that prevents interning; when Tesla came to UNR campus to interview engineers, two were chosen; Tesla wasn't looking for a skill, they would train the skills they needed; instead, Tesla was looking for people that had the right attitude and right approach; they were looking for someone who is entrepreneurial, that accepts responsibility and takes charge; cannot underestimate how important the attitude and analytical skills and critical thinking skills are
- Surbhi, GPSA: graduate school is about training critical thinking, but when talking about undergraduate level, want to have experience shadowing doctors, research experience, etc; everything adds up and slows them down; it's a value for students to apply for medical school with shadowing and research experience; obtaining this experience limits them to finish early
- Nicole, CSUN: it is hard for science students to take 15 credits at a time when they are all challenging courses; it is more important for bio students seeking entrance into medical school to get a great GPA, than to finish in four years
- Chair: as leaders, we need to set a list of rated priorities in terms of what things are important to our constituents; the counseling issue goes right to top of list; need to relay to take issue through chain of command and let the board know the outcome; this is part of shared governance
- Vice Chair: met with editorial boards – want to make sure that we are student centric; board can be used as avenue to address specific concerns
- Chancellor: TMCC – lots of pressure this year because significant infrastructure decisions will be made; will be decisions that have multi-decade impacts
- Spencer: looking at TMCC 10 years down the road; with influx of jobs and employers coming to TMCC, need to look at long-term; do not agree that TMCC is just a community college; it should be a stepping stone to University that also has a 4-year degree at the community college tuition rate; lots of people do not go to University because of finances; people can't afford not to work; interested in pushing lecture classroom; parking during peak hours of day is insane
- Chair: Spencer's feedback is helpful; board looking at community colleges as primary access point for higher education in Nevada because the first two years are more affordable
- Joe, CSUN: are there MOUs with CC and U? Institutions cooperate and transfer students?
- Chair: this is a question related to articulation; TMCC and UNR presidents are working together to address articulation issue; when meet in Vegas in December, Board wants to know how well articulation is working for students
- Chancellor: TMCC and UNR passed voluntary co-admission policy last year; it would be interesting to have one application that gets students into NSHE
- Joe, CSUN: to streamline NSHE system it would make it easier for students
- Chair: next meeting in Vegas expect to hear back in regard to advisement issues on campuses
- Spencer: passionate about building on campus and also considering students; want shuttle from TMCC to UNR and back; only have three buses come to TMCC and only come from center of town, which is big issue; TMCC does subsidize bus passes for students
- Surbhi, PGSA: have met students that transferred from CSN to UNLV; do know students that have transferred and courses have articulated
- Vice Chair: common course numbering is supposed to lead to easy transferring

- Chancellor: Clark County area lags behind Washoe in this collaboration by about 5-7 years; there has been a lot more progress between TMCC and UNR, than has been between CSN, NSC and UNLV, with exception of last two years
- Kanani, CSUN: problem is communication – can fix with adding counselors and advisors
- Chair: wants to come back in December with resolution after doing more research; collectively identify specific concerns, like counseling
- Caden, ASUN: have been hiring counselors and overall think UNR campus has embraced 15 to finish; UNR has more traditional campus and now freshman are coming in knowing that they have to take the courses; the problem is that students are taking remedial courses; students in this state are not prepared to come to College
- Chair: asked NSA to put together concrete suggestions and facts; we will collectively determine how to attack challenges

4. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

- Surbhi, GPSA: identify problems/issues on campuses and develop something that can bring to the Regents, ready for discussion in December

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

- Surbhi, GPSA: kudos to ASUN for taking the lead on getting the buttons so that NSA could sponsor the It's on Us campaign

Chair Fabbi adjourned the meeting at 8:06 a.m.