

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes December 4, 2015 Student Union, Room 213 University of Nevada, Las Vegas 4505 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89154

NSA Chair Caden Fabbi called the meeting to order at 7:17 a.m.

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. Kanani Espinoza, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Mr. Levi Keach, Desert Research Institute, GRAD (*proxy for Jessica Connolly*)
Mr. Spencer Schultz, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
Ms. Surbhi Sharma, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA

Members absent: Ms. Jessica Connolly, Desert Research Institute, GRAD (*represented by proxy*)
Ms. Yesenia Cuevas, Nevada State College, NSSA
Ms. Brenda Romero, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA

Guests present: Mr. Dan Klaich, Chancellor, NSHE
Mr. Rick Trachock, Chair, Board of Regents, NSHE
Mr. Michael Wixom, Vice Chair, Board of Regents, NSHE
Ms. Marissa Crook, UNR
Mr. Kyle Dalpe, TMCC
Ms. Renee Davis, NSHE
Mr. Dean Gould, NSHE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

President Spencer Schultz addressed Chancellor Klaich, explaining that he surveyed TMCC students regarding the proposed police merger and design issues on campus and offering to share the results. Chancellor Klaich said he would be interested in seeing that information and asked President Schultz to email the information to him.

3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICERS AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION

Chair Fabbi offered the floor to the regents and chancellor. Chair Trachok suggested jumping right to student questions.

Secretary Kylie Rowe asked about the administrative cuts and where the salary savings would go. Chair Rick Trachok explained that the Board asked the campus presidents to work on administrative efficiencies. The savings realized would be reallocated to the classroom. Cuts should not come from advising or other student service areas. It is an important message to send to students and tax payers that NSHE is getting as much as they can out of every dollar. The Board plans to ask the governor and legislature to invest more funds in higher education and we

must do our own part. Vice Chair Wixom agreed with Chair Trachok and remarked upon the desire of the Board to create a new culture and a new way of doing things. The Board needs to consider ways to use physical space more efficiently—for example, possibly a trimester system. Chancellor Klaich explained that really the System is not talking about a budget cut—but rather a reallocation of budget dollars.

Secretary Rowe also asked about the policy proposal to allow NSHE to transfer faculty between north and south. Chancellor Klaich said there is no such proposal and explained the actual intent of the NSHE transfer policy. Faculty senate has given suggestions about improving the policy and many of the suggestions will be recommended to the Board for inclusion in the eventual policy.

Marissa Crook asked if taxes on medical or recreational marijuana could potentially be used to help fund higher education. Vice Chair Wixom cautioned about viewing taxation of medical or recreational marijuana as the “holy grail.” He explained in other states that the expected revenue is not being realized, in some cases due to a drop in prices. Ms. Crook asked if the regents would be opposed to receiving revenue from the taxation of marijuana; Vice Chair Wixom said no. Chair Trachok said that where the funds were spent would depend upon the current budget system. Chancellor Klaich remarked that the legislature is inclined to help K-12 prior to helping Higher Education. However, the best help for Higher Education is for K-12 to deliver more college-ready students.

Chair Trachok explained that day’s Board meeting would mark the beginning of Board discussions regarding the 2017 Biennium budget request. That discussion will continue at the January special meeting, and he invited the student leaders to attend that meeting.

Vice Chair Wixom pointed out that students needed to follow and oppose the tax initiative being pushed by the former regent and current state controller, Ron Knecht. If that or a similar proposal is successful, there will be no new revenue for higher education. In fact, much of what has been accomplished in the last 5 or 6 years will be erased. Chair Trachok pointed out the important thing is that the proposal does not make it to the ballot. As an initiative, it is possible that it will.

Chair Fabbi asked about the faculty pay working group. He said it seems like institutions would need to find a way to make it happen. Is there any appetite in the legislature? Chancellor Klaich explained he hopes the group will focus on the most critical issues. This will probably happen at the next meeting. It is very important work and it will be necessary to understand the data behind the issue. If NSHE’s faculty members are truly being poached, that information needs to be shared with the legislature. We must all understand there is a new economic reality in states that will impact all of us.

Kylie asked about the trimester idea so she can share it with constituents. Vice Chair Wixom is sensitive to coming in too strongly on the issue, but he thinks it is an intriguing issue. Semester schedule is based on an agricultural economy from the 17th century and it no longer makes sense. We must utilize our physical space better on all NSHE campuses. We could also get students through faster on a trimester schedule. It also allows more flexibility throughout the year for students. It is not a panacea, however. Chancellor Klaich said the key is getting students through their programs and efficient use of facilities. We must use what we have better.

President Brenda Romero shared that CSN was experiencing a reduced budget due to enrollment reductions. Initially student government was told that the cuts would not affect student services. However, during Fall 2015 student services at CSN saw drastic reductions. Tutoring has been cut. For example, it was closed during the Thanksgiving holidays. Next semester tutoring will only be offered two days per week. Remedial classes may be cut as well? If that happens, how are we helping our students? Chair Trachok explained the Board was not aware that the campus had made such cuts. He also suggested if students who were being specially admitted to UNLV were instead attending CSN where they would be more likely to be successful, then CSN would not be experiencing the decline in enrollment. Chancellor Klaich said he hoped the budget cuts were being discussed with student leaders. He also suggested that CSN was in the process of “right sizing.” Both chairs and the chancellor

Marissa Crook asked about expanding the SSOG program to UNR/UNLV. Chancellor Klaich asked that everyone keep in mind that approximately 92% of \$25 million in Millennium funds annually go to the two universities. There is a greater need at the community colleges, but expansion to the universities would be great if there were enough available funds. However, there are not nearly enough funds in the SSOG program to go around to students at the community colleges and NSC who were eligible, and this is without any marketing. The percentage of unfunded students is expected to increase as word gets out. We plan on asking the legislature to make the program permanent and expand it. The community colleges have asked to drop the credit requirement from 15 to 12.

4. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

No new business was presented.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment was presented.

Chair Fabbi adjourned the meeting at 7:59 a.m.