

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

March 5, 2015

7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Frank H. Rogers Science & Technology Building

Room 181

Desert Research Institute

755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas

Chair Stephanie Prevost called the meeting to order at 7:39 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. David Cortez-Lopez, Nevada State College, NSSA **arrived at 7:49 a.m.**
Mr. Timothy Hoover, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Ms. Megan Johnson, Desert Research Institute, GRAD
Mr. William McCurdy, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN **arrived at 8:13 a.m.**

Members absent: Mr. Elias Benjelloun, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Ms. RJ Boyajian, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Mr. Jake Pereira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA

Others present: Lilly Leon-Vicks, WNC
Umram Osambela, CSN & NSC

A quorum of members was not present at the start of the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

NSA Lobbyist Umram Osambela announced that President David Cortez-Lopez was on his way to the meeting but running late and that President Jake Pereira would not be attending.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Chair Prevost deferred this action item to later in the meeting when quorum requirements were met.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

INFORMATION

Chair Prevost thanked everyone who came out for Education Day. It was fantastic, she said; we talked to a lot of legislators. Chair Prevost had the opportunity to sit on the Assembly floor with her representative. Overall, there was a lot of support from legislators on need-based financial aid, a workforce development fund and raising the maximum funding level for the Millennium Scholarship. NSA Vice Chair Sharon Young asked if the weapons policy came up at all. Chair Prevost said it did not, at least to her knowledge.

5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Chair Prevost yielded the floor to Mr. Osambela to give an update on the latest higher-education related bills being considered by the legislature.

AB 2 – deals with firearms in locked vehicles on NSHE campuses. Possibly a locked box. (Speaker Hambrick). Mr. Osambela asked members to take a position on the bill. President Sharon Young asked what measures would be taken if the weapons are stolen from the vehicle. Mr. Osambela responded that ammunition must be separate from the firearm. Individuals would need to advise police if there is a break in and it would be treated as stolen property.

AB 111/150 – both bills for the Millennium Scholarship. Mr. Osambela pointed out that the Alliance already voted on a position for SB 128. NSHE is still on the fence on these bills, so he was not sure if the Alliance would want to take a position. Chair Prevost asked about the differences between the two bills. NSHE Director of Student Affairs Renee Davis explained that AB 111 is Senator Kirner's bill. It phases in a proposed increase in the per semester maximum funding level from 12 to 15 credits. AB 111 also raises the community college minimum from 6 to 12, phased in over two years. Ms. Davis also explained that Senator Woodhouse's bill (SB 128) is similar but raises the community college minimum to 9 while the 15-credit maximum is not phased in, but the increase happens all at once. There was further discussion by the group about the reasons for multiple bills with the same or similar purposes. Ms. Davis went on to explain that AB 150 seeks to create an alternate path for students to qualify for the Millennium scholarship through a test score, rather than high school GPA (NSHE would choose the test score.) This bill is not currently supported by NSHE, at least to Ms. Davis' knowledge. Vice Chair Young asked about NSHE's rationale for not supporting the bill. Mr. Osambela responded that he would check with Vice Chancellor Constance Brooks to be sure, but as he understands it NSHE would like to maintain status quo on Millennium eligibility requirements.

President David Cortez-Lopez arrived at 7 :49 a.m.

Regarding AB 150, Ms. Davis said she thought that Umram was right and that in the past NSHE has opposed changes to initial eligibility requirements for the Millennium program from the point of view that it makes things confusing for families if there are multiple children who come in under different eligibility requirements. Ms. Davis also stated from her point of view there is also an equity issue with changing eligibility requirements 15 years into the program.

SB 195 – requires Millennium Scholarship recipients to perform community service. “Encouraged” was the original language and then the new bill adds the word “shall.” It is confusing as proposed. The bill also moves the WICHE office under the Governor's Office. It also has a revision to in-state residency for tuition purposes for NSHE students. The proposal is to change from the concept of “matriculation” to “regular registration period.” Ms. Davis pointed out that the regular registration period is generally earlier than the matriculation date, and the intent of the bill is not clear. Ms. Davis explained that NSHE was opposing the Millennium part of the bill at last word. She also said the System was in support of the WICHE office moving out from the NSHE umbrella, but she thought NSHE was neutral on where it moved to. Mr. Osambela said he would confer with Vice Chancellor Brooks and NSHE External Affairs Coordinator Omar Saucedo and report back to the Alliance.

Mr. Osambela also shared that he had spoken with Senator Heller's staff, and they said the Senator is working on some bills that will affect financial aid at the federal level. Umram will disseminate when available.

President Megan Johnson asked Mr. Osambela if AB 148 (Assemblywoman Fiore) was being heard that day. Mr. Osambela confirmed it was, and a lengthy discussion followed. The bill provides that individuals with CCW permits would be able to carry their weapons on campus as long as in good standing with permit. This is one of the more controversial bills that concerns high education. The group discussed whether campuses would be checking to see if permit holders carrying guns were in good standing. Mr. Osambela suggested the NSA take a stance on this bill, or at least be vigilant of the progress of the bill. The sentiment is that the bill is likely to pass unless students lobby strongly against it. Mr. Osambela suggested that the Alliance at least oppose the part of the bill that allows concealed carry at child care centers. UNLV, UNR, CSN, TMCC all have child care centers on their campuses. Mr. Osambela said that the ASUN Senate voted to oppose AB 148, but the issue was hotly debated.

Chair Prevost asked Ms. Davis about planning a special meeting. She said they could have a meeting whenever it was convenient for the NSA, but would need time to post the agenda according to OML.

President William McCurdy arrived at 8:13 a.m. Quorum now present.

Vice Chair Young made a motion not to support AB 148 as it stands. President Cortez-Lopez seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and Vice Chair Young expressed the concern that at minimum the bill needs provisions to ensure the safety of students and to ensure only those with permits in good standing would be allowed to carry on campus. President McCurdy said that those who have a CCW should be required to check in with campus police. President Cortez-Lopez suggested that the bill should eliminate child care centers as places where weapons could be carried. President McCurdy was also concerned about the need to address the fiscal impact in regards to enforcement. Five members voted in favor, one opposed. Motion passed.

6. CSN EXCESS CREDIT FEE WORKSHOP INFORMATION

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS INFORMATION

No new business was presented.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION

No public comment was presented.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m. but reconvened immediately.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

President McCurdy made a motion to approve the minutes for December 4 and 5, 2014 and January 12 and February 9, 2015. President Johnson seconded the motion. President Cortez-Lopez requested one correction to reflect he was present on December 4. Five members voted in favor to approve all minutes as revised, with one abstention. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 a.m.