

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes
September 8, 2016
7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union
Rita Laden Senate Chambers
87 West Stadium Way
Reno, NV 89557

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta at 7:18 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Ms. Desiree DeCosta, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) - Present

Mr. Carlos Fernandez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN (NSA Vice Chair) - Present

Mr. David Turner II, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (NSA Secretary) - Present

Mr. Brandon Boone, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN – Present

Mr. David Clark, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA - Present

Ms. Chelsey Fox, Great Basin College, SGA - Absent

Mr. Diana Gurrola, Western Nevada College, ASWN - Present

Ms. Meghan Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA - Present

Ms. Jill Robinson, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN - Present

Mr. Deep Sengupta, Desert Research Institute, GRAD - Present

3. GUEST RECOGNITION

Ms. Renée Davis, Director of Student Affairs with the Nevada System of Higher Education

Ms. Lilly Leon-Vicks, Western Nevada College Coordinator for Student Life

Ms. Bea DeBelen, UNLV CSUN

Mr. Marclen Hernandez, UNLV CSUN

Mr. Ryan Romero, UNLV CSUN

Ms. Heather Phelps, NSC NSSA

Mr. Elias Benjelloun, NSC NSSA

Mr. Luis Montanez, NSC NSSA

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time

INFORMATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

NSA Secretary David Turner makes a motion to approve the minutes from August 11, 2016.

NSA Member David Clark seconds

Minutes approved by majority vote.

- 6. NSA NEWSLETTER** **INFORMATION**
NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez finished the NSA Newsletter and will be sending it out to all members. There were some institutions that were not able to submit their articles, however to keep them included with the newsletter their info was added. To showcase all the institutions. There was a lot of help from the CSUN Marketing Team.

- 7. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT** **INFORMATION**
NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta indicates that she will be giving the report to the Regents later in the morning. Going over everything the NSA has been working on, the initiatives with the It's On Us Campaign, Undocumented/DACA support and Open Education Resources. This will go over the progress that the members have made towards those initiatives, the Newsletter as well as the progression towards the discussion for the new Chancellor. To make sure that what the NSA is looking for in a Chancellor is considered.

- 8. IT'S ON US CAMPAIGN** **INFORMATION**
NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta opens up the discussion with what NSC is doing for the Campaign. Creating a tunnel of awareness for their Spirit Week. This will be a room showcasing all the Campaign resources the institute offers their students. This room will have a rolling video. After the students leave they will fill out a survey asking, what they learned, how the students felt and what impacted them the most.

NSA Secretary David Turner spoke with administration and staff at TMCC that had attended their Compass Club's Take Back the Night event. These individuals had shared their own personal stories that night and indicated because of that there is interest in starting a club for peer counselling. The executive members would be anonymous. This club would let students speak with students, so if a student didn't want to speak with staff they would have an option. The club's information will be sending out the club info similar to the other clubs. Looking at other effective marketing tools.

NSA Member Brandon Boone indicates that for quite a few years every incoming UNR freshmen goes through a 3-5 minute presentation about UNR's Title IX office and all the resource available to them. One event that they are working on with their Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Justine Hernandez from UNR's CASAT Office to teach responsible drinking habits, as more often than not sexual assault is tied with alcohol. This event will be a Beer Pong, with water were students can face off UNRPD with a safe drinking component.

NSA Member Jill Robinson brings up an event that CSN had done the previous year, Safety Week. That invited Metro from Las Vegas and Henderson. The event had different booths ranging from Congo Justice for Human Trafficking to their Title IX Director, Debbie Tanner with all the Title IX Courses. Which are all open to students. The senators at CSN will all be taking the two day Title IX training. This is so they know how to help those students and where to refer them. They are also ramping up their CAP services, which are normally available to staff, which will be open to students. There is also an effort to increase the number of Safe Zone

locations. CSN is also opening a Multi-Cultural Center September 14, 2016. With all this, this year the Safety Week for this academic year will be the It's On Us week.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that UNLV is starting the Green Dot training, which is similar to the Title IX training. To make sure that their senators are also aware of warning signs, that if a student is in need of help that the senators know where to send them to get help. Another thing that UNLV is working on for safety as a whole is passing a resolution for It's On Us. While UNLV is being reported as one of the safest campuses, not everything is being reported. While CSUN gives their students lots of physical things like concert tickets, they want to be able to offer more things like mental services. CAPS is the psychological services, however there is a cap to the amount of times a student can utilize it. CSUN is looking into increasing a student fee to be able to lift that cap. As once a student has built a relationship, they are being sent to an outside source once they have reached that cap. This becomes counter intuitive.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta points out the importance of this work. That CSN and NSC utilize the CAPS program at UNLV.

9. UNDOCUMENTED/DACA STUDENT SUPPORT

INFORMATION

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta yields the floor to NSC Senator Luis Montanez.

Mr. Luis Montanez NSC NSSA informs the group about DACA student within NSHE. Nevada State has taken steps to help these students, to make they are able to succeed. Using workshops to inform the students about the services that are offered. As most students are afraid to fill out FAFSA, not understand that they can. Which opens up scholarships. As these students are not able to receive federal aid, NSC is helping them by increasing Scholarships for these students. Private scholarships are essential to these students. Mentorship programs is another avenue that is being taken at Nevada State, with student clubs. These are to empower the students and help answer questions about college, legal issues and other challenges they may face. Luis shares his background, moving to the US from Mexico with his parents when he was a toddler. Luis graduated third in his class in high school and is going to NSC through scholarships. Luis understands he is fortunate though as some students are forced to stop their studies because of financial hardships. Which is why it means so much to him that the NSA voted to support DACA students. That there are a large number of students who are DACA and this will help retain these students and get them resources that they need to be successful.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta opens the floor and starts with a few more initiatives that NSC is working towards to help DACA students. Offering Safe Zone trainings specifically for Dreams, Undocumented and DACA students, through Student Engagement and the Cultural and Diversity department.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez retouches how close this subject is to him. They are having conversations with CSN to help with initiatives. Taking this to UNLV's president stating that this is an important issue that he is willing to jump through any hoops to help make these resources available to an underserved population of students. There are also conversations with the UNLV DACA Network, which serves these students. It is also important that Luis is here to help add

faces to this initiative, to remind the media these are people. That this is a good reminder that the services and resources that we offer students are not the same across the board. We have special services for our disabled students, that DACA students have their own needs. Carlos informs the members that he is part of a Latino fraternity, where there are members working over 40 hours a week to be able to go to school. There is a challenge to not let the media influence the NSA members, and group DACA students as all the same.

NSA Member Jill Robinson informs the members that she was not able to add this to the newsletter because of the due date for the letter, but CSN is taking in private donations to create a permanent home for the DACA/Dream Scholarships. To be able to continue to offer the two \$1500 scholarships to students. There is also now an All Access Committee, made of faculty and student members to create a safer place. The students weren't comfortable with starting a club, but they were introduced to administration to know to speak with these individuals. To create better safe places.

10. OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

INFORMATION

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta opens the floor for all discussion.

NSA Secretary David Turner spoke with TMCC's faculty senate and is pleased to report that multiple faculty members are moving into the open education resources. Reminding the members about the 200 level Business class that has already moved on to OERs. That spring will be bringing additional classes into the OER area. That maybe this could be the push needed to create a Nevada Open Education Resource, which would be open to all institutions, that instructors could access and update with peer reviewed material.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta informs the members that Nevada State College is moving towards this in similar ways. Currently the library is all cloud based and working towards open cloud based text books. This is still in the works towards their OER goals.

NSA Member Jill Robinson has this on the first agenda with CSN's faculty senate.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez informs the members that the institution has not made much headway, but it is on the radar. With UNLV being a university, it is a little harder to encourage faculty that are tenured and write books to pursue OER. Hopefully once the traction picks up from the other institutions the pressure will be on to develop programs and move UNLV forward.

11. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

None at this time.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Ms. Renée Davis informs the members about the Regents Award Program, for which faculty members and students are awarded. There are system wide committees that choose the recipients of those awards. That emails will be sent out to set these up, as most of the committees have students sit on them. Normally it is the Student Body Presidents that sit on these committees, but designees are allowed. This year doodle polls will be sent out more in advance to set the times.

It's very important that students sit on these committees, as the members are the ones interacting with the recipients of the awards.

NSA Secretary David Turner asks if there is an age restriction for designees.

Ms. Renée Davis doesn't believe there is, just that they need to be a student. She will double check.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez gives thanks for everyone for serving on the committees, as well as to Renée and the Regents for giving us this opportunity. Being in the NSA it is important that we do these things. These are the ways to be more involved and to be able to take our ideas directly to the Regents. That other systems have a student Regent and that we should have something like that, that we are able to be directly involved with it.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta at 7:45am