

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes
September 8, 2016

University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union
Room 420
87 West Stadium Way
Reno, NV 89557

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez at 5:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Ms. Desiree DeCosta, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) – Present at 5:09 p.m.

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 - Present

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

Mr. Rick Trachok, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Chairman

Mr. Michael B. Wixom, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Vice Chairman

Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents

Mr. John V. White, Chancellor

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. Marclem 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. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICERS AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION

Mr. Rick Trachok appreciates the time the NSA members are taking to meet and speak with the Board Officers and Chancellor. This is a big year and the Board Officers and Chancellor are happy to address any issues the NSA members might want to raise.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez opens up the floor to any member who would like to address any concerns.

NSA Secretary David Turner brings up concerns with the Chancellor Search Committee not having adequate representation between all the institutions. As outlined in the guides that all the Presidents, all the Faculty Senate Chairs and All the Student Body Presidents should be allowed to sit on the committee and would like to make sure that happens.

Mr. Rick Trachok appreciates the opinion but disagrees with the interpretation of the code. That the committee has been appointed and is not going to change.

NSA Secretary David Turner wonders how the code that states the Presidents, all the Faculty Senate Chairs and the Student Body Presidents does not mean plural.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that they follow the code, follow the council for the board and system. That he appointed the committee that will sit as the advisory committee for the search. That any one of the NSA members are free to attend and voice any opinions during public comment during any of the meetings. As can any other president.

Mr. Dean J. Gould interjects that the way that they interpret the code is that the pool has to include members from all those categories. Which the Board Officers believe they have done that, because the Senate Faculty Chair and Student Senate Chair are members of that advisory committee and asks if NSA Secretary David Turner has seen the roster. That that's why those members are on the committee. That they represented those groups. There are presidents and community members on there. This is why the Board Officers believe they have met the requirement of the code. Based on history, even though Mr. Dean J. Gould was not a part of the previous searches, is that the issue when they have had searches with a lot of members, the committee became unruly and didn't produce many results. The main thing is that the Board Officers believe they have met the requirements. The advisory members are just that, advisory, and not voting members. That if a member were to come to the meeting that they are in no different position. That they can get up and speak during public comment or the group could address concerns through their representative.

Mr. John V. White follows up with an observation as he has done this for a while. At one point in time the Board had very large search committees. That Mr. Dean J. Gould is correct in that they become unruly. Also mechanically, the more members you have, less ironically, and though sounds counter intuitive, the less a member is able to say. As there are too many members speaking, with so many voices, it tends to dilute opinions. With the way it is structured, they have as much representation as they can so that the voices and opinions on the committee are actually heard. The structure of the committee is to give advice. Which is why it is so important for the NSA members to give their opinions to the individual representing them.

Mr. Rick Trachok suggests to keep the topic brief. That it is desired to take the time the NSA has to discuss matters with the Board Leadership, and it is suggested to do so. However, if it is desired to discuss legal interpretation of the code, with the four lawyers making up the Board Officers, then the Board would be more than happy, wasting time, to do so. Suggesting to move on, to talk about matters of importance at the moment to the NSA members and their constituents.

NSA Secretary David Turner states that this is pertinent to the NSA.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that there is an understanding of NSA Secretary David Turner's position very clearly. However, this discussion is finished to move on to the next item.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez recaps the best way to give an opinion is to speak at public comment and meet and speak through the NSA representative. NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez also questions if there is another way to get involved with the search committee as this is an important matter to all of the NSA members, as this is the future of NSHE as a whole.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that the Board meets with the NSA every quarter and that the Board is very open in all the discussions through the years that Mr. Rick Trachok has been doing this. If there are ideas or suggestions, just like with the previous meeting with the Board Officers where the Board took the suggestions of what each NSA member was looking for in a Chancellor, that that discussion would be constructive and productive. If there are specific thoughts that need to be shared that they can be expressed through email, phone or appointment with Mr. Rick Trachok. Where the discussion would be about what the Board is looking for. That the Board took the results from the previous NSA meeting, the Faculty Senate Chairs and the Presidents. They met with the Board of Regents two weeks' prior at a workshop. Where the Board of Regents spent three hours discussing, first with what the Presidents, then with what the Board were looking for. Then they finalized the choice of the committee. Mr. Rick Trachok expressed that the Board Officers would be happy to take any input the members may have. Everyone needs to keep in mind that there are six voting members in this process, which is the committee headed by Regent Paige. The NSA members voice was heard, that there are appropriate ways to share thoughts the members might have. Through the four ways shared with the members that Mr. Rick Trachok feels would work.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez thanks Mr. Rick Trachok.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox states that when at the first Board of Regents meeting in June, that it was not clear to her what exactly the Chancellor position entailed. Upon speaking with Mr. Rick Trachok after that meeting to have clarification. NSA Member Chelsea Fox then spoke with the students and found about 70% of the students want the heart of a teacher and can communicate with the students. Wanting to reiterate that point. NSA Member Chelsea Fox is also wondering if the committee has found any people qualified to fill the position.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that the process starts September 30. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and will be videoed to all three sites in the state. The committee will hire a search consultant. At the meeting they will have discussion on the job description of the chancellor. That Chancellor White is working with Mr. Rick Trachok in constructing suggestions to submit to the committee. Once the search consultant is hired, the search consultant in conjunction with the committee will create an advertisement that will go in the national journals. The search consultant and their team will reach out to their connections throughout the country. They will put together their first pool of people they think would be interested or have expressed interest. They will then work together to comb through that. At the end, together, with the board chair, they will submit a list of names, depending of the length, to the advisory committee. There will probably be site visits with the institutions were those selected individuals are looking to get background information. There will be a public meeting where each of the candidates will be interviewed on the record. Then the Regents will solicit input and then debate and vote.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox asks if it's the meeting where they select the final candidates that the NSA members can attend.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that the NSA members can attend every meeting, and that if a member has input they can speak at the public comment before and after.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox states that there is then a way that the NSA members can be involved through the entire process.

Mr. Dean J. Gould adds that these meetings have to be in compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Laws. That NSA Secretary David Turner went through this at TMCC. That NSA Secretary David Turner can attest to this process as he sat through this with the institutes presidential search committee. Every meeting, that there should not be a lot of meetings, however every meeting will have an agenda. September 30 is the first meeting, that Mr. Dean J. Gould's job is to post that agenda on time. That Mr. Dean J. Gould is planning on posting that agenda September 22. If any member attends, to go to the NSHE website and sign up, that every time NSHE posts something, there will be an email notification. Any member can go on and download the agenda and supporting material. You can video in at GBC, the system office in Reno or Las Vegas, be there and speak during public comment. That the NSA Chair will be there as NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta sits on that committee and is the NSA's conduit. That if there are concerns to communicate with them.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox clarifies that there are many ways to be involved in some way.

Mr. John V. White adds that there are ways to get involved both formally and informally.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta thanks the Board of Officers for pointing those items out as well as for appointing her, NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta, to sit on the committee. That for the record, NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta will be at the September 30 meeting and that the NSA's voices will be heard. The NSA will have its representation shown there. NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta is glad that this topic is being discussed, it's a good and important discussion. That the chancellor will be the liaison for the students and the system. That she also understands everyone's concern here.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez brings up a discussion of having a student Regent. That it is known to NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez that the idea has been brought up in the past of having a student Regent and that it has been turned down. However, it is being requested to have clarification for why it has been a no in the past and if there is a way to go about having one or a process.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that if the NSA truly wants a student Regent to lobby or write a letter to the Nevada Legislation to change the constitution of Nevada. If the legislation agreed to do so it would go to the vote of the people in the state of Nevada, twice, to amend the constitution. The process at best case would take five years but normal course would take ten years. The item has been brought up two times prior with Mr. Rick Trachok. The Regents rejected it stating that under the current system that we have under our constitution, any student can run in the same process that the other Regents have.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox states that she was not aware that students could run for Regent.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that students have in the past.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez thanks Mr. Rick Trachok for clarifying the process and will discuss this at another time if we would like to change the constitution in a 10 year process. That all the information is appreciated. As we come with these ideas and some things are privy to what the NSA can do with it's members and the time that they have with it. That the NSA really wants to build a stronger bridge within this system. While the NSA has it's chair and meetings such as these to speak with the Chancellor and Chair of the Regents.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that if the NSA really wants to make change that they have this opportunity, to speak with the Chair, Vice Chair, Chief of Staff, Chancellor and who ever may be at these meetings where the NSA has an hour, hour and a half of their time to bring issues from the NSA member's constituents. To understand the importance of bringing this information to these meetings and create a free flowing debate. Another point Mr. Rick Trachok would like to bring up is that there are 4 states, he feels, are misguided enough to elect their Regents. The rest of the states have some form that are appointed by the state's governor or their legislator. That there is a myriad of different structures. This is why they have the flexibility in those structures to have student voices. One of the systems in California, they have three systems, is appointed by the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor is automatically a member of the Board of Regents. They also have a student representative on the Board of Regents. This is the long answer to the previous question. There is still a lot that the NSA can do, if the NSA is active, organized and focused. As well as if the NSA is focused on things that can be reasonably accomplished. As well as if the NSA is collaborative and none confrontational. That there is not a single person on the current Board that will not listen to a well thought out letter or email from anybody. Weather a constituent or not. That the Board looks at it as they represent Nevada. Not just districts.

NSA Member David Clark changes the topic to discuss the student population at UNR which has been stagnant for the last 6 years. Part of the reason for that is a failure in recruitment and marketing of grad students. A lot of it falls onto the departments. That if UNR wants to stay a Tier 1 research university that everyone needs to be working hard all the way up through NSHE with recruitment. To get those high caliber students, and not just in quantity but in quality.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that this topic was brought up earlier at the Board of Regents meeting. However this is something best brought up to the university. That a meeting should be scheduled with the provost or somebody in the provost office and work on up to raise these concerns. That Mr. Rick Trachok's daughter is a graduate student of UNR from everything that he hears, though anecdotal, is she is very happy with the program. As far as the recruitment, that is not something that the Board would oversee or should be involved in. They can set out the policy or the goals and can hold the president accountable for upholding those policies and ability to reach those goals. However, this is something that should go through the chain of command.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that she had a report done for Doctor Richards, in light of all the enrollment issues facing the community colleges. The goal is to try and help the homeless population at CSN. The universities have been able to do a lot of work with the homeless students. Whereas CSN has not. The question is if another school or the Regents have had a differential report done on enrollment and how the homeless students have been affected? The only reports that NSA Member Jill Robinson was able to have done is by zip code. Which showed a 14.4% increase of homeless students going to CSN from 2014, 2015 to 2016. This was after the

recession. Which NSA Member Jill Robinson brings up that if it is that big at CSN then there is a possibility that this is all over Southern Nevada. Which could play into the drop in enrollment numbers, which hurts the schools. However, she questions if this factor is being taken into the account when going over the drop in enrollment with the school.

Mr. Rick Trachok's questions if the meaning of Jill's question was to recruit from the homeless populations to increase enrollment.

NSA Member Jill Robinson clarifies that if enrollment is dropping, is the increase in the homeless population being taken into account as a factor.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom states that the Regents have done this back in 2008/2009. The Regents took a close look at the homeless student population issues. As the issues had come to light with the number of students couch flopping, they would just float as they had no where else to go. The school could create a myriad of reasons for it, but becomes a waste of time, as the reasoning are unique to each individual. The solution to the problem, the conclusion the Regents at the time had come to, was that there was not enough resources at that time to create programs of systems to address that issue. That the best thing that NSHE could do at the respective institutions was to raise issues publicly as they could. Then address it in connection with organizations that were already equipped to address it. While the issues hasn't been looked at for some time. That is what was done at the last time the Regents looked at it. Strengthening bonds with the homeless shelters, between aid groups that were focusing on students, or would focus on particular needs. Some of these students were minors or came from other situations. That those become social service issues. To be able to use the time wisely, to utilize what was already out there.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that this is what CSN is doing. That the question was if the homeless population was being taken into account for the enrollment drops.

Mr. Rick Trachok questions if this is for enrollment drops in general or just for the homeless population.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that the population of homeless students for CSN it is a total of 2581. That the other issues come into play, like where they are going to get food for the semester. That she is trying to figure out the gap in enrollment numbers and was wondering if there had been any students done with this.

Mr. John V. White states that from a system perspective, there has not been any one focus done on homeless students, since '08. There was a study done in 2013 on affordability in the state. This may sound strange to students, but the tuition in Nevada is very low, however our students are very poor. This raises a difficult affordability issue. There are a number of folks in the state that feel there shouldn't be much, by way of public education and they constantly point to the low tuition levels. This report went on to show what the Board already knew, which is that our students are very price sensitive. However, tuition has been slowly raising up, from a plan put into place several years prior. Which there could be a correlation, in the margins. However that would not explain 2500 students. The challenge for the institutions as a system, is that, even though our students are very poor, Nevada is in the 75 percentile for household incomes for the states among the country. Even though Nevada is not that far away, the house hold median income is around \$50,000. Though, very quickly, you get to the 75 percentile for doing that. Which turns this into a very wealthy state with lots of poor folk that has underfunded higher

education. Becoming philosophical questions driving the policy debate. This goes back to all of our institutions being very concerned with a student's ability to stay enrolled and to complete their degree. They are handicapped to a degree with not having various funds to dedicate to do that, which varies from campus to campus. UNLV has an emergency fund, though it is very small. Mr. John V. White is not aware if CSN has such a fund. Though, this fund is just a stop gap if someone is about to lose a home. Typically the grant is in the \$100-300 grant range. It isn't very substantial. Which shows there is an interest on the campuses to do this, part of what the problem is that there is not a whole lot of flex. The system is sparsely staffed and sparsely supported.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom to bring this conversation to a productive close, states that this is a very serious issue. That if you are going to address the issue in a productive manner that this needs to be done on a campus by campus basis. As student leaders we need to go to our presidents and say this is a problem. While we may have limited resources what we can do is provide a conduit to access other resources. Which is what the Board found they needed to do before which is a timely discussion as it has been several years since they looked at that. Which is a real need and something that Mr. Michael B. Wixom, himself is also sensitive too. This is something that the Board should look at, though more is going to get done by taking it to the president and addressing it at that level.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that she has been working with Doctor Richards, and that CSN has been doing that. That CSN works with an organization such as Project 150, 3Square and others that come to the school offers hot meals.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom brings up that even the Salvation Army has some great outreach. These are to students with unique needs or are in a subgroup.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that the institution does indeed work with organizations such as these, that the question is if there was a study done that she could work off of.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom replies with no.

NSA Member Jill Robinson thanks the Board for their insight.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta asks if there is any more that the NSA members would like to discuss.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that every time his senate brings up a resolution that it is his job to bring it up to the Board of Regents. There was a resolution that was passed with the approval of the executive board that continues and expends educational benefits for the veteran population of UNLV. This is regarding the excess credit fee. The veteran students as they are being deployed, a lot of things change for them. Whether it be their interests or their degrees. Now the issue is, and a few constituents have brought this up to CSUN, that going to school and graduating is something that they are passionate about. This is becoming harder with the excess credit fee if they are having to pay. The reason that this is being brought to the Board of Regents, since they have the ability to wave fees, is that if the Regents the opportunity to open up accessibility to veterans and students that have access to the benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Mr. Rick Trachok questions if the president has the ability to wave this fee. Being a veteran, Mr. Rick Trachok has a soft spot for the issues facing our veterans and asks for a copy of the resolution. The Board will then review it to see if they have flexibility is designed in the system, then if they need to as a Board make an exception for the cases the resolution appears to address for veterans. Because of their service with the on and off active duty that has this problem. Though it is believed that the president has the ability to address this, and there shouldn't be any reasons for anyone to object to this. Mr. Rick Trachok will be more than happy to have this brought up as an agenda item with the Regents.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom adds that another person that NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez can reach out to is Crystal Abba, who is a key resource. That the next time NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez sees her, to raise this issue with her. She would know off the top of her head, she can also identify specific resources by a campus by campus basis. In addition to the president having that flexibility that there are other resources as well.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that if it is a problem that needs to be addressed that the Board will be happy to address it.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez is very pleased with the response as this is the first resolution he was able to write up and thanks the Board. That with past presidents, after going through the minutes that a resolution is passed and then it just stops, as a resolution.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom requests to circle back to the homeless issue. To touch upon the previous statements for resolutions for veterans, that this is a resolution that would be productive. To address a homeless issue, introduce a resolution to combat it at a campus level. Then bring that resolution to the Board so that the Board can direct the institutions to create programs and facilities to address the issue. Which is a productive use of time.

NSA Secretary David Turner states, to touch upon NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez's topic, that this isn't just an issue facing UNLV or veterans, that this is an issue facing a lot of students. That we see students hit this issue a lot at the community colleges. While there is a student's appeal board to override the excess credit fee, it is still an issue following the students as they transfer to UNR or UNLV. Creating a lot of issues with advisors, and the ability to override it. Because it becomes an issue that is out of the hands of the community colleges and becomes an issue of the universities, especially if they are going into a graduate program. That this is an issue that we can take care of early on. The community colleges have a lot of nontraditional students. Who learn in different ways from the traditional students and can sometimes take them longer to learn. Some of these students need different outlets to help them learn. For example, being a nontraditional student, NSA Secretary David Turner has had to take one class a semester outside of the typical curriculum to destress and aid in his ability to get through the week. Now facing excess credit and looking to move to UNR which makes it that he has to give up this class to be able to continue on, which aids in performance of the other classes and GPA. That the students with disabilities are also facing this with the same issues.

Mr. Rick Trachok suggests that this group create a resolution and submit it and the Regents will discuss it. That Mr. Rick Trachok sat on the board when this policy was adopted, so we might want to take a look at the minutes and the audio from when this was adopted. This is so that the current NSA members can understand what was being debated at the time. This is also that we can see why the policy was adopted in the first place. Then armed with the information from the

past we can come up with an argument on why there needs to be a change or an adjustment to the policy.

NSA Secretary David Turner states that he is helping TMCC explore collegiate sports. The students seem to be behind it, that some have already stated that they would be willing to speak to the Regents during public comment at the next meeting. That even some of the nonathletic students would be willing to pay a fee to bring this level sports to TMCC. There is already an understanding that this would be a fee outside of the \$91.50 tuition that the students are already paying to be able to offer something like this. This would bring new service to the community which TMCC is a part of, to be able to offer them service. Like when soccer leagues are looking for fields for tournaments. Washoe County Parks and Rec has issues with their community pools. We have a high school on campus, TMCC High School, where their students have to leave our campus to participate in athletics at other high schools. This would be an opportunity to partner with other community organizations. To be able to build a multisport complex. TO offer 5 sports, bringing us up to junior college status with the NJCAA. This would also bring in a source of revenue to fund scholarships in all aspects of academia. While NSA Secretary David Turner is aware that it is on the special meeting agenda for October, that he would like to be more prepared in December, to know what the Regents would expect of us at that meeting. To be prepared with a good argument and to have the students behind us, the president behind us.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that he has discussed this with TMCC's President. It is suggested to sit down and put together a budget, to calculate what it is going to cost to build a facility, to run the athletic program and to outline, whether it is by per credit hour, to sustain this. Right now NSHE is facing a 5% budget cut of state funding, which will hit the colleges severely than it is going to hit the universities. Mr. Rick Trachok's goal is to adjust funding, increase funding from the state for the community colleges. As when Mr. Rick Trachok looks at the terms colleges, it's a question of, without saying survival, there is grave concerns, as there is no questions if the Universities will make it. This is going to be hard, especially for the community colleges in the North. Mr. Rick Trachok would love to be able to see living sports at all the campuses, not just TMCC. However if TMCC is able to come up with a funding source for this, no one would be more excited than the Board would be.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom adds that this is just not about the students understanding, but about TMCC being able to provide the funding for this. As the state will not add anything to fund this.

Mr. John V. White states that TMCC wants to have a very well put together, thought out and written proposal. That outlines on paper what the students want, which also covers how it is going to be financed and revenue for it. As important, if not more is that if there is a good proposal, the board can be convinced of it, more important than that is a survey instrument of some kind. There will be lots of people who will say no, that it will not be 100% in favor. Looking at the last proposal, President Johnson had 75% student support, which was very powerful to the Board. Even the Board members that were skeptical of the project, during a time there were protests against raising tuition. It was the same meeting where the Board approved the fee increase and that they approved the tuition increase for the fitness center. What was powerful for the Board was to not only have the CSUN president say we want, they were able to show data from the survey and it was creditable data that they could weigh. They can ask about it only being a 35% student turn out rate, but that turned out to be an extremely well student turn out rate for a survey. Which, it also turned out that those that participated were overwhelmingly in favor.

Mr. Rick Trachok responds that NSA Secretary David Turner might want to speak with President Burton. Who, dropped their athletic program. When it came down to taking the money from the class room or put it into a baseball field.

Mr. John V. White adds that CSN doesn't have an athletic fee, however UNR and UNLV do, they always try to make it bigger and it is always unsuccessful.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that the athletic fee at UNLV is \$1.00 per credit. That UNLV is looking to increase the fee at the next Board of Regents meeting. They are proposing a \$1.00 to \$3.00 per credit fee.

Mr. John V. White adds that the Board treats these proposals independently from each other. That the strength of the proposal is going to come down to what the campus wants and how well it is articulated.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that NSA Secretary David Turner may want to look at the minutes from the Board of Regents meeting from June 2013. The increase in the fees and all the statements from all the students on the fees that may still be at UNLV.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez responds that there are some of the senators that remember blocking the last athletic fee. That the December meeting will be excited and see if we are able to get some really important fees.

NSA Member David Clark asks about any knowledge of the campus expansion at UNR.

Mr. Rick Trachok responds that there is the Gateway project looking to expand down to the freeway, the 9th street offices of the Washoe County School District. Parking there as that is an issue. As well as projects looking at turning buildings down town into student housing. There are a few groups wanting to buy the Harris building, as in a partnership, not through UNR.

NSA Member Deep Sengupta adds a point that the number of graduate students from DRI's point of view are decreasing as there is no security in funding. They are leaving because of insecurity, that they are leaving DRI after they graduate from the graduate program from UNR. So many students are losing their funding after 2-2 1/2 years that they have to go to another department. That this is way so many left the graduate program, moving to the East coast or California. That if there is a way to add some kind of security to help keep the students in the program.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that there are a couple things with this. One is that the demand for the states money is huge, while the state money is small. That the Board is working overtime to make sure that the state funded dollars increases. That the interim DRI president is working with the two university presidents to work together in approaching grants and to help the graduate students.

NSA Member Deep Sengupta states that he has the stats for these numbers to show.

Mr. Rick Trachok asks for those to be sent to the Board so that they can take a look at them.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom states that working with the other institutions, to bring these issues and solutions for these issues is a productive use of time. That this would be an appropriate

discussion at the December meeting. To get this information to the Board for December, that this will be added to the agenda.

Mr. John V. White states that the state is trying to figure out how to realistically incentivize these programs. To fund the kind of higher education that, in theory are there. The challenge has been the low levels of TA support, which recently has gone up out of desperation. The institutions have to find money to raise it. It has also been a bad balance of state funded GAs. The grant world is getting rather difficult and competitive, which is not extremely useful for research. This is trying to find the balance to increase the pie but to be crucial. The goal for the day for Mr. John V. White was to open up the discussion with the state. To use secondary ed. as an example, secondary education would go to the legislator and say that they need 86 million dollars to be at the national average a year to meet the national average in funding a year. That argument was utterly pointless. No body listened to it, it was too big a number and it didn't have any deliverables attached to it. A number of activists bringing to light the number of challenges, especially down in the South and throughout the state bringing up the issues with English learners. Then there was 10 million dollars going to that in an aggressive effort for the state collected together \$50 million. It was a huge increase. Then in the last legislation that state found another \$100 million dollars that would go just to ELL. If you look at the investment in secondary education, it is all targeted per student funding. What this shows is that with specific requests with deliverables experimental programs to be scaled up puts into frame what can be affective in the future. While they won't make a billion dollar tax increase to go to higher education. However the state has no real pressure to deal with these difficult tax topics, because whatever the sector it may be, there is always wishful thinking on the margins. With a little money here or a little money there will be results. Which is a long way of saying that the Board needs the detail of how the Board can better fund graduates, as these are stories that can be told to the legislators. That right now they only thing they can say is that they are funded at 2/3 of what the competitors are funded on average. Which the legislators don't see the consequences, which is that the state is losing talented graduate students who are going next door.

NSA Member David Clark states one possible solution is the university could secure more training grants. Which is easier said than down.

Mr. Rick Trachok says that this is something the Board can ask the presidents to report on, research expenditures, and grants to ensure this stuff.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta seeing no other comments closes the floor.

6. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

None at this time.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

None at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta at 6:06am