

## **NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)**

**Minutes June 9, 2016 7:15 a.m.**  
**Truckee Meadows Community College**  
7000 Dandini Blvd  
Reno, NV 89512  
**Red Mountain Building**  
**Room 122**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Meeting called to order by Director of Student Affairs with the Nevada System of Higher Education, Renée Davis at 7:17 a.m.*

### **2. ROLL CALL**

*Mr. Brandon Boone, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN – Arrived at 7:32 a.m.*  
*Ms. Desiree DeCosta, Nevada State College, NSSA - Present*  
*Mr. Carlos Fernandez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN - Present*  
*Ms. Chelsey Fox, Great Basin College, SGA - Present*  
*Ms. Meghan Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA - Present*  
*Ms. Jill Robinson, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN - Present*  
*Mr. Tyler Ross, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA - Absent*  
*Mr. Deep Sengupta, Desert Research Institute, GRAD - Present*  
*Mr. Cody Shepard, Western Nevada College, ASWN - Present*  
*Mr. David Turner II, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA - Present*

### **3. GUEST RECOGNITION**

*Ms. Renée Davis, Director of Student Affairs with the Nevada System of Higher Education*  
*Mr. Nicholas Vaskov Nevada System of Higher Education Legal Counsel*  
*Ms. Lilly Leon Vicks, Western Nevada College Coordinator for Student Life*  
*Ms. Heather Phelps, Nevada State College, NSSA Vice President*  
*Ms. Andrea Senda, Western Nevada College, Former ASWN President*  
*Ms. Mailyynn Santacruz, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA*  
*Ms. Demarynee Saili, Great Basin College, Former SGA President*  
*Ms. Kaytlyn Burton, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA*

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**(INFORMATION)**

No Public Comment

### **5. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

**(INFORMATION)**

New NSA Members introduce themselves and explain their rolls at their institutions.

Jill Robinson, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN President. Goals include picking up on student life, improve customer service skills with student workers, voter registration initiatives and improve student activities.

Carlos Fernandez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN President. Goals include increasing student engagement, close the gap between the student body and student government, improve campus safety and work on diversifying student programs to reflect the student body.

Desiree DeCosta, Nevada State College, NSSA President. Goals include increasing student engagement, increasing community engagement and working on fiscal responsibility. This will extend to the Henderson and Greater Las Vegas area, increase the student discount program, legislative opportunities and internships with scholarships and possible housing aid.

Ms. Heather Phelps, Nevada State College, NSSA Vice President. Goals include more collaboration between the institutions and increase student engagement.

Chelsey Fox, Great Basin College, SGA President. Goals include increasing student engagement at all campuses, work on more effective student communication.

David Turner II, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA President. Goals include taking steps towards open education resources and to collaborate with the other institutions with this goal, increase student wellness and increase student engagement through more effective representation.

Deep Sengupta, Desert Research Institute, GRAD President. Goals include creating a career counseling festival which would help with focused career courses outside of degrees and to work on funding for students working on writing research proposals for undergrads.

Meghan Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA President. Goals include working on the community and fostering relationships in Southern Nevada, support scholarship programs for graduates and grant writing groups to create self-sufficient students and prepare them for the work force.

Cody Shepard, Western Nevada College, ASWN President. Goals include continuing student life involvement, club involvement, advocate for the deaf community and help connect the Northern Nevada institutions for better student engagement.

Andrea Senda, Previous Western Nevada College, ASWN President.

## **6. ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS (ACTION)**

Renée Davis briefly discusses the eligibility requirements of the NSA Officers and election process. Only members of the NSA can run for the positions within the NSA. An NSA member cannot run for an officer position if they are representing the same institute as the previous institute.

Renée Davis opens the floor for nominations for the 2016-17 NSA Chair.

Carlos Fernandez nominates Desiree DeCosta for the 2016-17 NSA Chair.  
Desiree DeCosta accepts.

No other nominations.

Desiree DeCosta is elected as the 2016-17 NSA Chair by unanimous vote.

Desiree DeCosta nominates Carlos Fernandez for the 2016-17 NSA Vice Chair.  
Carlos Fernandez accepts.  
No other nominations.  
Carlos Fernandez is elected as the 2016-17 NSA Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Deep Sengupta nominates David Turner II for the 2016-17 NSA Secretary.  
David Turner II accepts.  
No other nominations.  
David Turner II is elected as the 2016-17 NSA Secretary by unanimous vote.

*NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta takes over the NSA meeting*

**7. OPEN MEETING LAW (INFORMATION)**

System Legal Counsel Nicholas Vaskov briefly discusses the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Meetings and quorum. A meeting is any gathering of members that meets quorum. Do not deliberate items that the NSA has power over outside of formal meetings with a set agenda. Emails between the whole NSA can create a walking quorum, and this should be avoided. Communicate one on one via email.

Clear and complete agendas.

Stick to agenda items.

Notices and postings, agendas must be posted 3 business days prior.

All NSA meetings are open meetings.

Clear and concise minutes. Must be posted within 45 days or by next meeting.

Renée Davis asks if it is appropriate to approve meeting minutes even if a member was not present for the meeting.

Nicholas Vaskov reminds the NSA members that it is our responsibility to always vote unless there is a direct conflict of interest, a real reason for abstaining.

Lilly Leon Vicks asks if these rules apply to SGA meetings.

Nicholas Vaskov confirms that they do.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez moves to approve the minutes from May 12, 2016.  
NSA Member Jill Robinson seconds.  
Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

9.

**NSA CHAIR'S REPORT**

**(INFORMATION)**

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta would like the contents of the NSA Chair's Report to the Board of Regents to consist of the NSA's collaborative goals for the academic year.

Desiree DeCosta explains the importance of continuing the "It's on Us" Campaign regarding sexual assault awareness. Through events and student engagement.

The importance of increasing student engagement with the upcoming election.

The importance of providing adequate resources undocumented (DACA) students.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez brings up that UNLV is hosting a presidential debate that is open mainly for students.

Holding administration accountable for what they say, and that promises are kept. To make sure that programs reflect the fact the UNLV is the second most diverse University in the nation.

NSA Member Jill Robinson explains the efforts that CSN is making to aid DACA students through scholarships.

Likes the "It's on Us" campaign and explains her efforts to bring awareness about human trafficking and wants to create events regarding both.

Look at sponsorships for retreats.

NSA Member Cody Shepard likes the idea of the "It's on Us" campaign and events. Wants to continue efforts at increasing student engagement, clubs and community involvement. Likes the idea of events regarding the importance of students voting.

NSA Member Meghan Pierce wants one of our goals to be keeping education on the legislator's radar and continue to push better funding for education.

NSA Member Deep Sengupta wants to help career focus through career festivals.

NSA Secretary David Turner II explains his previous year's efforts regarding sexual assault awareness through an event called "Take Back the Night." Wants a goal to include the importance of moving to an Open Education Resource.

NSA Member Brandon Boone explains ASUN's efforts in making a bigger event for "It's on Us." Taking steps to help students be more involved with the legislative process, both locally and on a state level. Keeping students engaged on a county and state level through providing testimony.

NSA Member Chelsey Fox is disgusted with the amount of debt that students are forced to carry. Wants to try and find ways to help students with the debt burden.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta reiterates the points made by the NSA Members for her reports.

Student involvement with legislative processes on all levels.

Continuing the "It's on Us." Campaign.

DACA Student Aid efforts and resources.

Open Education Resources.

Leveraging Student Engagement.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**(INFORMATION)**

No new business.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**(INFORMATION)**

Lilly Leon Vicks, Western Nevada College Coordinator for Student Life introduces herself to the NSA because she also serves as the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for Nevada. She points out the importance of student involvement with the Diversity Summits that take place in both Northern and Southern Nevada. That the groups and workshops dedicated to students don't see large turn outs of students. Isn't sure if it's because the workshops are regarding topics administration wants verses what the students want. Wants to encourage the NSA members to attend. Points out that most of Nevada State institutions are pursuing Hispanic Serving Institution status.

Renée Davis reminds all NSA Members that the next meeting is at 5:00 p.m. in the Sierra Building.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta Adjourns the meeting at 7:57 a.m.