

**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)**

**Minutes**

**November 10, 2016**

**4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)**

**Reno System Administration Building, Room 134**

**2601 Enterprise Road**

**Reno, NV 89512**

**Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:**

**Carson City-WNC Dini 105**

**Elko-GBC LCSL 122**

**Henderson- NSC RSC 370**

**Las Vegas–CSN CHEY 2638 and NSHE System Admin 101**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Meeting called to order by NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta at 4:00 p.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. Sandesh Kannan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA - Absent*

*Ms. Augustina Fernandez, Great Basin College, SGA – Present at 4:26 pm*

*Ms. 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. Veronica Martinez-Green, Great Basin College, Elko, SGA Senator*

*Ms. Adriana Mendez, Great Basin College, Student Advocate*

*Ms. Jillian Pfarr, Great Basin College, Elko, SGA Senator*

*Ms. Elizabeth Zuniga, College Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, ASCSN Secretary*

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*NSA Secretary David Turner II informs the NSA members that the TMCC SGA passed an Accessibility Resolution. The Resolution creates a point of accountability in all accessibility progress and monitoring. It also requests that mandatory training for all staff, faculty and administration be put in place for ADA compliancy so that all course and institutional material is created to be already compliant.*

*NSA Member Jill Robinson informs the NSA members that the ASCSN will be voting on two similar resolutions for CSN. It too requests that mandatory training for all staff, faculty and administration be put in place for ADA compliancy so that all course and institutional material is created to be already compliant. It also requests institutional monitoring for buildings to check ADA compliancy.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez congratulates both TMCC and CSN, it shows how far the NSA has come with standing behind the Resolution to Supporting Students with Disabilities. Hoping that the momentum will continue with future Resolutions.*

*NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta seconds NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez's sentiments. Thanking everyone for their hard work, giving special thanks to NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez and his team at CSUN.*

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez moves to approve the minutes of September 8, 2016 and October 13, 2016.*

*NSA Member Jill Robinson seconds.*

*Motion passes by majority vote.*

**6. NSA NEWSLETTER: INFORMATION**

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez informs the NSA Members that the deadline for the Newsletter is fast approaching. Reminding all members and new members that the NSA Newsletter is an opportunity for the NSA to show the public, Regents and administration what is taking place and has been done at each institution. The deadline for the Newsletter is November 18, 2016. This is to review for any grammatical errors and to make sure that every institution looks good. The letter should include a picture showcasing an aspect of each respective institution. The word limit is 500 words.*

**7. CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: INFORMATION**

*NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta informs the NSA members that the committee met September 30, 2016. The committee voted to approve the use of a national search agency firm in aiding for the search for the new Chancellor. The committee also reviewed traits to look for in the new Chancellor. The next committee meeting will be December 9, 2016. That if any member would like the information once the details have been released to send a request and NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta will get it sent. That any input is welcome as they will guide the path for the future for all institutions.*

*NSA Secretary David Turner II requests that the Chancellor have the heart of a teacher.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez adds, looking back at the last Board of Regent's meeting, with the way the situation was handled by the Regents, that the NSA has come a long way and gives his appreciation for NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta for keeping the NSA members informed. That it is extremely important as more information becomes available that the NSA gives their input. That this person is the liaison between the students and the Board of Regents.*

*NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta adds that the committee left the floor very open to all student input and wanted to know any and all concerns the NSA may have.*

**8. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez thanks all the NSA members for their work on this Resolution, the first one for this Board as a whole. That this can bring about change as this is really holding administration accountable for supporting all students. That if there is a need for a Resolution*

*there is a need to get things done. NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez reads the Resolution Supporting Students with Disabilities to the NSA Members.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez moves to approve the Resolution Supporting Students with Disabilities.*

*NSA Secretary David Turner II seconds.*

*NSA Member Brandon Boone thanks the NSA for including mobility disabilities in the resolution. That NSA Member Brandon Boone spoke with Mr. Michael Osmond, University of Nevada, Reno, E-Electronic Technologies Committee regarding the resolution and how this can do a lot more than what it outlines by encouraging all institution's presidents and the Regent to write their own letters of support HR6122, like President Mark Johnson. That it is recommended to add that as a "Be it resolved" to the Resolution.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez asks for clarification on adding it to the resolution itself.*

*Ms. Renée Davis states that it can be added, there would just need to be an amendment to the motion.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez rescinds his motion.*

*NSA Member Brandon Boone requests to make the motion.*

*NSA Member Brandon Boone moves to approve and amend the Resolution Supporting Students with Disabilities to include an additional "Be it resolved; urges the presidents of all NSHE institutions, the chancellor and the members of the Board of Regents, to write letters in support of HR6122 the Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act."*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez seconds.*

*NSA Member Meghan Pierce states that her counsel only meets the first Monday of the month and were not able to take a vote on this to provide a formal letter of support. However, the members do overwhelmingly support the resolution and feel it is well written. There were a few comments that this is a very broad resolution and questioned if the NSA would be willing to amend it to make it more measurable and provide additional information.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that the resolution is written broad enough for NSHE so that each individual institution is able to fit into it. That it is than up to each President to write resolutions tailored to their respective institutions.*

*NSA Member Brandon Boone requests a point of order that this discussion should be regarding the current resolution.*

*Motion passes by majority vote.*

*NSA Secretary David Turner II to address NSA Member Meghan Pierce's concerns, that this is why TMCC SGA passed the Resolution they did, to tailor it more to what TMCC needs, which includes ways to measure growth. As well as to meet the students' needs before they come up.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states his excitement for NSA's support for this resolution. That this is something that each of the members can take back to their students to show what the NSA is doing.*

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**INFORMATION**

*NSA Secretary David Turner II would like to address the Excess Credit Fee. That the fee does fund a minimum of two positions within each institution's Academic Advising. However that should not be the only thing keeping the excess credit fee in place, as it does not appear to be doing its intended purpose. That there are already steps in place to keep students on track. That this fee seems to hurt, Veterans, Nontraditional, disabled students. That a system should be put in place to delay enrollment in classes to allow other students not at the excess credit limit to take the classes they need.*

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states while the issue had been brought up, NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez feels there is a more pressing issue with DACA students. That students have already reached out with questions of what the NSA is going to do. That it may be better to have a different resolution ready for the next meeting to help DACA students.*

*NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta mirrors NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez statement.*

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**INFORMATION**

*NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez congratulates NSA Secretary David Turner II on his new marriage.*

*Ms. Augustina Fernandez asks about her giving her thoughts on the Resolution Supporting Students with Disabilities?*

*Ms. Renée Davis states that Open Meeting Laws prevent this being discussed during public comment, and that if an item is missed by a member, it's missed.*

*Ms. Augustina Fernandez apologizes for being late.*

**11. ADJURNMENT**

*NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta adjourns the meeting at 4:30 p.m.*

Attachment A



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE**

**NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING  
ACCESSIBILITY ON CAMPUS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

*Author of Legislation:*

Senator Samantha Bivins, College of Liberal Arts, UNLV

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance is composed of the higher education institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education, which are: University of Nevada, Reno, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada State College at Henderson, College of Southern Nevada, Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada College, Great Basin College and the Desert Research Institute; AND

**WHEREAS**, students with cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities engage with campus life in different ways than their peers; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Employment and Disability Institute at Cornell University reported in 2012 that 10.6% of working aged Nevadans (ages 21-64) have a disability; AND

**WHEREAS**, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provided for the original definition of disability used in the original Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 clarified the definition of a disability by legislating examples of major life activities and acknowledging temporary cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities as such; AND

**WHEREAS**, the ADAAA of 2008 further provided that employment candidates with disabilities shall not be discriminated against on the basis of cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disability; AND

**WHEREAS**, these students, staff, faculty and guests would benefit from specific advocacies that embrace their participation in all aspects of campus life, and which create campus life environments which equal to those experienced by their fellow peers without cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities; AND **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Labor recognizes each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month; AND

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the undergraduates enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher education:

- Urges NSHE administration to create investment partnerships with relevant campus entities in making the campus as fully accessible to students, staff, faculty and guests with cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities as possible.
- Urges the NSHE Administration to review Counseling and Psychological Services' (CAPS, or its equivalence) effectiveness and accessibility, including, but not limited to, waiting time, session limits and adequate staffing; AND
- Urges the NSHE Administration to review the Disability Resource Center's (DRC, or its equivalence) at each institution in regards to staffing and accessibility to students, and to provide the DRC with resources appropriate to

current and expected future service demands, including, but not limited to, documentation, intake, note taking, and testing; AND

- If passed, a version of this resolution shall be forwarded the December 2016 NSHE Board of Regents' meeting, including any relevant committee meeting(s).

**ADOPTED** by the Nevada Student Alliance on this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2016.

Attest:




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Desiree DeCosta, NSA Chair

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Carlos Fernandez, NSA Vice-Chair

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David Turner II, NSA Secretary

VOTE: Y\_\_\_\_\_ N\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_

For more, see supplemental attachment

Supplemental Attachment- *Bill Number: ER 46-07*

- Urges the NSHE Administration to review the physical accessibility of buildings most accessed by students; AND
- Urges the NSHE Administration to assist in providing students, staff, faculty, guests, and employment candidates with effective communication (e.g., audio/visual) accommodations for university meetings, including, but not limited to, those hosted by the Nevada Student Alliance; AND
- Urges the NSHE Board of Regents and the Nevada Student Alliance to consider issues of equal access when setting student ticket policies for athletic events;  
AND
- Urges the NSHE Board of Regents to amend its Handbook, and all student governments under the Nevada Student Alliance to amend their own Constitution, to reflect the inclusion of students with cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and mobility disabilities in all aspects of campus life, including the ability to participate fully in NSHE AND
- Urges the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents and the Nevada Student Alliance to consider issues of equal access as part of the strategic planning process of building/room/office/stadium design, campus programming, new dining initiatives, etc.; AND

- Urges the NSHE Board of Regents and the all higher education administrators to increase degree and course offerings which specialize in the area of cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities; AND
- Urges the NSHE Board of Regents and higher education administrators to design, recruit, train, and develop positions which can be performed by employment candidates with cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities with reasonable accommodations, including all student governments associated with the Nevada Student Alliance and the student candidates for elected and/or appointed positions it seeks annually; AND
- Urges the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents and higher education administrators to conduct an ongoing review of its policies, procedures, and service offerings to ensure compliance with ADAAA and other relevant federal laws, as well as embracing all students' participation in campus life; AND
- Urges the Nevada System of Higher Education and higher education administrators to make equal access a core competency of the NSHE mission and vision statements from the date of this resolution forward; AND
- Urges all NSHE institutions to maintain ongoing relationships with the UNLV Disability Resource Centers (DRC), any particular Counseling and Psychological Services on campus, community non-profit organizations that specialize in the area of cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities, and other Nevada System of Higher Education institutions and the Board of Regents concerning the issue of equal access for students, staff, faculty, guests, and employment candidates with cognitive, developmental, intellectual, learning, and/or mobility disabilities; AND
- If passed, a version of this resolution shall be forwarded the December 2016 NSHE Board of Regents' meeting, including any relevant committee meeting(s).