



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)**

**MINUTES**

**September 7, 2017**

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:06AM**

Great Basin College  
Leonard Center for Student Life (LCSL) 122  
1500 College Parkway  
Elko, NV 89801

**Chair Kanani Espinoza calls meeting to order. Moves to roll call.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

NSA Secretary Christopher Roys commences with roll call:

**Ms. Kanani Espinoza, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA (NSA Chair)**

**Present**

**Ms. Kimberly Tran, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (NSA vice Chair)**

**Present**

**Mr. Christopher Roys, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN (Secretary)**

**Present**

**Ms. Alicia Contreras, Nevada State College, NSSA**

**Present**

**Ms. Tania Covarrubias, Western Nevada College, ASWN**

**Present**

**Mr. Sandesh Kannan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA**

**Present**

**Ms. Becky Linville, Great Basin College, SGA**

**Present**

**Ms. Kathleen Rodrigues, Desert Research Institute, GRAD**

**Absent**

**Mr. Noah Teixeira, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN**

**Absent**

**Ms. Elizabeth Zuniga, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN**

**Present**

Members of the Public Present:

Alex Porter, GBC

Melanie Croft, NSSA

Nicole Opfer, NSSA

Renee Davis, NSHE

**Quorum established with 8/10 members present.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**INFORMATION**

Alicia Contreras, NSC

Donald Trump administration recently announced the end of DACA on September 5, 2017. We do have a population at each of our colleges that are DACA recipients. Going forward, we should put something on the agenda to help accommodate these students and ensure they don't feel frightened at this time. We should encourage these students and support them to finish college when others may not feel that way sometimes.

Thank you.

Kanani Espinoza, UNLV

I just wanted to thank Becky Linville for having us at GBC and all the gifts.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chair indicates that minutes are in physical form at the meeting and asks NSA members to examine them.

Christopher Roys motions to approve the minutes from the prior NSA meetings on August 10, 2017.

Tania Covarrubias seconds the motion to approve.

Chair Epinoza asks for period of questions and comments.

No questions or comments.

Chair calls vote:

Motion passes unanimously with vote of 8-0.

**4. NSA NEWSLETTER**

**INFORMATION**

Vice Chair Kimberly Tran explains how each representative should be providing information about their institutions current initiatives, Board of Regents updates, or legislative changes.

Christopher Roys says that we should be able to place the information in the newsletter to be in a digestible form for students. This way, we can provide clearer information to students about how policies will affect them.

Kimberly Tran says that NSA members will need to be able to sit down and talk about it, so that we can fully understand to be concise about it.

Renee Davis recommends that we can come to her about policy updates and deeper details on specific items so that we can better understand how policies or legislation could affect students.

Kimberly Tran indicates that the date she wants the content for the newsletter submissions from NSA members as being September 27, 2017.

Kanani Espinoza and Renee Davis discuss the constitutional requirement of the NSA Newsletter as well as possibilities in modernizing and making the “newsletter” more flexible with modern times. Kanani Espinoza explains the need to be strategically effective with our communication to students.

## **5. NSA CHAIR’S REPORT**

### **INFORMATION**

Chair Kanani Espinoza didn’t have anything in particular that was noteworthy between meetings. She then asks the NSA members if they would like her to share anything from the institutions that she can share with the Board of Regents.

Sandesh Kannan explains that GSA has been passing resolutions in response to the UNR student who was at the Charlottesville rally. Chair Espinoza would seek further information about specific wording after meeting.

No other institutions have comments.

## **6. SUPPORTING PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM (PSLF)**

### **INFORMATION**

Chair Espinoza explains that this would be a resolution to voice that the student governments of Nevada should adopt this resolution in order to demonstrate to the federal government that students are affected by the reduction/damage to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Questions and comments held: clarification and general discussion was held regarding the scope of the PSLF and how it affects students. Alicia Contreras questions if it’s just a state issue or a federal issue; Chair clarifies that it is a federal issue.

No members have any opposition to Chair Kanani Espinoza to the drafting of the resolution to come.

## **7. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE RESOLUTION ON CONDEMNING BIGOTRY ON CAMPUSES IN NEVADA**

### **INFORMATION**

NSA Chair Kanani Espinoza explains that condemning bigotry and hatred is necessary for NSA to convey a message.

Sandesh Kannan asks how a resolution of condemnation will be actionable. Members discuss that it is best to say something instead of saying nothing; however, logistical issues with coordinating action across NSHE is difficult and requires a longer time to execute.

Sandesh recommends that we can perhaps push for policies at institutions for combatting this.

Melanie Croft, NSSC Vice President recommends that we could hold a dinner against bigotry; NSSC members present further explain details of dinner and the relation to socioeconomic status.

Chair Espinoza requests that members send information to her so she can distribute it.  
No further discussion.

**8. DISCUSSION ON SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES & GOALS****INFORMATION**

Chair Espinoza describes the necessity for NSA members to work together to issue a student government disaster action plan to help organize and mobilize resources for natural disasters to be distributed during times of a national disaster (ie hurricanes, tornadoes, floods).

Becky Linville explains that her GBC SGA members will be organizing resources for flood victims in the south.

No other discussion.

**9. MEMBER REPORTS****INFORMATION**

Chair Kanani Espinoza requests information from members about their institutions' activities. Alicia Contreras explains that they will be having a variety of events, DACA-recipient support initiatives. NSSA will be participating in United Way Day of Caring on September 29, 2017.

Christopher Roys; sent out a media release to all students to connect students with resources that would help DACA recipients navigate the legal channels related to going to college. He encourages members to advocate for their students and actively seek out information from students.

Kimberly Tran indicates that TMCC SGA is in a transitional phase. She says that they are working on transition manuals for next leadership. She also wanted to send out a letter to all students. She clarifies with members about what they did about DACA.

Tania Covarrubias indicates that ASWN is currently organizing supplies for hurricane relief efforts.

Alicia Contreras says NSSA is organizing a fundraising event to help donate to the hurricane Harvey victims as well.

Becky Linville says GBC is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is currently having a GBC SGA transition.

ASCSN Elizabeth Zuniga says that she is working with UNLV's law school and other entities to help DACA students get legal information for them to be able to navigate the legal channels related to going to school.

Chair Espinoza says that GPSA is working together with UNLV CSUN and UNLV administration to get DACA resources to students more effectively.

Kimberly Tran voices concerns about autonomy of TMCC SGA at TMCC and whether or not they have to change their logo through the school or on their own. Renee Davis says that all student governments have autonomy when it comes to dependence upon the school. Kimberly Tran also asks about the necessity of an MOU between TMCC and the TMCC SGA. Discussion ensues about the roles of their student governments within their institutions.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**INFORMATION**

Chair Espinoza discusses items for new business:

DACA Statement—

Resolution on Bigotry—

Emergency Natural Disaster Plan—

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program—

Revisions to the constitution—

Christopher Roys: Discussion about NSHE smoking policy and issuing a NSA resolution supporting a change in NSHE policy regarding smoking and prioritizing the support of public health at NSHE institutions.

No other new business.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**INFORMATION**

Nathaniel Waugh: UNLV CSUN Chief of Staff,

Introduces himself to the body and describes his experience at ASCSN as student body president. He says to go to the respective Vice President of TMCC for marketing and make your case with the facts in hand. He thanks the body for the work it does.

No other public comment

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:57 AM**