



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)
MINUTES
August 9, 2019
9:00 a.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 303
Las Vegas – CSN North Las Vegas Bldg C 2638 and NSHE System Admin 105**

MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 AM BY ANTHONY MARTINEZ, NSA VICE CHAIR

- 1. ROLL CALL:** Nicola Opfer, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) **PROXY**
Anthony Martinez, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Vice Chair) **PRESENT**
Tamara Guinn, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Secretary) **PRESENT**
Daniel Gutierrez, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN **ABSENT**
Hannah Patenaude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN **LATE 9:05 AM**
Alexandra Patri, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA **PRESENT**
Stephanie Molina, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA **LATE 9:15 AM**

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD
Office Vacant, Great Basin College, SGA
Office Vacant, Western Nevada Collage, ASWN

Guests:

Crystal Abba, NSHE
Terina Caserto, NSHE
Renee Davis, NSHE
Alexander Lum, UNLV PROXY FOR OPFER
Chancellor Thomas Reilly, NSHE

A QUORUM OF MEMBERS IS PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
No public comment.

INFORMATION

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Motion is made by Patri for approval of the minutes for the two NSA meetings held on June 6, 2019 and the NSA meeting held on July 12, 2019. Seconded by Guinn. No discussion. Minutes were approved.

4. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR**INFORMATION ONLY**

Chancellor Reilly discussed that in October, 2019 the Cabinet will be visiting each of the NSHE institutions in preparation for the next legislative session. To get their input on what their goals are regarding capital for building and new initiatives they re considering. Chancellor Reilly indicated that student leaders should be part of those discussions. Dates will be finalized soon but encouraged leaders to reach out to Presidents about how students will participate. Chancellor Reilly then mentioned that he will be making arrangements to visit each campus throughout the next year in informal meetings, perhaps coffee, to talk with students.

Martinez posed question, are the Presidents prepared for us to reach out to them?

Chancellor Reilly responded that yes, they are aware. Reilly suggested that student leaders make presentations on behalf of the students that are more structured, which will make it more meaningful. Host forums with students on their needs and what they see are the needs of students (e.g. student success, safety). Dialogue with students can be more informal and can propose new initiatives.

Martinez asked will they provide a list of suggested line items that will be discussed.

Chancellor Reilly encouraged leaders to ask Presidents what they plan to present and ask how students can be involved. There is potential for tours on campus to see where spaces may be needed, for example last year University of Nevada, Reno had a tour of the labs and areas that needed improvements to help visualize the need. GBC President will most likely host a tour of the welding shop about funding and concerns around the need there.

Abba offered guidance and clarification around budgeting. NSHE does not do line item budgeting in the system. There is a base budget and if that base budget gets approved that maintains the status quo. Our opportunity is to take part in the enhancement request discussions. If there is new money, how will it support students? A good question to ask as leaders would be, "What are we looking at in terms of enhancement requests that support students?"

Chancellor Reilly expressed availability to communicate further as needed.

**5. DISCUSSION OF AD HOC TASK FORCE ON
MERIT ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT****INFORMATION ONLY**

Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Crystal Abba mentioned that Andrew Klingler was unable to attend. Abba discussed how Faculty have not received a merit increase since 2009. They have received cost of living increases, but no merit. Internal salaries not keeping with the market, causing a compression issue.

2019 budget session, Governor funded cost of living increase for State employees (Administrative and Academic Faculty) but did not approve merit. A report is being developed to show the impact of not receiving merit and to identify sources. There are two sources, state funding from appropriations and student fees. The question becomes, since historically, merit has been supported through state dollars, not student fees, how will this impact previously approved fee policies regarding student tuition (predictable pricing)? To address this, a group is being formed, that will be subject to Nevada Open Meeting Law, that will hold open, public discussions on how we solve the merit increase problem. This may include finding funds within existing budgets. The group will consist of Legislators, Regents, business officers, students, and faculty. NSA will appoint three (3) members (one each) University, State College, and Community College representatives. You should identify strong individuals to represent students. Make sure constituencies are aware of these discussions.

Guinn asked, how long do you need the students to serve for?

Abba responded, report is due in March and they are hoping for 2 meetings so they would be serving through 1st of the year. This group will also be responsible for reviewing policies related to merit as historically merit has been paid by state dollars and is only available contingent upon appropriations from the State. This group will make recommendations on policies and protocols currently used.

Davis posed questions about logistics, needing names by the end of August. Presidents and NSA will need to converse and identify representatives. Davis proposed for the University representative, someone that has recently graduated but moved into a graduate program.

Abba indicated that we need strong voices because this could cost students more money. Students need to protect territory and rising costs and potential for supporting merit increases. More money will be needed as time goes on and students could continue to need to support these measures.

Davis mentioned we will need to make this item a line item for deliberation or hold individual conversations without a quorum present and discuss individuals identified at our next meeting.

Abba, members must be committed and consistent. You may send someone in your place, but it cannot be a revolving door of participation. Membership aligns with what we are doing for faculty and how many representatives are there for each group. This group will be public, and individuals will still be able to attend and speak under public comment.

Guinn asked how do we share this with our constituents and get their involvement?

Abba suggested making this agenda items to have discussions at regular meetings.

6. DISCUSSION OF MEETING ATTENDANCE

INFORMATION ONLY

Caserto discussed importance of having quorum and assigning a proxy. With such low numbers due to missing seats, we must make sure we have quorum (4 members), which is still a low representation. For proxy, there is a sheet that was sent via email that should be followed. Please follow procedures for missing meetings and attendance.

Caserto also discussed the importance of following procedures to set meetings and following NV Open Meeting Law.

7. MEMBER REPORTS

INFORMATION ONLY

Martinez opened the floor for comment.

Patri mentioned Soccer Kick Off game – August 15 at TMCC, everyone is welcome to attend.

Patenaude discussed accessibility of CSUN and how they are doing outreach. University Presidents Advisor Council is a great forum for discussion. CSUN President’s Advisory Council was developed and is made up of students, president, and cabinet for leadership discussions.

Martinez asked for a point of clarification, are you meeting with club leaders or administrators as well?

Patenaude responded that it will be only students.

Martinez asked if she would be willing to share an agenda.

Patenaude responded that yes, she would share an agenda once the group begins meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION ONLY

No new business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

No Public comment.

MARTINEZ ADJOURNED MEETING AT 9:44 AM