



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)
MINUTES
December 5, 2019
8:00 a.m.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Room 211
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV**

MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER AT **8:07 AM** BY NICOLA OPFER, NSA CHAIR

- 1. ROLL CALL:** Nicola Opfer, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) **PRESENT**
Anthony Martinez, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Vice Chair) **PRESENT**
Tamara Guinn, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Secretary) **PRESENT**
Melanie Dodson, Great Basin College, SGA **PRESENT**
Daniel Gutierrez, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN **PRESENT**
Gabrielle Clark, Western Nevada College, ASWN (new representative) **PRESENT**
Hannah Patenaude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN **PRESENT**
Alexandra Patri, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA **PRESENT**
Stephanie Molina, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA **ABSENT**

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

Terina Caserto, NSHE
Renee Davis, NSHE
Valeria Saborio, SGA, TMCC
Heather Rikalo, GBC

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 Gutierrez for approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on November 8, 2019. Seconded by Martinez. No discussion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. WELCOME TO NEW NSA MEMBERS

INFORMATION

Opfer welcomed Clark to NSA as the new representative for Western Nevada College. NSA members introduced themselves and welcomed Clark.

5. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT PARTICIPATION

INFORMATION

Opfer introduced the discussion of compensation and participation of undocumented students in our respective student governments. Opfer expressed this is a statewide issue that impacts a fairly large number of students on our campuses. Opfer asked NSA members whether they have been having conversations about this on respective campuses, whether there is awareness on the issue, and where everyone may be on the issue.

Gutierrez responded that CSN has had awareness of the issue for a while. Gutierrez discussed they have one student that is very involved and happily involved despite not receiving compensation. Discussions have been had regarding the potential of amendments to bylaws or scholarships to compensate undocumented students. CSN is trying to arrange for a scholarship for students that would pay them for their hours tracked, perhaps 4 times a year. There would be logistical challenges associated with this process due to the oversight of the process. Another concern is availability to students. This would not only be helpful to undocumented students but those that are FASFA ineligible as well. Gutierrez is working with administration to implement a scholarship for these students.

Patenaude expressed unawareness to this issue until it was brought up at the past NSA meeting. She expressed, yes they do experience this issue and it is a much larger issue than just in Southern Nevada. She has not had students specifically come forward, so it is hard to reach students and understand the need. She has not made progress on solutions, but conversations are now being had and this is a priority for us now.

Patri posed a question to Gutierrez asking whether this will be a future agenda item for the Board of Regents.

Gutierrez responded that yes possibly. We may need to talk more about this at NSA. Perhaps it would be easier for those in student government than across the board to student employees.

Opfer mentioned that BOR is very interested in helping and there are legislative concerns that make paying undocumented students challenging. This is a federal issue, not just a state issue. Opfer has had discussions with the Chancellor, Chair Geddes, and Regents regarding the issue and there is support for addressing these concerns.

Martinez mentioned that UNR has two designated individuals to work on matters concerning undocumented students. Martinez further mentioned that there may have been an NSHE task force at one point.

Opfer mentioned it may have been a roundtable discussion rather than a task force.

Martinez asked if we could ask them what has been suggested or implemented to help undocumented students so far. Maybe they came up with solutions during that process.

Opfer mentioned that it was a lot of ideas that were being thrown around. Perhaps offering scholarships however there are legal challenges with these potential processes. The challenge is finding processes that work that do not cause more harm to students.

Gutierrez asked if we will be discussing this in the afternoon NSA meeting? Also, he mentioned the importance of verbiage and language used.

Opfer discussed how NSSA has established a fund that helps undocumented/DACA students pay for school.

Clark expressed importance of supporting students that want to give back to the community through student government. This is also beneficial to FASFA ineligible students.

Gutierrez mentioned how student government funds open a second avenue of funding opportunity for FASFA ineligible students.

Opfer has had undocumented students approach NSSA about joining and serving. An option they have considered implementing is a Student Life Advisory Board to assist student government.

Patenaude mentioned that since this is a federal issue this is beyond our scope of being able to solve, but we have the ability at our levels to help alleviate costs. Also having an NSA resolution to support Undocumented/DACA student involvement.

Guinn mentioned the issue could also impact international students as well that are limited by financial aid and how much they can earn while attending school in the U.S. She mentioned that GSA actually supports council members through “awards” rather than student pay or compensation that is paid out twice per year through student fees.

Opfer asked for interest in having a resolution and moving the concern forward.

6. MEMBER REPORTS

INFORMATION

Patri – at TMCC she is working on an open educational resources initiative and spreading the word that this is what students want to faculty. Senators have purchased biodegradable materials to be used at meetings and reusable items to be distributed at meetings and looking at replacing cups with reusable cups. She is also working on establishing a universal landing page for web courses so it would be the same for everyone through Canvas.

Dodson – GBC is working to try and get elementary and high school students involved in student government. With many online students it is challenging to get students involved in student government. Increased involvement by senators this year and increasing outreach. Working to promote Native American student support on campus.

Clark – WNC has a Fallon campus that we are working well with and establishing a relationship. Tree raffle in Fallon and Toys for Tots in Carson. WNC is working on outreach and getting the WNC name out.

Guinn – UNR GSA Move It challenge was very successful with 52 active participants. February UNR will be hosting the NAGPS conference. Mental health awareness will be a focus in the spring. A self-defense class will be offered to female council members. More service outreach to graduate students.

Gutierrez – Student Union was officially named after Tyrone Thompson. It was a very successful event. Open Education Resources (OER) has been a matter of getting professors to use it. “Students First” campaign for those professors helping students through OER. Working to improve voter registration and voting across students. All three multipurpose rooms will be available soon. CSN is working to conduct trainings with orientations such as an active shooter training. CSN is conducting various drives for items such as hygiene or pet supply drive that have been very successful. Entering into negotiations as a multi-campus organization with a centralized location that is built out to other locations. Working to launch a speaker series in February, 2020.

Martinez – RFP for the Wolf Shop Bookstore. Seeking any recommendations on what you are selling and what is successful or not at your bookstores going forward with an outside vendor. \$20,000 goal for food pantry donations. We are entering into a Presidential search and open to advice and suggestions. We are also looking to revise elections process and open to suggestions.

Patenaude – First time food drive for the UNLV food pantry was very successful. 2300 units of things collected. President’s Advisory Council has been split into Affinity Groups and Student, Staff working groups that are far more productive than previous conversations. Faculty Pay Task force is not going well, and she encouraged participation in public comment at upcoming meetings to help avoid student fees being implemented. Received great feedback from surveys that have sent out such as transportation issues, campus planning, and infrastructure for budget planning.

Opfer – working to get free menstrual products on campus. Food pantry was able to feed 20 full Thanksgiving dinners to students. Working on undocumented issue and some other concerns.

7. NSA CHAIR’S REPORT

INFORMATION

In the chair’s report she will mention FASFA ineligible, international and undocumented students.

8. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

No new business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment.

OPFER ADJOURNED MEETING AT 8:50 AM