



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

MINUTES

December 5, 2019

5:00 p.m.

Time Approximate: this meeting may begin earlier than 5:00 p.m. upon recess of the Board of Regents meeting.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Student Union, Room 213

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, NV

MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER AT **5:01 PM** 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 **PRESENT**

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

Terina Caserto, NSHE
Renee Davis, NSHE
Mark Doubrava – BOR Vice Chair
Michael Flores - NSHE
Jason Geddes – BOR Chair
Dean Gould – BOR Chief of Staff
Thom Reilly – Chancellor
Valeria Saborio, SGA, TMCC

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment.

3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICERS AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION

Opfer opened the discussion with the topic of undocumented students, DACA students, and international students and asked where we are at on the issue and how can NSA help?

Reilly mentioned that BOR had been part of larger federal conversations, a brief with supreme court, and also conversations with institution Presidents to work together to see how we can help undocumented and DACA students with financial aid and support as a system. Working with the Presidents, each institution will have a point of contact that will be posted on the web for undocumented and DACA students to help them navigate college. The importance is showing support and coming together within the system to address the issue.

Opfer asked where information for the point of contact will be for students. Where will we be able to direct students?

Reilly responded it is in process, but it will be put on the web and also made accessible to the K-12 system. Once the list is established it will be shared widely.

Opfer would like easy access for support.

Reilly wants to ensure there is broad social support and counselors available to support these students. We have access to the numbers and the numbers are large. We need committed people in these positions to be able to identify these students and help them.

Clark asked what it means for us to have access to numbers, do we know exactly who they are and are there implications for their safety?

Patenaude asked how we identify undocumented students because if they seek financial aid they may bring unwanted attention.

Reilly mentioned that UNR has contact through Title IX which remains confidential to students. Since we don't collect this information from our students, we don't have exact numbers. A challenge is how do we address the issue when we don't know what we are really dealing with because we don't ask for the information.

Flores mentioned the legislature wants to open up the Nevada Promise scholarship to undocumented students and have developed a work around to protect confidentiality. CSN had a scholarship through student government. If you create it, they will come. Undocumented students as early as high school do not receive supports for higher education. Education of counselors and access to resources, differentiating what DACA is. The growing challenge here is undocumented students' participation in student government.

Patenaude expressed confusion about whether it is students being unable to participate in student government at all or whether it was that they just weren't getting compensated.

Gutierrez clarified that they can participate but just will not be compensated. They can volunteer but not get paid. CSN has been working on an idea to see if they can get around using workday, perhaps a modified stipend. The issue is how widely will it be available and how to attract the right people for the stipend.

Reilly mentioned that this must be easier, and we need to meet with CSN President to address the issue.

Opfer expressed interest in attending the conversation as well. At NSC there have been concerns regarding audit of stipends versus pay for student government that need to be addressed. In response to serving on student government, anyone can attend per Nevada Open Meeting Law but may not be able to serve in a full capacity without being compensated.

Reilly mentioned that since the Presidents are aware we should work together to formulate solutions and get the ball rolling. There has also been discussion regarding instate or out of state tuition for undocumented students.

Martinez mentioned UNR has a coordinator and UNLV has one individual that works with student government to complete documents for students to facilitate their participation.

Patenaude opened the conversation about lighting on UNLV campus. Director Garcia has been involved and safety issues are being addressed but there is still a concern. CSUN has paid for some improvement, but more improvement is still needed, especially on the north side. This should be a priority for UNLV.

Reilly asked if there is a plan in place?

Patenaude and Chief of Staff identified several places that were of immediate concern. This will also be done with Director Garcia.

Opfer expressed interest in hearing student voices and concern on each campus. Perhaps this will be a new business item on future NSA agenda.

Dodson discussed how students from UNR and GBC sat in on the Vice President's Council and heard discussions regarding Native American retention and attendance at college. Working with leaders to address tuition concerns and perhaps a lower tuition for Nevada Tribe students with the large number of campuses on Ancestral land. Dodson asked what happened to the tuition waiver or discount that used to exist, or did something exist?

Geddes responded that nothing has been in place that he knows of since 2006.

Davis responded that there is Grant in Aid available for Native American Students. There are campus options with institutional/state funds depending on budget.

Michael Flores asked what other types of aid may be available? We will follow up.

Reilly mentioned that he will look into the issue and get back to NSA.

Patri opened the discussion regarding Open Education Resources. Do the board members remember this topic being brought to BOR?

Davis mentioned that NSA did pass a resolution on OER. There has been activity on and off but talking with faculty is key. The BOR does not direct faculty as to what resources they need to use.

Geddes supports the promotion of using OER on campuses. There are so many resources available, yet professors require certain books so hopefully a balance can be found with free resources.

Patri mentioned there have been 15 professors at TMCC that have been successful. Perhaps incentivizing and rewarding OER use.

Opfer mentioned NSC has a digital library and promoted e-versions of textbooks. She will share the information with NSA members.

Opfer posed a concern about the Faculty Pay Performance Task Force regarding the very real option of student fees being used.

Gutierrez expressed concern regarding student fees increasing.

Geddes discussed how the funding formula currently supports faculty salaries through a pooled fund of student fees.

Guinn asked for clarification as to whether it would be a new fee or just reallocation of current monies being collected.

Geddes said he does not know, and more would be understood after the next meeting of the task force.

Patenaude expressed concern that if there is a new fee that is not okay. It is not the fault of the Regents or NSHE, but we need to find a better solution than student fees.

Geddes discussed how faculty merit pay has been a concern for years and how legislature have continually not supported merit pay. This is an ongoing problem because legislators believe that faculty professors make too much money. More funds should go to K-12 system.

Flores responded that support has been for State employees, classified employees, but not for faculty. There is upset because of previous fights regarding faculty that may have previously not gone well or been received well.

Clark asked how we reframe and emphasize the impact faculty have on students and supporting students K-12 and K-NSHE. Do students need to go? Have students gone?

Flores responded that yes students have and it is very helpful but this is an issue of perception of legislators.

Geddes responded the issue is quantitative rather than qualitative and gave an overview of social support systems that receive State funds and higher education is on the lower end of priority.

Patenaude asked if we move forward with a new fee will that send a positive or negative message to the legislature.

Open discussion that it sets a precedent. Overall concern was expressed that it could impact student numbers at institutions and make it more cost prohibitive to attend.

Flores appreciates the perspectives but with every legislative session funding concern for salaries are not an open issue. Allocations are just not there for merit increase. He encouraged students to speak to the Legislators. The day at the legislature was successful and contributed to overall 11% increase we received. Also, speaking at BOR meetings is impactful.

Geddes expressed that student voices and student presence at Legislature does have an impact.

Patenaude and Opfer expressed appreciation for BOR members openness and honesty on these issues.

4. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Martinez proposed a resolution regarding faculty pay increase be on future agenda. NSA members agreed to the item.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

No public comment.

OPFER ADJOURNED MEETING AT 5:52 PM