



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)
MEETING MINUTES**

February 14, 2020

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 129 S.R.

Henderson – NSC RSC 351

Las Vegas – CSN North Las Vegas Bldg C 2638 and NSHE System Admin 101

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:11 AM

- 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
Gabrielle Clark, Western Nevada College, ASWN – Present
Melanie Dodson, Great Basin College, SGA – Present
Daniel Gutierrez, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN – Proxy
Stephanie Molina, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA – Absent
Hannah Patenaude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN – Present
Alexandra Patri, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA – Present

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Thom Reilly, Chancellor, NSHE

Michael Flores, Chief of Staff, NSHE

Manuel Ayala, ASCSN – Proxy for Daniel Gutierrez

Terina Caserto, NSHE

Robert Lemus, Nevada State College

Andrew Sierra, NSC

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

Stephanie Molina, UNLV gave public comment. See attachment for comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Request is made for approval of the minutes for the two NSA meetings held on December 5, 2019. Martinez motioned, seconded by Patri. Minutes are approved unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION ONLY

Reilly gave an update on presidential searches at UNR and UNLV and the NSHE Chancellor search. UNLV will have candidates on campus the last week of March. They are anticipating a quick decision-making process following the campus visits. UNR will have candidates on campus the last week of April. The search firm is gathering applicants and submitting ranking based on profile from advisory boards for both searches. Candidates will be on campuses the 2nd week of April for the Chancellor search.

Patenaude mentioned there have recently been news articles related to UNLV search about individuals in the search. Can you speak to the nature of the publicity?

Reilly responded that individual candidates may have announced that they have applied, but the search firm has not publicly announced applicants. At this time, we cannot confirm how information is being released. Only finalists will be announced publicly but until then, from the search end, the process is confidential.

Reilly opened the discussion about the upcoming Board of Regents agenda. First, we will look at the institution budget presentations. Each institution will get 15 minutes to present a thematic wish list (student success, capacity, research, other), capital requests and planning requests. No decisions will be made at the meeting, only direction will be provided. Decisions will be made for the June meeting. There has been a timeline change, we are taking capital requests early, April 1st will be the deadline for capital requests at the legislature. This is not firm but recommended based on the legislative calendar. At the March meeting, capital and planning requests will be addressed. At the March 24th special meeting ranking of capital will be done.

Reilly mentioned another BOR agenda item is the partnership with ASU for online education instead of using private online services. There are benefits of the public-public model such as the ability to work with faculty to design online programs and then we own the programs and content and collect profits from programs. Another component is the ME3 app. With ME3 there is an app with images that students can use to decide career pathway, Arizona High Schools currently use it and we are looking to design in Nevada. The Beverly Rogers Institution has agreed to provide funding. The program is geared toward HS, adult learners, MGM, Freshman and Sophomores. The app will help students identify career and links to all programs and certificates available NSHE wide.

Reilly mentioned further items of interest on the agenda are workforce goals, a metrics presentation, update on MGM partnership (revenue report), discussion about Nursing (TMCC online) and the dispute between UNR and TMCC regarding impact.

Flores mentioned students attending with Chancellor at interim legislative committee for higher education next week.

Reilly further discussed that the Nevada Legislative Education Committee is not related to money, but it is effective for students to speak so they are asking students to join. Legislators are

interested in hearing from students. The meeting will be next Thursday around 12:00 or 1:00. Two weeks later there will be a discussion about teacher pipeline. The end of the month, dental programs will go to interim health committee regarding progress.

Patenaude mentioned that at the University Presidents Advisory Council Meeting there was a discussion about the Performance Pay Task Force and having a letter writing campaign to the legislature to help effectiveness of the Task Force. UNLV faculty and students are looking at starting a letter writing campaign and offering incentives to participate. What are thoughts or recommendations about this proposal?

Flores responded that student voices are impactful and should be heard now. Try to schedule meetings with legislators and if you need help reach out to Flores and he will help make arrangements. Emphasized, right now is the time to engage prior to bill writing cycle.

Opfer thanked Chancellor Reilly and Flores for involvement.

5. UPDATE FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NSHE TASK FORCE ON PERFORMANCE PAY ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

INFORMATION ONLY

Robert Lemus discussed that the December 2019 Task Force meeting was the final meeting of the Task Force. They arrived at 3 resolutions, recommendations to BOR as a whole. There were three total votes/resolutions passed:

1. Restoration of COLA funding was a noncontroversial vote. This resolution gives priority and restoration to 80% being allocated to NSHE, pre 2005 system.
2. Performance pay and the ability to create options for Presidents to fund performance pay – not unanimous – but both passed.
 - a. Vote 1. BOR request from legislature to change language in appropriations act to utilize general fund dollars for performance pay. This vote did pass.
 - b. Vote 2. Merit pay language recommending a pool 1% shall be created by each university for performance pay. This requires presidents to create a pool and distribute to eligible faculty members. Also, some back language that allows for presidents to make budget changes as necessary.

Andrew Sierra added to the discussion regarding suggested handbook revisions on the second recommendation. Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 54 offers details besides recommended language and he suggests that the verbiage leaves the door open for student fees or student money to be used for performance pay.

Opfer asked members that were at the meeting to speak about their experience. Patenaude mentioned that she gave public comment about student fees. There were 2 to 4 CSUN representatives that spoke at the Task Force meeting. It seemed there was a positive effect and they were receptive to what students had to say.

Reilly responded that this is not increasing student fees, but this comes down to how we do business. This will be part of the operating budget and it will be a reallocation of the current funds, not a new assessment of fees. He commended student leaders on their efforts.

Opfer discussed how vocal everyone has been about ensuring that student fees are not assessed to cover the performance pay shortage.

Lemus interpreted that the recommendation would create new student fees. He mentioned presidents create a merit pool and this reads to me as a new fee could be put into place to cover the costs. He questioned whether this would be the case. Would new fees be implemented?

Reilly mentioned that with the HEPI funds, this should be an allocation already. If presidents want additional funds, they would have to request funds from BOR, based on HEPI increase to raise student fees. Regents would need to take separate action. For example, at the last meeting UNR fees were not approved. Budget presentations would need to include additional funds that are being requested above the HEPI. This recommendation does not allow for an automatic fee increase. Increases should be allocated out of current budgets.

6. SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS ON CAMPUS

INFORMATION ONLY

Opfer opened the discussion. Mentioned she would like Alexandra Patri to start the discussion because of her initiatives at TMCC.

Patri discussed that at TMCC they are working on increasing education and awareness of recycling. Working to get recycling bins in all classrooms on campus. They have switched all plastic utensils to bamboo utensils across campus as well.

Manuel Ayala mentioned that at CSN they are working with environmental clubs on campus. Working to have more robust recycling plan mirroring UNLV in the student unions and following similar to TMCC having recycling bins in classes. Ayala posed the question of would it be possible to have an NSHE wide sustainability program to use at institutions?

Melanie Dodson discussed the possibility of having hydration stations for water bottles on campus installed at GBC. Many facilities have aging equipment so conversations are being had and trial stations will be implemented. They will be asking Ruby Valley Water to bring in water because access to drinking water is not readily available for all students and water purity is a concern. Will be looking into recycling on campuses.

Opfer reported that at NSC, recycling is very prominent. They are working on a possible initiative with faculty senate for first year professors, encouraging and piloting paperless classrooms. NSC VP has also been working to implement paperless meetings.

Patri added that with paperless classrooms the importance of open educational resources (OER). TMCC is working to offer incentives for use of OER.

7. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT PARTICIPATION

INFORMATION ONLY

Opfer opened the discussion with asking members if they saw the email regarding ITIN numbers for students and use at institutions for DACA students. Opfer further investigated what the ITIN

number would do for students. She discussed that the memo was not a fix, but to inform students about what this is and for support services for students on campus.

Gabrielle Clark indicated that WNC does have a procedure in place for compensating undocumented students through student center and program funds. Clark will distribute emails about how the process works.

Patri discussed that TMCC does not currently have Undocumented/DACA student workers that they are aware of, but they have many Undocumented/DACA students and they are working to collect information from Undocumented/DACA to better understand those students and their needs.

Ayala mentioned that CSN is working on a scholarship for Undocumented/DACA students or student volunteers that have helped out with student government. They are interested in learning about funds from programs to further support.

Patenaude mentioned that she saw the email and that Undocumented students have not yet come forward about this issue at UNLV wanting to be part of student government, but it is good that we know how to handle it if it does come up.

Anthony Martinez mentioned that at UNR, there are individuals that handle Undocumented/DACA student issues and working to come up with a solution within the student government, perhaps creating a scholarship or stipend set aside.

Opfer expressed there have been concerns about audits and scholarship offerings with current plans. Also concerns about Workday. Institutional changes may need to be held and conversations are being had. Perhaps we could draft resolutions for support to find solutions or support service for Undocumented/DACA students that are involved on campus.

Dodson added that at GBC they have not had this issue but it is good to be aware of the situation and how we can get help.

8. MEMBER REPORTS

INFORMATION ONLY

Opfer opened the floor for discussion.

Clark mentioned that at WNC will hold an open house for students for the new podcast space. They will have training sessions for projects. Working to establish productive relationships with clubs, for example sponsoring members of psychology club to attend the Western Psychological conference. Held a manufacturing forum that was successful.

Patri reported that at TMCC welcome week finished last month. Many free supplies were handed out. There are currently estimated savings \$400,000 for implementing OER with less than 20 instructors that have implemented OER. Needing storage space for clubs on campus. Talked about the possibility of a health clinic on Dandini campus.

Martinez reported that UNR is tying up loose ends and working on opening a 24-hour study center. Working on a transition process for student government officers. There are concerns within ASUN regarding elections. Legislation for upcoming presidents and officers, maybe not legislation but a memo for future leaders. See what priorities are going forward to share with future leaders.

Tamara Guinn reported that GSA at UNR is very busy in the spring, many events. UNR is hosting the NAGPS conference in February. Many service events and outreach events. Elections will be taking place in March/April. Legislation is minimal and focus is on student outreach.

Dodson reported that GBC just hosted their welcome back week, a nacho bar and a breakfast grab and go. Discussion regarding student housing, that there is not much infrastructure near campus housing. She said there is discussion about food situation near campus and possible implementation for a food plan/partnership with local organization or meal plan as part of tuition. Talked about hosting socials and opportunities for students to mingle. Plans to have a suicide awareness speaker to help bring awareness on campus. Discussion about vending machines on campus, they are working to improve and repair. Creating an emergency fund for students with financial aid. Clubs do not have spaces on campus, and they are working to remedy this.

Patenaude reported that UNLV filing opens for Executive board elections on Monday. Will be doing a letter writing campaign to the Nevada legislature and prioritize getting in one and one meetings with legislators and have them come to CSUN senate. We are having another trip to Washington DC in April and taking some non- CSUN students. Survey is open for what students want us to be lobbying on. Fee transparency process and seeing a breakdown of everything you paid into with tuition. Seeing where fees are going and how fees are broken down before paying tuition. Helping students prepare for tuition due and utilize services associated with fees they are paying for. Piloted bike shelters on campus and money was put forward but no follow-through, discussions are re-opening. Survey is open about on-campus transportation wants and needs currently and survey may lead to electric scooters on campus, but those are later discussions. Held an "ask me booth" regarding early voting and caucusing in Nevada. Having another President's Advisory Council meeting on the 24th, have been very successful to date. Working collaboratively to meet student needs and provide services to students. Submissions for digital suggestion box, positive use and feedback for students, anonymous submissions.

Ayala reported that CSN is approaching the Caucus, Presidential forums coming up. Having a club shop for students to visit clubs. Guest speaker series Buttigieg and Santana as guests. They are working on a cannabis education event. They have launched an app for the shuttle system that is successful so far.

Opfer discussed that at NSC they had their Valentines social event. They have special elections in a week or two, a couple of open positions. The new student lounge is opening next week, and they are having a ribbon cutting ceremony. The shuttle service is great and getting really good feedback. Spoke about opportunities with the census for employment. Having legislators attending meetings and the possibly of starting a letter campaign. Free feminine products through Aunt Flow will be available on campus student government paid for the dispensers and the institution will be funding supplies. 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, many events on campus to celebrate. Fitness week in April and if interested in attending, let her know.

9. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION ONLY

Martinez mentioned that perhaps we should discuss legislative priorities or writing a memo. And secondly, our elected officers and student government organizations and how they are viewed by institutions in future business.

Patenaude discussed the upcoming vote in the fall and the potential restructuring of the entire system will have an impact on student government in some capacity and the future of student government as potential new business.

Opfer mentioned talking to Chairman Geddes about the transition and how this related to NSHE. Discussing it at afternoon NSA meeting following BOR meeting in March.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

No public comment.

OPFER ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:38 AM

Attachments:

Item 2. Statement made by Stephanie Molina

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE – PUBLIC COMMENT

Friday 14 February 2020

For the record: Stephanie Molina

As the elected and sitting president of the NSHE recognized Graduate and Professional Student Association, I am here in front of the Nevada Student Alliance to announce that UNLV student governance is under attack by administration seeking to not only censure my presidency but remove me from an elected position.

Administration sought to coerce me into making it appear as if I was voluntarily stepping down from an organization established by NRS 241.017 and which constitutes a public body of elected officials. When I did not respond within six hours, an email was sent by a single college dean, not the GPSA, to the entire graduate and professional student body announcing my baseless removal from office.

This situation is taking shape not from organizational misconduct, but from false allegations being presented to an administration by a former university administrative faculty employee, an employee with whom I had a personal relationship with, a relationship which I was told to keep secret. I have not been allowed to question the false claims; immediate actions were taken against me; judgement came before an investigation. It should be noted that the administration did not act similarly when I reported being verbally assaulted on campus in November by a person, sent by this employee, in a closed office to which the employee provided access; the administration did not act when I reported being gaslighted by the employee; the administration did not act when I reported unprofessionalism in the workplace by the employee.

As elected officials of autonomous representative governing bodies in the public eye, anyone can present allegations in order to initiate a smear campaign in which the university could be complicit in. Claims made on an interpersonal relationship should not be cause for censure from an elected position by a university administration.

Furthermore, my particular situation has exhibited structural abuse not only within an institution but also towards the GPSA that impedes shared governance and student's ability to administer their own governing bodies -- activities which are currently being interfered with by an administration who also happens to be paying themselves with GPSA funds not approved by the GPSA Council or Executive Board.

Abuse of power has become apparent. For one, I have asked to be shown UNLV or NSHE codes which authorize and justify the actions taken against me by administration with no response -- transparency in shared governance structures appears to only be a theory. I

was terminated from a campus position that has nothing to do with my position within the GPSA simply because an administration says they can (a possible violation in Title VII). Retaliation appears to have occurred when access to my academic labs and office were revoked, on orders from one college, after I contacted university administration (a possible violation in NSHE code). The Dean of the Graduate College has spoken in regard to my character, alleged misconduct, and professional competence as it pertains to my role as an elected member of a public body during both open and closed meetings with quorum of the GPSA Council and its Executive Board, without providing me written notice (a possible violation of NRS 241), while publicly announcing that I am allegedly “suspended” (a possible FERPA violation).

As the elected executives of our respective self-governing bodies, we are here to shape policy and enact change. As such, I am asking you to take notice that if an administration can sidestep due process and take over our organizations, not only are we being told that we do not actually have the ability to self-govern, we are being shown that shared governance practices within the institutions are simply an illusion. Furthermore, I would like the Nevada Student Alliance to encourage the NSHE Board of Regents to ensure that it is clear that student governments are separate entities from the various institutions.