



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

MINUTES

March 5, 2020

7:00 a.m.

College of Southern Nevada

Student Union, Room 121

700 College Drive, Henderson, NV

MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:08 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 **PRESENT**

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

Terina Caserto, NSHE
Renee Davis, NSHE
Sidath Kapukotuwa, GPSA, UNLV
Heather Rikalo, ASWN, WNC
Valeria Saborio, SGA, TMCC

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 February 14, 2020. Seconded by Patri. No discussion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION ON NEVADA'S 2021 LEGISLATIVE
SESSION**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Martinez recommended drafting a letter or priorities for the 2020/2021 NSA. He suggested it would be best to have the letter/priorities come from Chair Opfer outlining items we feel important for 2020/2021 NSA to consider. We can all add our signatures and welcomes input on what should be considered in the document.

Guinn asked if within the document there was an item pertaining to differential fees. This item is important for future consideration as it is being brought before the Board of Regents again for UNR and sets a dangerous precedent for institutional use and implementation of differential fees.

Martinez responded that within the current document it was not currently there.

Gutierrez recalled the discussion with Chair Geddes at the last Board of Regents Meeting in December, 2019 that the legislature recommends use of student fees to cover budget shortfalls. Posing the question of whether we can take a stance for the next NSA to stop charging students fees to cover budget shortfalls.

Opfer proposed affordable higher education item to include differential fees.

Davis expressed concern about developing a document given the time constraint and this being the last scheduled meeting.

Opfer and Martinez proposed scheduling a final meeting to approve a document/priorities letter for the 2020/2021 NSA.

Caserto recommended deciding today whether another meeting needs to be scheduled and at the next meeting these minutes will need to be approved and agendas will need to be posted with adequate time.

Discussion ensued regarding possible dates the proposed new meeting could be scheduled for April 10th, 2020 at 9:00 am with documents being submitted April 1st, 2020.

Opfer summarized that items on the letter will include housing and food insecurity, affordable higher education, sustainability and the environment, sexual harassment, and differential fees.

Patenaude asked if this will include faculty compensation issues? She asked to please add as a priority going forward.

Item was tabled until the next meeting for further discussion.

5. MEMBER REPORTS

INFORMATION

Opfer opened the floor for member reports.

Clark – welcome back nacho bar 115 students participated, working to get more student presence but good turnout. Senator positions are full and there is a vacancy for Vice President, they are getting ready for elections. Student needs survey last fall with great response identifying student needs (food, housing insecurity), students have had food/housing insecurity following national trend. Have started a food & hygiene pantry with community partners FISH – Friends in Service

Helping and Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Currently planning an awards & appreciation banquet. There is now a room dedicated to breast feeding mothers through a grant within the foundation.

Gutierrez – New health and sciences building in conjunction with NSC. Speaker Series launch event was last week was a great multi-campus event. CSN pantries are doing well across campuses. There is now a fridge in the pantry and have added a clothing initiative (professional attire, clothing). We are planning an end of the year banquet.

Patri – the SGA funded \$5,000 for OER incentives for faculty. Drafting a letter to administration asking to match incentive to carry forward next year. Senator created posters for recycling. VP created a scholarship for undocumented students. Surveyed students about their interest in having a health center/clinic on campus.

VP Saborio from TMCC SGA reported about details for the Undocumented/DACA scholarship that will be available.

Dodson – In conjunction with Gear Up, will have a study session, “Stressed spelled backwards is desserts” study session. Last time it was offered there were 50 students that came through for help. Teaming up with the revitalization committee before graduation for end of semester party on campus. Elections will be held last week in April. GBC is wanting to bring in sports, will be voted on with elections in April regarding how much they are willing to pay. Survey was sent last year and students did not want to pay for the offering. Seems to be more interest now though. We started a personal hygiene pantry. Graduating two officers in May and will be appointing new senators that left last semester.

Molina – We finished first semester of cap and gown that was started last year. They had 8 participants last semester. So far there have been several donations from alumni association, 33 cap and gowns. We just awarded researcher awards for graduate students, 2 doctoral and 1 master’s student. We held a research forum last Saturday for students to present oral or poster research, \$1,250 award for students to present research and it was a good event. We will be holding elections in April with new officers starting in May, 2020. They are still conducting a Manager search with some positive candidates.

Martinez – ASUN elections are currently going on. Serving on many search committees. We are still reviewing Nevada Wolf Shop proposals since we are selling the Wolf Shop. We are also currently reviewing our budgets and preparing priorities for the next President.

Patenaude – We are currently working on a fee transparency proposal for clarity of fees and breakdown with the Provost’s Office. Hopefully this will help students utilize services they pay for. Purchasing bike shelters for campus, received funding previously but no implementation. Part of a larger vision for purchasing bikes and manual scooters for on campus transportation. We have been doing a survey on campus to see what interests students regarding transportation. Upcoming executive election, uncontested election which is disappointing. But we do have a full senate currently which is exciting. Last semester we did a 5k initiative and students submitted proposals for campus initiatives. Resulting from the last initiative there will be shade structures installed. Other options could be a mural on campus and fruit trees to make campus more inviting. We will be doing a 2nd canned food drive. We are looking to have a trip to Washington

DC, but travel may be postponed due to the coronavirus. We are starting to use Proctor U (select professors are using it) on campus and there is concern. Alternatively, we are looking at long-term proctor centers on campus. There is currently constant communication about the campus master plan for student experience and engagement. For example, there is parking lot in center of campus that will be converted to a campus quad. We had a campus climate survey that went out. The digital suggestion box has been very positive with great feedback. President advisory council is successful with great conversation and participation.

Guinn – GSA just held the NAGPS Western Regional conference, 26 students in attendance from UNR and visiting universities. We are addressing Graduate Student housing needs. Spring awards ceremony coming up distributing roughly \$100,000 in student awards. Lots of exciting events on campus coming up, Unity in Diversity and graduation celebrations. We have elections coming up and we have several students running for council. Looking at students who pay and do not currently pay GSA dues and reexamining the structure with the Provost.

Opfer – NSC is promoting the women's suffrage 100th anniversary with campus wide events taking place. We will have elections at the end of April. NSC will be looking at a Presidential search possibly. Aunt flo will be installed in 2 weeks. Today is NSC's got talent event and encourages everyone to attend.

6. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT

INFORMATION

Opfer discussed that in the chair's report she will mention upcoming student leadership transitions and thank you's along with a mention of the next scheduled NSA meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Opfer will add item to agenda for legislative priorities memo for the next NSA meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Patri would like to have the differential fee item higher on the priorities memo.

OPFER ADJOURNED MEETING AT 7:56 AM