



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)
MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

Teleconference Meeting Only

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:04 AM

- 1. ROLL CALL: Nicola Opfer, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) – Present**
Anthony Martinez, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Vice Chair) – Absent
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 – Arrived 9:46 am
Stephanie Molina, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA – Present
Hannah Patenaude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN – Present
Alexandra Patri, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA – Present

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Terina Caserto, NSHE
Andrew Clinger, NSHE
Michael Flores, NSHE
Thom Reilly, Chancellor, Nevada Board of Regents
Joe Reynolds, NSHE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

Caserto reported there was no registered public comment as of 8:30 am.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Request is made for approval of the minutes for the two NSA meetings held on March 5, 2020.
Molina motioned, seconded by Patri. A roll call vote was taken:

Nicola Opfer, yay
Anthony Martinez, absent
Tamara Guinn, yay
Gabrielle Clark, yay
Melanie Dodson, abstain
Daniel Gutierrez, absent
Stephanie Molina, yay

Hannah Patenaude, yay
Alexandra Patri, yay

Minutes were approved.

4. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR REGARDING PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

INFORMATION ONLY

Opfer opened the floor to Chancellor Reilly.

Reilly mentioned that with very short notice for preparation, the NSHE system is anticipating budget cuts of up to 14%. Governor only has authority to go to 15% without calling the legislature. We are asking for proposed budget cuts from all institutions. We have asked institution Presidents to minimize layoffs and disruption to student success. Freezing, keeping positions vacant. Looking at furloughs at 10% and 14% with temporary student surcharge at the 14% option. Presidents have power within their individual budgets.

Reilly further reported that Cares Act dollars are a godsend. These funds go directly to the institutions and 50% must go to financial assistance to students. Not sure when dollars will arrive. FY21 will be when the dollars are being used. Furloughs will be an option and we are asking for consistency across institutions in this implementation. Furloughs do not include classified staff because the legislature would have to convene for that decision. The proposed furloughs are for professional faculty only and would be 2.3% (6 days per year) at the 10% level and 14% level would be 12 days per year or 4.6%. Self-supporting positions would be exempt. 21 million dollars will be saved if furloughs are implemented. There is a proposed student surcharge at the 14% level which would be \$8 for graduate \$6 undergrad \$5 for Nevada State College and \$3 for community colleges per credit. Again, we are asking for consistency per institution. Reilly reminded that these are only proposals and have not been accepted. The governor will be reviewing and then we will go back before the board to make adjustments.

Opfer opened the floor for questions.

Opfer posed a question regarding the hiring freeze – How does this impact student workers and student government?

Reilly responded that there will be exceptions. Presidents will submit justification and will require approval from Chancellor and legal to get positions released. GA's and instruction pieces have been approved and released for hire. Positions must be justified. Institutions will need to go through the process.

Geddes added that student governments operate on student fees and student fees have not been impacted so those positions are not part of the freeze.

Clinger reported that in general most institutions have kept student workers on the payroll.

Guinn posed a concern regarding anticipated unemployment concerns for graduates and asked what options there may be to support these students in the coming months.

Reilly responded that we will reexamine the numbers in a month or so. The outcome today looks bleak, but we were at a healthy level before the pandemic. He is suspecting it will ramp up at a good pace once this is all over.

Clinger is unaware of the unemployment benefits available.

Reynolds mentioned looking at that at NSHE human resources department and to contact Joe Reynolds with question and concerns.

Opfer mentioned that many of us are transitioning out of leadership and asked how will this impact SGA's going forward and how do we prepare them?

Reilly recommended that among existing and incoming faculty and students, scheduling a meeting.

Flores added that during the NSHE onboarding process, this will be a key part of this process. We will be modifying some processes to accommodate these concerns and changes.

Opfer mentioned there are concerns regarding services beneficial to students.

Reilly responded that the institution Presidents have flexibility in institutions to make decisions – We ask for consistency in 3 key areas discussed before – preserve students' success and services. The Presidents should have pulse in their institutions and a sense of what is necessary and concerning.

Klinger added that business officers are meeting every day and the institutions have different needs. With 2.3. and 4.6 % cuts with furloughs business officers collaborated to discuss what was best for institutions. Some institutions could have waited to implement furloughs but in the interest of consistency decisions were made to implement them across the board.

Reilly without 21 million dollars as a furlough savings and 10 million in student surcharge would be 300 positions to lay off across the state.

Opfer asked for clarification that the Student surcharges at 14%, what were the amounts again?

Reilly responded that \$8 university graduate, \$6 University undergraduates, \$5 (NSC), \$3 community college

Opfer asked where would those fees go?

Clinger responded that the temporary add on fee will go to state operating budget and be used for teaching support.

Molina asked will reduction include GA numbers?

Clinger responded that no specific number of what is being presented

Guinn added that at UNR GA positions will remain.

Reilly responded that seems consistent

Patenaude mentioned that students at UNLV were interested in partial refunds that are not being used. Students do not understand why they do not get the money back when they are not receiving services or accessing buildings. What are thoughts to tell students?

Reilly responded that he had the conversation with Presidents and business officers and discussed that there will be refunds to dorms and parking fees. Presidents have asked to deal with this at the institutional level.

Guinn added that at UNR the communication has been very clear and justified regarding what fees will be reimbursed or not and where the fees are still going. Helping students understand why the money was still needed was helpful.

Clark mentioned they are hosting a town hall via zoom next week with the President to respond to questions and mentioned that perhaps a town hall would be helpful for students.

Opfer asked when will these budgets be presented?

Reilly responded that these will go Monday to the Governor; we won't know the impact until June. Initial review with feedback and decisions will be dependent on how long economy is shut down. It is likely this will extend well into late fall with adjustments and revisions to the budget. Once we get feedback there will be further discussions. He reminded that these are proposals and nothing will be implemented until after feedback and going to the board, presidents and campuses for feedback.

Opfer asked what can we do?

Reilly responded that we appreciate the work that is being done. How we communicate and stay involved with students is critical at this point.

Geddes mentioned that Nicola will be called upon in the budget meeting today for overall feedback.

Opfer asked NSA members how are we all feeling about this?

Patenaude discussed that UNLV undergrads are very vocal and want to know what resources are and how to get them. They are concerned about paying for more than what they are getting. There are 3-4,000 signatures on a petition asking for providing institutional transparency – students expect to know what is going on.

Clinger responded that it is important for students to understand CARES Act 60 million coming to institutions. That half goes to students for emergency financial aid. Presidents have great latitude for how dollars go to students. We ask presidents to consider breadth of students and be engaged and thinking about implications of decisions.

Gutierrez mentioned that at CSN they have an emergency fund for students, we have been increasing the fund and trying to offer resources to students. We are reaching out through social media to students. We are holding elections and reaching out to students, responding to emails as much as possible. Leadership is hosting town halls each week. An important aspect is the question and answer sessions. Students have expressed issues with professors that are not used to teaching in an online platform, and have expressed frustration with this. Classes that required labs have been challenging.

Patri mentioned that at TMCC we had a general assembly meeting we notified student government about the cuts and so far, so good. This hasn't affected students too harshly yet.

Dodson mentioned that CT students have been put on a hold which is causing confusion about the coming months. Students are getting used to doing online work. Professors have been flexible and understanding.

Clark discussed that they met with financial director and President about possible influx of students looking to gain skills in an economic downturn. Looking to prepare virtual options and recruitment and retention processes. Openness and transparency with current students.

Molina mentioned that GA numbers will be a concern. We have not heard much communication about the numbers going forward. GPSA is trying to help students and make budget adjustments. Assisting students through emergency funds.

Guinn mentioned there are concerns focused on informing students and making sure issues are being addressed. Unemployment is a growing concern, concerns about coming back next year

Opfer will summarize and present concerns to NSHE board at upcoming meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION ONLY

No new business.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

No public comment.

OPFER ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:01 AM