

## Meeting Minutes



### NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

**AGENDA**  
**June 7, 2023**  
**7:00 a.m.**

**University of Nevada, Reno**  
Joe Crowley Student Union, Room 422  
1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV

#### **MEMBERS:**

- P Tania Akter, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA**
- P Lisha Allison, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA**
- Tardy 7:12 a.m. Robby Boparai, University of Nevada, Reno ASUNSOM**
- P Dawson Deal, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN**
- Tardy 7:03 Proxy Sayla DailyAllister Dias, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN**
- P Teresa Marie, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA**
- P Kevin Osorio Hernández, Nevada State College, NSSA**
- Tardy 7:14 a.m. Proxy Denielle Kirkman Allison VanHolder, Great Basin College, SGA**
- P Catalina Wilson, Western Nevada College, ASWN**
- Office Vacant, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN**
- Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD**

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

The agenda and any supporting material, including materials submitted after the posting of this agenda but before the meeting, may be accessed on the Internet by visiting the NSA page of the NSHE website: <https://nshe.nevada.edu/system-administration/departments/asa/students/nevada-student-alliance/>, or by calling Terina Caserto in the NSHE Office of Academic and Student Affairs at (775) 784-3442, or emailing her at [tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu). Any supporting materials provided to members of the NSA at the meeting will be posted to the NSA website within 24 hours after the conclusion of the meeting.

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons attending the meeting. Please call the Academic & Student Affairs Office in advance at (775) 784-3442 so that arrangements may be made.

**Guests:**

- Alejandro Rodriquez – NSHE
- Patricia Charlton – NSHE
- Carrie Parker – NSHE
- Keri Nikolajewski – Board of Regents
- Carmen Muniz – CSN
- Giovanni Jones – CSN
- Suzanna Stankute – WNC
- Benny Buchanan – WNC
- Lahaina Estomin
- Liesel Kemmelmeier
- Jeff Downs- Board of Regents
- Amy Carvalho – Board of Regents
- Lahana Pearce

**Call to Order at 7:01 a.m.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Roll call of members and any persons serving as a proxy for a member will be taken.

Quorum met with 6 members. Three additional members arrived tardy.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to two minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The NSA Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047 (April 27, 2001), as restated in the Attorney General’s Open Meeting Law Manual, the NSA Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the NSA, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

No public comment.

Sayla Daily – 7:03 a.m.

**3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD MEMBERS  
AND CHANCELLOR**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

NSA members will have the opportunity to have an open dialogue with the officers of the Board of Regents and the Chancellor. The discussion will include student experiences, concerns of their constituents, and other matters related to their roles in student government.

Chair Osorio-Hernández requested introductions around the table.

Regents Carvalho and Downs answered a question regarding the focus for the upcoming year. Regent Carvalho mentioned communication with stakeholders and turning the temperature down with the Board in a deliberate process. Regent Downs agreed that communication is the focus as well as working with NSHE staff. Carvalho discussed the new business log of the Board and the work with NSHE staff in getting through what the Board wants.

The topic of graduate student increased stipend. Member Teresa Marie explained the challenge of increased COLA and fees against stipends. Regent Carvalho recognizes the increases and defers to the Chancellor regarding preparation for the 2025 legislative session. The Chancellor addresses the inclusion of this topic in putting the touches on the prep for 2025 session for August.

Robby Boparai enters meeting at 7:12 a.m..

Alejandro Rodriguez, NSHE Director of Government Relations, speaks of the importance of a united message during session and elevating the advocacy of NSA as a body is important. The Chancellor adds that is important to advocate for the priorities of the Board.

Danielle Kirkman, Proxy for Allison VanHolder, enters meeting at 7:14 a.m..

The Chancellor answers a question of the priorities, including but not limited to, Capital improvements; increasing presence of personnel; mental health; nursing expansion; education program; grad stipends; shoring up the lack of funding received for the cost of living over the last couple biennium; and student food, housing insecurity, and mental health. Also, unfunded mandates from fee waivers. She mentions that the Interim Committee on Education receive a presentation from NSHE on Fee Waivers and we are hoping they close the loop on funding. The Chancellor answers questions on how the fee waivers work in the funding formula.

The Chancellor discusses the work being done in the mental health space. Under legislation last session, an appropriation provided to UNLV to set up a statewide institute to work with mental health professionals. She mentions this is one appropriation we need to ensure it continues.

The topic of food insecurity is addressed. Member Tania Akter shares what UNR GSA does for graduate students. Thirty percent of UNR graduate students use the ASUN pack provisions. The challenge is the storage of food. When international students arrive they don't have personal transportation and they rely on the pack provisions. Akter says more funding is needed for grad and post-doc. The Chancellor responds that conversations are already being had with legislators to let them know what priorities are and food insecurities, transportation, childcare, are some of those priorities.

Regent Carvalho asks about the SNAP program. The Chancellor says that is a dedicated staff member at the System Office for SNAP. That person has reached out directly to the state to expand that. Member Teresa Marie explains how SNAP works and how it does not necessarily work well because some GA get paid 9 months instead of 12 and it challenges the eligibility. The Chancellor suggests that Assistant Vice Chancellor Natalie Brown and SNAP Coordinator Camille Vega come to one an NSA meeting to discuss. And they have contacts with the federal delegation.

Member Robby Boparai discusses medical school increases and the way medical education is changing due to national trends – Board exams, extended medical education into 5 years instead of 4 years. And that the funding levels do not serve students well anymore and need to be looked at. The Chancellor suggests having the medical school deans come talk about that as it is a different funding from the state, and different components to that. There should be discussion around about fees and timeline to completion as well. Regent Carvalho says we don't often hear of struggles of med school students but about the completion. Perhaps we can think about the cost of the

education not based on semesters or years.

Discussion around the long-term debt of professional students and the need for high-quality fiscal literacy education with professional students. Member Boparai speaks of the medical school financial aid through main campus and the miscommunication and logistical delays. Overall, the med school keeps track of the loans, gives the financial counseling, but they do have a system in place for support.

The Chancellor and Regents were asked what they love most about Nevada and shared that.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under “New Business” is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request, and no substantive discussion may occur at this meeting on new business items in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.010 *et seq.*).

No new business.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Carmen Muniz – as a CSN representative it has been an honor to come see you all and meet you all, to be able to humanize you all. It is odd sitting down in southern Nevada knowing all these things are happening out here. It is really cool. I hope to come many times in the future.

**Adjourned at 7:48**

Posted in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241), at the following locations:

CSN, Building D, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146-1124

DRI, Maxey Building, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512-1095

DRI, Southern Nevada Science Center, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119-7363

GBC, Berg Hall, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, NV 89801

NSC, Great Hall, 1125 Nevada State Drive, Henderson, NV 89015

TMCC, Red Mountain Building (RDMT 200) 7000 Dandini Blvd. Reno, NV 89512

UNLV, Flora Dungan Humanities 9 (FDH), 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Floors, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1001

UNR, Clark Administration, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557

WNC, Bristlecone Building Lobby, 2201 W. College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89703

System Administration, 4300 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89119-7530

System Administration, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512

Nevada Public Notice Website - <https://notice.nv.gov>

NSHE NSA Website - <https://nshe.nevada.edu/system-administration/departments/asa/students/nevada-student-alliance/>