

NSA Meeting Minutes



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

AGENDA

August 9, 2024

9:00 AM

Via Video-Teleconference

Meeting Link:

[https://nshe-nevada-
edu.zoom.us/j/97264422160?pwd=VmZ2Z0J0bXR0MGtMOVpNeDVTt05DZz09&fro
m=addon](https://nshe-nevada-edu.zoom.us/j/97264422160?pwd=VmZ2Z0J0bXR0MGtMOVpNeDVTt05DZz09&from=addon)

Meeting ID

972 6442 2160

Passcode

384204

Dial by Location

1 346 248 7799; 1 669 444 9171; 1 669 900 9128; 1 719 359 4580;
1 253 205 0468 ; 1 253 215 8782; 1 386 347; 1 507 473 4847; 1 564 217 2000;
1 646 558 8656 ; 646 931 3860; 1 689 278 1000; 1 301 715 8592
1 305 224 1968; 1 309 205 3325; 1 312 626 6799; 360 209 5623 US

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (VIDEO-TELECONFERENCE) ONLY PURSUANT TO NRS 241.023. THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY HEAR, OBSERVE, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING VIA THE MEETING LINK OR TELEPHONE NUMBER IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY PRERECORDED MESSAGE BEFORE 4:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024, VIA EMAIL TO TCASERTO@NSHE.NEVADA.EDU OR VOICEMAIL: (775) 784-3442. MESSAGES RECEIVED BY 4:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024, WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD DURING THE MEETING.

MEMBERS:

- P**Kevin Osorio Hernández, Nevada State University, NSSA (Chair)
- P**Dawson Deal, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (Vice Chair)
- P**Janeth Vences-Balvas, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN (Secretary)
- P**Tania Akter, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
- P**Lisha Allison, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
- P**Allister Dias, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
- P**Teresa Marie, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
- P**Miguel Sison, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUNSOM
- (Absent)No Proxy** Allison VanHolder, Great Basin College, SGA
- P**Catalina Wilson, Western Nevada College, ASWN
- Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

- Terina Caserto, NSHE
- Carrie Parker, NSHE
- Camille Sun Vega, NSHE
- Heather Brown, NSHE
- Alejandro Rodriguez, NSHE

Meeting start 9:05 AM

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, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512, at (775) 784-3442, or emailing her at 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.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll call of members and any persons serving as a proxy for a member will be taken and any members of the public that are present may be asked to identify themselves verbally so their names may be recorded in the minutes.

Quorum met with 9 members.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

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 three 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.

Pursuant to NRS 241.023, members of the public may also participate in the meeting by submitting prerecorded public comment messages via email to tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu or voicemail: (775) 784-3442. Messages received by 4:30 p.m. on THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024, will be entered into the record during the meeting. Members of the public may attend the meeting and provide public comment or testimony by calling any of the numbers on the first page of this agenda, including 1 719 359 4580 US, meeting ID: 972 6442 2160, passcode: 384204.

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.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

No public comment in person or online

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on July 15, 2024.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

No updates to minutes

Motion by Deal; second by Teresa Marie

Majority Vote: Favored by 'Aye'

4. DISCUSSION WITH NSHE REGENT HEATHER BROWN**INFORMATION ONLY**

Regent Heather Brown will meet with NSA members to provide comments on her experiences and current projects as a Regent and her role as Chair of the Board of Regents' Workforce Committee. Chair Osorio-Hernández may then open the floor for questions from NSA members.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

**Chair Osorio-Hernandez Introduces Regent Heather Brown
Youngest woman Regent and alumni from UNLV**

Regent Heather Brown introduced herself. She was part of student government at UNLV and why she wanted to join the Board of Regents. She wants to make a difference and not be part of the status quo. She wants to be engaged and interactive and tries to attend several student government meetings. She chairs the workforce committee, and she did not agree with the 2 hours designated to this committee.

Regent Brown attended a workforce leadership summit at UNLV recently. 4 areas she's really working on is credit for prior learning, micro-credentialing, concurrent and dual enrollment, structure of applied degrees to bachelor's degrees.

All institutions treat military service differently.

Micro-credentialing is being adapted to our higher education system. For credit and not for credit classes. Challenge in this is the understanding for student as well as businesses and how this information is digested. NSHE institutions would need to come up with common language to engage with the business community and get them involved.

Concurrent and dual enrollment is something that needs to be streamlined. K-12 teachers and higher education professors would need to have the same credentials. K-12 teachers will be proposed to take a master's degree, and this being done at the legislative level.

Applied sciences degrees at time cause students to have to retake courses. Course curriculum will be reviewed and how this can be translated to 4-year degrees.

She has also been working with the chambers and how students can get connected with internships and externships and she's working with the governor's office on how to bridge this gap.

Question from Sec. Vences-Balvas: When will the K-12 teachers be able to see the opportunity to get their master's degrees as Covid 19 caused delays in academics for many of our students and we're seeing this in remedial courses at CSN.

Legislature is starting in Feb; June of next year they would allocate the funding and the need is in the two largest counties. They would see how to identify the teachers. Concessions on funding would be needed. Niche and at-risk schools where dual enrollment is trying to be expanded. This probably won't be at every school, but it would a select few teachers at a select few schools. They are looking at a possible 2027 completion with 18 credits and be certified for dual enrollment instructors.

Question from Chair Osorio-Hernandez, where does Regent Brown see collaboration and sees where the verticals can occur?

Regent Brown advised that our system and state does not have data driven approach. Lightcast is going to be used as a part of workforce gap analysis due to their databases availability. All presidents of the institutions are part of the economic boards. The goal is to have a local workforce to be a part of these jobs. Students need to get into long term good paid careers with the promise of stability with one job. A more strategic approach is needed to see what is needed by the workforce to setup students up for success. A data set is needed to gather further information for course catalog updates.

5. DISCUSSION WITH THE CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION ONLY

NSA members will meet with Chancellor Patricia Charlton. They will discuss aspirations and concerns for the higher education system.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Pulling agenda item as Chancellor is currently out travelling.

6. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) PRESENTATION

INFORMATION ONLY

NSHE SNAP E&T Senior Coordinator Camille Vegas will present information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) as NSA members contemplate student food insecurities across the System. The presentation will include, but not be limited to, a program overview; how SNAP works with college campuses; how SNAP benefits students with food insecurities; and answer questions from the NSA members. NSA Chair may facilitate a discussion regarding advocacy for addressing food insecurities experienced by students in higher education. (*Ref. NSA – 6*)

Estimated Time: 20 Minutes

Per Chair Osorio mentioned that Food insecurity conversations began early in the term. Chair Osorio-Hernandez introduced Camille Vegas.

Camille Sun Vega introduced herself and she is the NSHE SNAP and Training program. SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Targeted to low income and one can only be eligible for 3 months and need to be in either education or work.

The amount is supplemental, it does not cover all food expenses and for one person based on the income it can be from \$19 up to \$291. This would depend on income and family size.

There are benefits to be a part of the program such as discounted memberships through Amazon and Walmart+ as well as access to Museums and even internet and utility assistance programs.

Individual would need to be working for 20hrs or need to be a part of a type of training program. DWSS is partnering up with NSHE institutions to provide the educational training.

Once a student becomes a SNAP E&T recipient, they can be a part of the program until they graduate. Free child-care is available if student is part of SNAP E&T and have access to this up to one year after graduation.

Schools can ask for reimbursement through DWSS and time that is used for a SNAP student.

USDA link shared via the chat: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

State Division of Welfare and Supportive Services link was shared via chat:

<https://dwss.nv.gov/SNAP/Food/>

Food and Nutrition Service Link for SNAP Employment and Training Program link was shared in the chat: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap-et>

UNR educational link on how to access SNAP, data on SNAP, and how SNAP is utilized shared in the chat: <https://extension.unr.edu/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program/>

There is a misconception of SNAP E&T but benefits are available to students.

UNLV campus currently accepts SNAP benefits on campus. This is a process, but food vendor contract would be going to a contract with USDA and allow SNAP benefits.

Vending Machines with prepackaged sandwiches and allow vending machines that are SNAP Card acceptable.

All schools now have a contract with SNAP E&T except NSU.

Camille Sun Vega contact details shared in the chat:

Camille Sun Vega

SNAP E&T Senior Coordinator

Nevada System of Higher Education

P: 775-784-3494

E: cvega@nshe.nevada.edu

Tania Akter asked if international students have access to SNAP E&T benefits?

Camille Sun Vega advised that she will be asking about international students due to their work schedule and school schedules.

Tania Akter asked that there are families struggling to make ends meet and unable to acclimate to the change.

Camille advised that to be eligible the student must be a part of the special groups. She will make sure to ask DWSS on eligibility.

Teresa Marie asked about GSA students due to their hour restrictions and how their contracts are setup based on a 9-month period. A grad students can't apply due to making over the amount, but they can't qualify because of their contract period.

Camille advised that during the 3-month gap grad students would be able to apply. Colleges can remain on the benefits and being part of an E&T program until they graduate.

7. DISCUSSION ON CAMPUS AND SYSTEMWIDE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

INFORMATION ONLY

NSA Chair will facilitate a discussion with NSA Members regarding the importance and role of civic engagement. Discussion may include, but not be limited to, the general importance of civic engagement in higher education; ideas of campus civic engagement initiatives in the context of the 2024 General Election; and sharing of best practices. The NSA members may provide suggestions of NSA or systemwide initiatives of civic engagement.

Estimated Time: 20 Minutes

Chair Osorio-Hernandez advised that he wanted to bring this item to the board to see about building a cohesive idea on how we are all doing civic engagement at our respective campuses.

Allister Dias advised that at UNLV is working with their DEI office and doing 'Democracy and Donuts' and are going to invite representatives and talk to students. A townhall is also being worked on with tabling and cultural RSO's (clubs) where interactive items are being showcased.

Teresa Marie with GPSA is working on a graduate student survey on food and financial insecurity. IRB approved survey and a hopeful publication will be worked on to bring awareness. Civil Learning Democratic Committee are trying to see if they can work with bringing tabling at sporting events for voter registration. A discounted day for graduate and professional days to get discounted rates at dining commons while providing tabling and opportunities for graduate and professional institutions to become aware.

Tania Akter said that last semester they established a fundraising committee where they are working with departments on campus and their main goals is to host townhall events. This is part of their by-laws now and that it needs to take place in the Fall Semester. Unity and diversity event by fundraising and community access.

Dawson Deal mentioned that professional faculty work on civic engagement year-round including voter registration. Government affairs representative on campus is working on an entire week of events including one in the fall and spring semesters. The fall semester one will be scheduled around national voter registration day/week and similar events such as 'Coffee with the Candidate', 'Doughnut forget to Vote' and students can partake in. Local candidates to come on campus to get a platform to speak to students is something is being worked on. Not campaigning or debating but it would be a discussion

with students to see about their needs and to learn what local and state governments are working on. Mail-in ballot issues with students who live on campus is being worked on. Chair Osorio-Hernandez mentioned that within the Sec. of State's office is being worked on is that of ensuring civic engagement and having a voter registration day. Registering themselves as a voter-friendly institution and it would ensure that students and staff are able to vote on campus. NSU already does the suggestions by the national organization and only a few items are not completed such as considering a way of 'free day' for having classes off for them to vote. Concerns are present that there are some crediting concerns for the institution to receive crediting for classes. Post election planning is being worked on as well ensuring that students have a place to vent and express their concerns post-election in case their candidates don't or do win. Chat comment regarding donuts by Teresa Marie: For people who might have celiac or digestive issues (donuts can be hard) could we do like "Berry important you vote" Tania Akter advised that if a budget needs to be considered for any projects. Chair Osorio-Hernandez mentioned that NSSA has funding set aside for civic engagement.

8. MEMBER UPDATES

INFORMATION ONLY

Members may provide an update regarding their respective campuses' planned activities and events.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Dawson Deal advises that a good sell with county and state is that students can take time off to work at the polls. UNR is working on their welcome back week with departments and events programming. Nevadafit for discussion of university experience will be worked on with new students. A program for revitalizing of the pack friendly such as businesses that are willing to provide discounts for students. A sense of community is built by providing a list of businesses where discounts are available. A year-long educational campaign on how budgets are formulated and how funding comes to be such as credit hours as well as how the funding is dispersed. Meeting transparency is also a priority for UNRs senate year. 150 years at UNR is going to be worked in October and ASUN is working on renaming a conference room.

Tania Akter advised that they're working on grad students' orientation and are working on their retreat date.

Catalina Wilson is working on reach for the stars gala this weekend which is targeting scholarship funding.

Chair Osorio-Hernandez mentioned that NSSA is working on their retreat on Monday 12-Aug and its titled 'The Power of Student Leadership'. They will be working on how to speak to different perspectives and voices as the election is getting closer. The reassessment of mindset to improve inclusivity is also being worked on during the retreat. Monthly service projects will be worked on and in this month the unhoused population will be targeted to ensure they are fed.

Lisha Allison advised that custom planners will be disbursed to students and that senate team is going through training this incoming week.

Teresa Marie is working on Rebel Ready Week is planned and UNLV grad college picked a day for all students to participate. Lied Library is hosting a concert series and going to feed students. Active assailant training is also planned for Grad Students.

Janeth Vences-Balvas advised that CSN was granted a grant for civic engagement and on Sept 17th a push for voter registration is going to occur at all 3 campuses. Welcome back events at all 3 campuses are scheduled within the first two weeks of classes and club rush is being scheduled within the week of the BOR meetings. By-laws are being worked on and will be presented to legal counsel within the next month to ensure approval.

9. NSA CHAIR UPDATE

INFORMATION ONLY

NSA Chair may provide an update on any projects or tasks he is currently working on that pertain to NSA business.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

Chair Osorio-Hernandez advised that the discussion with the chairs during July meeting was concluded that the individuals for the power-based violence committee should come from the undergraduate program and that the respective universities will be selecting someone and be prompted in the next meeting to discuss.

10. 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.*).

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

No New Business

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

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No Public Comment

Posted at the following locations:

CSN, Building D, 1st 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), 1st and 7th 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 Pursuant to NRS 232.2175 - <https://notice.nv.gov/>

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

Adjournment at 10:40AM

SNAP E&T at NSHE

- SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Formerly called Food Stamps.
- For 1 person the amount is between \$19 and \$291 a month. Opens the door for many other benefits including:
 - Discounted membership for Amazon and Walmart+
 - Museums 4 All (<https://museums4all.org/>)
 - Internet and utility assistance programs
- ABAWD are able to receive 3 months of emergency assistance but in order to continue must be working or participating in a work activity.
 - Work at least 20 hrs a week
 - Participate in SNAPET
- SNAP E&T fulfills the work requirement.
 - State DWSS partners with colleges to provide education and training.
 - DWSS reimburses colleges for funds used to support the student while in school.
 - Students can remain on SNAP through their entire school career.
 - Resources available for childcare
- Colleges go into contract with DWSS
 - Matches all non-federal funds used to support a student. Primarily from:
 - Staff time: coordinator, advisors, counselors, mentors
 - Scholarships
 - Once reimbursed to school, it is unrestricted and can be used to further support the program

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

<https://dwss.nv.gov/SNAP/Food/>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap-et>

<https://extension.unr.edu/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program/>