

Meeting Minutes



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

AGENDA

DECEMBER 4, 2024

7:00 a.m.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Room 213
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas

MEMBERS:

P Kevin Osorio Hernández, Nevada State University, NSSA (Chair)
P Dawson Deal, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (Vice Chair)
T 7:10 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
A Miguel Sison, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUNSOM
A-Excused Allison VanHolder, Great Basin College, SGA
P Catalina Wilson, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

Heather Rikalo- WNC
Lynda King – NSHE
Terina Caserto – NSHE
Ashley Salisbury – NSHE
Lahaina Estomin – ASWN
Elizabeth Walsh – UNR-GSA
Liesel Kimmelmeier – UNR
Gabriella Detrick – ASUN
Sheley Bravo-Bezod – ASCSN
Alejandro Rodriguez -NSHE

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. 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.

Call to Order: 7:01 a.m.

Chair expresses his gratitude for all members.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Quorum present with seven members and eighth member arrives at 7:10 a.m.

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 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. Members of the public may attend the meeting and provide public comment.

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.

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

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on November 8, 2024.

1st: Teresa Maria

2nd: Lisha Allison

No discussion

Unanimous Approval

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

4. UPDATE ON PROPOSED**INFORMATION ONLY*****NSHE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES MANUAL PROVISION FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES***

The NSA will discuss an update on the proposed *NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual* provision for student government guidelines that was presented at the November 8, 2024, NSA meeting. The proposal explains the relationship between student government associations and the administration of the System, as well as the relationship between student government positions and their respective institutions. NSA members may discuss and provide feedback to the draft proposal. (*Ref. NSA-4*)

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

NSHE Senior Associate General Council Lynda King provided an update that System Administration working group is still analyzing the feedback that was provided at the latest constituent meeting. Currently, analysis leads to the hybrid method that may be used currently for financing student government roles may have to change. Final legal opinion has not yet been reached. Any questions to contact Lynda King or NSHE Deputy General Council Carrie Parker.

Chair Hernandez opened the floor for questions.

Akter: what is the timeline especially for the upcoming year of student elections?

King: not before spring but will not impact this year.

Dawson: Please explain the legal conflict that they hybrid model impacts.

King: not here to provide a legal opinion today, but can give a preview. When a role is treated as an employment position, then there is a conflict in paying the role through a scholarship. Once it is deemed employment, it cannot then be used as a volunteer or different status. This is federal law. There are state laws that mirror that, but the concern is the overarching federal law.

T. Marie – can we get the state law citation for that. If it is a volunteer position – what about that as an option? What other alternatives are available?

King: Carrie Parker is conducting a legal analysis currently.

Vences-Balvas arrives at 7:10 a.m.

Wilson – At WNC, 40% of their population is dual enrollment, so that would eliminate almost half of their student body that would not be able to run if it went scholarship route.

T. Caserto, NSHE Director of Policy – provides the composition of the Working Group

Marie – concerned about how the deadlines for running for office will be impacted.

King – the working group is taking that into consideration

Caserto – Yes, we understand the election cycle and take that into consideration.

**5. NSA RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS STANDING COMMITTEE
ON INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS (IDEA)**

NSA Chair will facilitate a discussion on a proposed NSA Resolution supporting the continuation of the NSHE Board of Regents' Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee. The proposed resolution was first presented at the November 8, 2024, NSA meeting. NSA members may discuss and provide feedback to the proposal. The proposed resolution may be approved at this meeting or returned at a subsequent meeting for formal action by the NSA. (*Ref. NSA – 5*)

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Chair requested a collaborative reading of the Resolution. Resolution was read by all NSA members.

Chair opened floor for any amendments.

Chair suggests amendment to title to include, “ and the advancement of diversity in the System”

Vences-Balvas: motion to approve with the amendments to the title

Deal: seconds the motion

Discussion: none

Roll call vote: unanimous approval

6. NSA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES INFORMATION ONLY

NSA Chair will facilitate a discussion to identify the priorities of NSA and how NSA may want to engage for the upcoming 83rd (2025) *Session of the Nevada Legislature*. NSA members may provide feedback or suggestions.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Chair would like to set a framework of goals worth advocating for. Drafted some legislative pillars and will take other priorities:

- Affordability and accessibility
- Diversity equity and inclusion
- Workforce Development and career readiness
- Campus safety and well being

Chair then takes observation and comments:

- Deal: please reiterate the four focuses
- Chair – reiterates the four focuses
- Marie – expresses concern with the reading of the DEI resolution but there is a disconnect of what is trying to do with the financial compensation with the student governments. There is a disconnect that it is happening.
- Chair– yes that may be something we should have a conversation on.
- Deal – discusses the top focus of affordability and accessibility

Chair discusses NSA engagement and stakeholder collaboration

- How to show up during the session and have consistent communication with the legislatures, regents, elected officials to update with individual institutional priorities and for the state.
- Advocacy events- i.e. NSA day at the legislature, and testimony and NSA presentation to the legislature

- Legislative monitoring and responses to that. NELIS database and public awareness campaign and use social media to raise awareness and then letter writing.

Chair opens the floor for additional discussion:

Deal– will this be a future discussion item or ongoing?

Chair – yes

Vences- Balvas – do we have a date for a day at the legislature? For travel planning.

Marie– UNLV student gov pre will be traveling up there in February. Discusses some of the limitations of scheduling with the legislature.

7. MEMBER UPDATES

INFORMATION ONLY

Members may provide information on the goals of their respective student governments and updates regarding their respective campuses' planned activities and events.

Members Wilson, Marie, Akter, Allison, Vences-Balvas, Dias, and Osorio-Hernández share updates from their respective campuses planned activities and events.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

8. NSA CHAIR UPDATE AND REPORT

INFORMATION ONLY

The NSA Chair will provide an update on his work with the NSA and information regarding the contents of the Chair's Report that may be delivered to the Board of Regents at their December 4-5, 2024, meeting.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

The Chair states he will report on the voter participation among students for the election, the passage of the IDEA resolution and mention other members updates. Any additional information a member would like for him to include in the Chair's report to the Board, send to him by 11:00 am. today.

9. 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.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT**INFORMATION ONLY**

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Estimated Time: 5 minutes

Teresa Marie - Friday is the one year anniversary of the shooting at UNLV. Mountain west conference championship, too. Hope that everyone supports UNLV in beating Boise (state).

Adjourn: 7:46 a.m.

Posted in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241), 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 - <https://notice.nv.gov>

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



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF THE INCLUSION, DIVERSITY,
EQUITY, AND ACCESS (IDEA) COMMITTEE**

DATE HERE

WHEREAS, the Nevada Student Alliance (NSA) recognizes that fostering a culture of inclusivity, where every student experiences a sense of belonging and has the opportunity to achieve excellence, is essential to the mission of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE);

WHEREAS, Nevada’s higher education institutions—including universities, community colleges, and specialized research institutions—are dedicated to fostering access, equity, and academic excellence statewide. With designations as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI), they serve diverse urban, suburban, and rural communities, ensuring inclusive educational opportunities for students from all backgrounds;

WHEREAS, NSHE proudly represents one of the most diverse and inclusive higher education systems in the nation, with this diversity reflected in the student bodies across all NSHE institutions, enriching the academic and cultural landscape statewide;

WHEREAS, the IDEA Committee contributes to the strategic planning and direction of diversity efforts across NSHE by recommending best practices, identifying barriers, reviewing diversity strategies, and supporting efforts that further IDEA principles;

WHEREAS, the IDEA Committee’s efforts help cultivate a culture where every member of the NSHE community feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and talents, which in turn promotes a thriving academic environment where diversity, belonging, and excellence are celebrated;

WHEREAS, the NSA affirms that the IDEA Committee’s work protects the dignity and belonging of individuals from varied racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, including but not limited to Black, Latino, Asian, LGBTQIA+, Jewish, Muslim, women, unhoused, and persons with disabilities, ensuring that everyone feels valued and supported within NSHE;

WHEREAS, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices are vital to building a culture where all students feel empowered and valued by providing essential resources and programming;

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents established the IDEA Council to review, evaluate, and, as needed, formulate additional proposed NSHE inclusion, diversity, equity and access goals, policies, and practices, and provide statewide leadership in best practices.;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Student Alliance calls for the protection and reinforcement of the IDEA Committee, DEI offices, and IDEA Council within NSHE, emphasizing the following actions to celebrate culture, belonging, and excellence:

1. **Protection of the IDEA Committee:** We urge NSHE and the Board of Regents to protect the IDEA Committee from sunseting, ensuring its continued role in advancing IDEA principles and celebrating the diversity of Nevada's students and institutions.
2. **Sustained Funding and Support:** Prioritize increased funding for DEI offices to provide essential resources that advance IDEA principles and foster a diverse, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment.
3. **Commitment to Inclusive Belonging:** Strengthen initiatives that promote a sense of belonging for all students and demonstrate a dedication to equity, urging the Board of Regents to engage in anti-bias training and workshops to deepen their understanding of the essential role DEI plays in higher education.
4. **Strategic Utilization of IDEA Expertise:** Leverage the expertise of the IDEA Council to inform and support policies and practices that foster an inclusive and equitable NSHE environment, benefiting all students, faculty, and staff, by including the IDEA Council in decision making processes and actively consulting and empowering the IDEA Council to vet NSHE proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NSA remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the IDEA Committee's work, ensuring that NSHE continues to be a place where culture, belonging, and excellence are celebrated, and all individuals feel empowered to thrive.