



MEETING MINUTES

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

AGENDA

MARCH 6, 2025

7:30 a.m.

Nevada State University
Christenson Education Building, Room 251
1300 Nevada State Drive, Henderson

Call to Order: 7:33a.m.

MEMBERS:

Present Kevin Osorio Hernández, Nevada State University, NSSA (Chair)
Present Dawson Deal, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (Vice Chair)
Present Janeth Vences-Balvas, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN (Secretary)
Present Tania Akter, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Present Lisha Allison, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA
Present Allister Dias, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Present Teresa Marie, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
Absent- Excused Miguel Sison, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUNSOM
Present Jennifer Rodriguez Serrano, Great Basin College, SGA
Present Catalina Wilson, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

Shay Bravo-Bezard
Ashley Salisbury - NSHE
Terina Caserto - NSHE
James Kendall
Heather Rikalo
Laisha Ortiz
Jane Neitz-Singleton
Lynda King – NSHE
Elizabeth Walsh
Kennedy Taylor
Liesel Kemmelmeier
Destanee Cachucha
Wendy Soloio
Becca Franssen

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.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Roll call taken, quorum established.

NSA Chair welcomes newest NSA member Jennifer Rodriguez Serrano

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.

Janeth Vences-Balvas – Headlines are that there is a possible Executive Order to dismantle the Dept of Education. While it is more than we can handle, it is imperative we create a statement for NSHE Board and then follow up to send it to our Congress representatives. It is imperative that they know that as a State, we are not ready for the dismantling of the Department of Education that will affect all graduates, undergraduate students and even K to 12. Thank you.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

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

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on February 14, 2025.

Motion to approve: Deal

Second: Dias

Discussion or edits? None

Vote: Unanimously approved

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

**4. NSA RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF
NEVADA STUDENT GOVERNMENTS****FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

NSA member Allister Dias will lead a discussion and review of the proposed NSA resolution supporting the financial independence and autonomy of the student governments at NSHE institutions. The proposed resolution was first presented at the February 14, 2025, 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 – 4)

Dias – reviews the resolution. The purpose is to allow student governments to have a separate agenda item on the Board of Regents agenda for separate consideration for student fees or student government initiatives. This stems from CSUN and how their fees were packaged with UNLV's agenda item but got caught up and unfairly tied down with UNLV challenges. Allows student governments to be allowed to be considered separately or have a separate agenda item so decisions can be made without consideration with the actions of the administration of their institution.

Marie – in support and it makes a difference to navigating it with the Board that the students' fees are separate like in the case of UNLV.

Deal – clarify what we are asking the Regents to do and if they choose to implement how will they do that. Will it be in policy?

Dias – we want it a policy to consider them separately.

Vences-Balvas – where it would go in the Handbook?

Caserto – explains that this would not fall within the Handbook as the Handbook does not incorporate the details of what goes into the agenda other than for the BOR to follow Nevada Open Meeting Laws.

King – would not go into the Handbook or P&G.

Dias – then the institutions would be directing the agenda item process.

King – correct, should it be adopted by the Board, it would be up to the institution to submit.

L. Allison – can the student government do that?

Dias – we reached out to the administration to have that done.

Dias conducts a quick reading of the resolution.

Chair opens for questions. No questions.

Motion: Marie

Second: Wilson

Discussion: none

Roll call vote: passes unanimously

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

5. 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.

Chair Osorio-Hernandez – Welcomes the members to the NSU campus. Discusses the philanthropic duties that the NSSA works with. Mentioned legislation that NSSA has working on with NSSA and community service projects.

T. Marie – discusses their day at the legislature and the support of the legislature approving the budget funding. Then discussed the research events coming up on campus and the graduate appreciation night that is being planned. Mentioned their change of leadership on campus.

Dias – expanded the preschool on campus and raised money to help children across the community. CSUN participated in a day at the Nevada legislature and advocated for certain bills. Because of the success of the CSUN fee they have expanded how to help students by an additional 10% to student orgs and scholarships for students. CSUN took a strong stance on support for DEI. Mentioned the administration shift at their institution in the last 48 hours.

Wilson – ASWN had welcome back week with events at the beginning of the semester. through March helping children out in the community. Currently recruiting officers and senators for their election cycle. Discussed events for March they are involved in. Will have day at the legislature with GBC later in March. Outlined other events through March, April, and May wrap up.

Akter – GSA does a legislative update every Friday and are advocating for food insecurity. She went to meet with assembly members about graduate student stipends and food insecurity. GSA is working on initiatives to help graduating grad students and the career center and professional development. GSA has raised money for spring awards.

Osorio Hernandez speaks of AB345 bill on food insecurity

L. Allison – discusses February SGA events on the campus. Working on allowing homeless students to sleep in their cars on the campus parking lot. Also working on safety awareness on campus. Mentioned a new sorority and a medical honor society they are considering implementing. They are currently in a presidential search for TMCC. Also navigating the political change on their campus and how students are feeling.

Rodriguez – the president position was vacant for about three months before her election. Will be with NSA for the year. May be updating their constitution. Looking at the student government budget. Wants to determine how to help rural students. She would like her student government to also be on institutional committees.

Deal – discusses the Pack Gradschool fund for covering the application fees for undergrads to pursue graduate school. Discusses events that are being hosted this semester. Community engagement with the Washoe County school district. Update on legislative priorities – continues to monitor AB63, AB184, AB269, AB285, SB40, SB28 affordable housing. Day at the legislature in April.

Vences-Balvas – ASCSN held welcome back events at the beginning of the term. Attended ACCT conference in D.C.. Athletic fee passed in December 2024 goes into full effect to expand recreational spaces. Working on Know your Rights but current administration is not pursuing this program for various reasons. Day at the legislature this month and taking buses there. Letters for faculty senate working on bargaining contracts in support of that. Presidential search committee continues.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

6. 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 March 6-7, 2025, meeting.

Chair acknowledges the significance of the space of the conversations that they have had. Grateful for their dedication and leadership. Will be presenting AB345 at the legislature next week.

Close today by the way he started – reaffirming the commitment to a culture of excellence, a strong commitment to diversity and celebrating that culture of belonging and excellence.

Reads a poem that connects with the moment they are living in with celebration by Lucille Clifton, *Won't You Celebrate with Me*.

Today, as part of his update to the Board he wants to celebrate the work done together from writing letters encouraging civic engagement during the election; urging the Board to protect and advance diversity and the IDEA committee; and for the consideration of student fees. So

celebrate with him that our leadership has been phenomenal across the state, celebrate that despite an uncertain future there remains joy and meaningfulness in the work that have been able to accomplish. Afterall, celebration is, indeed, an act of resistance.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

7. 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.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

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T. Marie – heard about students living in cars on campus. As alumni they are thinking of it. Waldon on Wheels book. Explains her student debt of over \$250,000. Think about how to protect younger students who are living in vehicles and not letting institutions use that to increase cost of parking. As we move forward an think of ways to protect students and avoiding the burden of student loans, that is something we should keep in the back of our minds.

Adjourn at 8:21 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,

NV89154-1001

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 FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY
OF STUDENT GOVERNMENTS OF THE NSHE**

February 14, 2025

WHEREAS, the Nevada Student Alliance (NSA) recognizes that student governments serve as the primary representatives of the student body, actively advocating for student interests, funding student-led initiatives, and fostering an environment of growth and development on their respective campuses;

WHEREAS, the autonomy of student governments is crucial to ensure that student leaders can effectively address the needs of their constituents without undue institutional influence or consequence of association;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of consideration of student government fees within general institutional fees risks limiting the scope of student governments' ability to rightfully manage their own budgets and/or request expansions to their budget to address student needs;

WHEREAS, separating the consideration of student government fees from those of the general institution enhances transparency for accountability, enables oversight into more directive change, and independent revisions of budgetary adjustments;

WHEREAS, many student governments across the nation operate with institutional and financial independence, ensuring that consideration for their respective initiatives remain at the forefront of the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, NRS 396.547 provides for contingent independence. Separate consideration for student-led initiatives/fund requests at the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents meetings, apart from those proposed by the institution, provides detached deliberation and thought for student needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Student Alliance calls for the implementation of policies and safeguards to ensure that the consideration of student government fees remain separate and distinct from the consideration of institutional fees, protecting financial independence and reinforcing the autonomy of student governments.

1. **Independent Decision-Making:** We urge NSHE and the Board of Regents to provide separate and independent decision making concerning student government initiatives, irrespective of the requests of their parent institutions.
2. **Priority to Student-Led Initiatives:** We urge NSHE and the Board of Regents to consider prioritizing funding efforts supported by students, especially those regarding the future of student government, its advocacy, ability to operate, and the further well-being and welfare of their constituents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nevada Student Alliance remains committed to ensure that student governments enjoy the operating level of autonomy required to serve the needs of their respective constituencies, while fostering an environment and growth and prosperity for all.