



Meeting Minutes — Approved

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

AGENDA

December 5, 2025

8:00 a.m.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Room 208A
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV**

MEMBERS:

Present Jennifer Rodriguez Serrano, Great Basin College, SGA
(Chair)
Present Lahana Pearce, Nevada State University, NSSA
(Vice Chair)
Present Brianna Malasaga, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (Secretary)
Present Carmina Aglubat, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN
Present/Tardy | Entered at 8:10 a.m. Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA
Absent — Excused Devan Corpuz, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUNSOM
Present Sovereign Hone, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN
Present Devin Lopez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
Present Kelechi Odunze, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Present Karla Salas, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

GUESTS:

Ashley Salisbury, NSHE
Alejandro Rodriguez, NSHE
Bryon Brooks, NSHE
Jimmy Martinez, NSHE
Christopher Palach, WNC
Jacob Haire, WNC
Mariana Alonzo, WNC
Alessandra Sandoval, WNC
Violeta Enriquez, WNC
Heather Kikalo, WNC
Princessa Tolano, UNLV
Parker Tobin, TMCC

Gianna Ruiz, TMCC
Ayden Kruger-Crowe, TMCC
Lissette Hernandez, TMCC
Isabelle Hatch, UNR
Calvin Cowan, GBC
James Kendall, GBC
Jessica Ortiz, GBC

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 Ashley Salisbury in the NSHE Office of Academic and Student Affairs at (775) 784-3444, or emailing her at asalisbury@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) 784-3444 so that arrangements may be made.

Call to Order: 8:00 a.m.

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 with 8 members present.

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.

Pursuant to NRS 241.023, members of the public may also participate in the meeting by submitting written public comment messages via email to asalisbury@nshe.nevada.edu. Written statements received by 4:30 p.m. on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025, will be distributed to NSA members and included in the permanent meeting record and names of those who provide public comment via email will be announced at the meeting, however messages will no longer be read into the record. 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.

Cowan thanks the NSA for their time and work dedicated to serving the student body.

3. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICERS AND CHANCELLOR

INFORMATION ONLY

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

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano welcomes Chair Brooks and Chief General Counsel Martinez.

Chief General Counsel and Chair Brooks introduce themselves to the NSA.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks which processes are available to address accessibility barriers at the system level.

Chief General Counsel Martinez states that student ADA compliance is handled at individual institutions through their respective Disability Resource Centers, which each institution's president manages. There is nothing at the system office in terms of institutional compliance. The system office only has a hotline for complaints, which is a complaint-driven process. Since the system office itself doesn't have students, there is no Disability Resource Center at the system office, as it is handled by each institution handles it.

Aglubat asks whether Board of Regents agenda items 25 and 26 are being treated as informational only.

Chair Brooks states that item 23 and the subsequent agenda items will be included in the January special meeting agenda.

Odunze asks why the system recommends the tuition fee increases be so high.

Chair Brooks states that it arose from the budget design and from each institution's contributions of state and student-supported funding. It's difficult for the board to ask for change and make financial decisions based on reporting, where there could be additional information, to understand where the system is coming from in terms of numbers. The percentages were calculated from each institution's current income and required income.

Chief General Counsel Martinez explains that the chief financial officers at every institution meets with NSHE's chief financial officer to resolve issues. Initially, the increases weren't funded at 100%, which ultimately created a hole in the budget. Moving forward, NSHE

must fill that gap and request additional funding from the legislature. The chief financial officers will also consider where NSHE falls in terms of affordability compared to the rest of the country. It's the balance of NSHE staying sustainable while also staying affordable.

Odunze states that although education is affordable in Nevada, living costs are not. This is where many students are coming from regarding their concerns.

Chief General Counsel Martinez states that some aspects of affordability aren't always in NSHE's control.

Chair Brooks adds that while Nevada remains among the lowest in the nation in higher education costs, it also ranks low in state education funding. Chair Brooks hopes for additional conversations to secure more state funding for Nevada and that NSHE must work to distribute funds more effectively.

Hone asks if, after funds are balanced and the budget hole is filled, percentages will remain stable without significant increases.

Chair Brooks states that these conversations have not yet occurred, and that the cost of higher education may naturally continue to rise over time despite there being a fee increase now. Chair Brooks has not been part of any other conversations regarding this matter.

Chief General Counsel Martinez adds that NSHE has a predictable pricing model with a policy that sets predictable pricing out. In the case of certain circumstances or an emergency, fee increases will occur, which is the case currently. There is no way to tell for certain what is going to occur within the next budget process, but this will be discussed publicly.

Hone asks if there are certain reserves that funds could be pulled from to add to the budget.

Chair Brooks replies that he is unaware of institution-specific reserves to help supplement costs specifically when it comes to student fees.

Secretary Malasaga asks how Board of Regents agenda items 23 and the subsequent items 25 and 26 are related.

Chair Brooks states that one agenda item relates to another. Certain chairs shared concerns about what this would look like for students, and all the fees fall under the same umbrella. Whenever fees are raised, they must be tied to one another.

Vice Chair Pearce asks how NSHE will track and report the progress from these fee increases back to students.

Chair Brooks asks Vice Chair Pearce to clarify what is meant by progress.

Vice Chair Pearce clarifies that progress refers to future actions regarding the fee increases and how they compare to past years.

Chair Brooks states that every conversation that the Board of Regents has regarding fees is during a public meeting. One way to track things could be through future agenda items relating to fees or student costs. Chair Brooks states that students would be aware of a fee increase because it would be a public agenda item voted on.

Chief General Counsel Martinez adds that if the fee increases are being used to address problems over time, they will show in the next budget process.

Vice Chair Pearce asks if reporting these metrics is institution-specific or if NSHE itself would aid in the reporting process.

Chair Brooks states that this would be up to each institution. There is an institutional policy that may differ from NSHE's approach to how operations are run on each campus. NSHE has an overall policy, but it is not a one-size-fits-all policy. NSHE could certainly remind each institution's president to send announcements out.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks how NSHE is preparing for the next legislative session.

Chair Brooks states that there is ongoing relationship-building with the legislature. NSHE is providing requested information, which is part of building a significant relationship. Chair Brooks refers to NSHE's Director of Government Relations, Rodriguez.

Director Rodriguez states that NSHE actively communicates with the legislature after every meeting. There will be meetings from the joint interim standing committee on education, which consists of the senate and assembly. These meetings will begin in January and will continue for the rest of the year. NSHE will present reports on food insecurity, financial insecurity, and other topics of interest for students.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks how regular students could keep track of ongoing updates to the legislative session.

Director Rodriguez states that each institution has a designated government affairs liaison. NSHE meets regularly as a system with these liaisons to ensure students are aware of updates at each institution.

Lopez asks for specifics of who within the legislature is opposed to increasing the state budget unless students are economically hit first.

Chair Brooks states that he is unaware of the individuals.

Lopez states that within UNLV's GPSA, vague language about the legislature suggests that fee increases are being pushed by the NSHE administration. Lopez adds that more information about specific legislatures would be greatly appreciated.

Chair Brooks agrees and understands the sentiment based on the lack of information. However, this matter is not administratively driven or board driven. Regents spend significant time working to reduce costs for students. It would be beneficial if part of the legislature took ownership of these statements, but not all members may want to.

Chief General Counsel Martinez adds that it is important to avoid over-simplifying the process. The budget-building process is a very complex process.

Lopez clarifies that, over the past two decades, there has been a consistent and frequent decline of the proportion of the state budget dedicated to higher education, which is his main concern.

Chief General Counsel Martinez states that NSHE is at the point where they must seek alternative solutions, an ongoing state-wide issue.

Aglubat yields to UNR ASUN's Director of Government Affairs.

Hatch states that the sentiment over funding and increased tuition was built into the end of the bill that funded COLA increases. In addition, state decline in higher education funding has occurred nationwide since 2008. This is occurring throughout the United States and isn't necessarily specific to Nevada, though it may seem as though it is occurring more frequently in Nevada.

Odunze adds that students aren't fully aware of the real impact of fee increases on each institution. Odunze suggests that a potential item for the January meeting could be each institution presenting on how these fees will affect students if they increase or remain unchanged.

Chair Brooks asks Odunze whether, from his perspective, students view these student fee increases as tied to COLAs.

Odunze agrees and states that the primary perspective is so ensure Nevada can continue paying its staff at an appropriate level.

Chair Brooks states that, during the Board of Regents meeting, agenda item 23 will be set up as an information-only item so Regents can ask questions. Chair Brooks asks if the NSA has any questions regarding the student fee increases or any matter related to funding.

Odunze states that he would like to hear which programs at UNLV would be cut if the fee increases are not approved, alongside how many professional staff would likely be fired. Odunze would like to know the widespread impact of not increasing fees at each institution.

Chair Brooks states that each institution may need time to prepare for discussions of fees remaining unchanged. Chair Brooks states that he can put in a request that each institution provide a detailed report of the impacts of not increasing fees to their institution in January. Chair Brooks states that he can also ask the chief financial officer about the relationship between the student fee increases and COLAs.

Hone states that, after hosting forums on fee increases at CSN, the primary concern among students is security. Specifically, many students feel as though they are asked to fix something they didn't break. That said, Hone understands the concept of checks and balances alongside the need for these fee increases. Hone asks how, in the future, this will

not be the case for students, because the budget hole being the size that it is isn't solely because of inflation.

Chair Brooks clarifies that Hone's question pertains to how registration fees will be used to benefit safety and security on a campus.

Hone clarifies that security refers to financial security, clarifying that her question referred to any measures being put in place to avoid the misappropriation of funds so students don't have to pay the deficit.

Chair Brooks asks Hone to clarify the misappropriation of funds.

Hone clarifies that misappropriation refers to what happened when the money was allocated the first time, and how the money was spent on raises, with the assumption that we were still going to be funded. Hone states that she is trying to figure out if this was a natural occurrence. Hone asks that, if all of this were to be fixed, if any system is being put in place to ensure there is not a deficit of this size to anything other than inflation.

Chair Brooks explains that the Board engaging in conversations regarding fee increases has been a great process to generate opportunities for better reporting and improved processes so that institutions are reporting in a better manner to the system office. One of the positive things about the current process is how institutions are providing financial reports to the system office.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano thanks Chair Brooks and Chief General Counsel Martinez for their time.

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.*).

Aglubat recommends an agenda item to discuss items for the Board of Regents' special meeting in January.

Vice Chair Pearce recommends an agenda item to present the opinions of each institution's governing body on the tuition fee increase.

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Tobin shares that TMCC's student government has met with necessary leadership regarding the fee increases and encourages the NSA members to meet with their chief financial officers and leadership at this school regarding the fee increases before discussing it further.

Adjourn at 8:42 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/>