



Meeting Minutes – Pending Approval

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

AGENDA

September 11, 2025

8:00 a.m.

Great Basin College

Dorothy S. Gallagher Health Sciences Bldg. (HSCI) Room 108
1500 College Parkway
Elko, NV 89801

MEMBERS:

Present Jennifer Rodriguez Serrano, Great Basin College, SGA
(Chair)

Absent – Excused 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 Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA

Absent – Excused Devan Glensor, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUNSOM

Present/Tardy: Entered at 8:06 a.m. 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:

Calvin Cowan, GBC

Shalyn Vasquez, WNC

Heather Rivero, WNC

Becca Franssen, TMCC

Parker Tobin, TMCC

Isabelle Hatch, UNR

Mikhaelle Pablico, CSN

Alejandro Rodriguez, NSHE

Hanine Haidar, UNR

Ethan McNamara, UNR

Naomi Tecson, UNR

Chris Viton, NSHE
Carrie Parker, NSHE
Ashley Salisbury, 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 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 7 with members present

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

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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 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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.

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 August 8, 2025.

Motion for approval of the NSA minutes on August 8, 2025, by Karla Salas

Second by Kelechi Odunze.

Vote is taken.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FEE ASSESSED ON TUITION AND FEE PAYMENTS MADE BY CREDIT CARD

INFORMATION ONLY

NSA Chair will facilitate a discussion with Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Chris Viton regarding the June 12-13, 2025, [Board of Regents agenda item number 34](#) concerning a proposal for NSHE institutions to implement a fee assessed on tuition and fee payments made by credit card. During the [July 11, 2025](#) NSA meeting, the NSA membership discussed this topic and the NSA Chair requested the members take this discussion to their respective campuses and return with feedback and information discovered. NSA members may provide feedback and have questions for Vice Chancellor Viton.

Chris Viton expresses his appreciation for meeting with the NSA, noting that the topic of the fee increase has been a recurring issue across campuses. Viton states that NSHE is an outlier in higher education by not addressing these fees and describes his background work related to the subject area.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks if NSHE has evaluated how many students this would affect.

Viton replies that about 60% of tuition payments are paid with cards, and that the fee will mostly affect any payments that aren't being paid with financial aid.

Odunze mentions the fee increase on item 11 of the Board of Regents' agenda regarding registration fees. Odunze asks what Viton thinks of both the registration and credit card fees being on the December agenda.

Viton states that this is a date-sensitive implementation rather than a semester-sensitive implementation. Viton states that when he discussed it with the business officers, they knew that it would not be on the December meeting, even in June. Viton emphasizes the importance of communication around implementation. He expresses that he doesn't expect the item to be on the December agenda.

Sovereign Hone entered at 8:06 A.M.

Chinnappan asks if there was any discussion regarding alternatives to the fee.

Viton states that there are many suggestions around different ways the fee could be levied as opposed to direct percentage payments. Viton states that campuses would have additional resources freed up if those resources were not absorbing the cost. Viton emphasizes that the main issue is not assessing the fee because there are no restraints on the use of the card in payments.

Chinnappan asks if Viton anticipates that students are using credit cards as leverage.

Viton states that he is aware that some students are choosing to use credit cards due to limited options, but some students are paying with cards because of the lack of fees. Viton states that it's difficult to determine why someone is choosing to use a credit card.

Salas asks who urged Viton to state that the main issue is not assessing the fee, and if he has reached out to students about the issue.

Viton states that he has been discussing this topic with people for twelve years. Viton describes that before his role in NSHE, he had been working at UNLV for seventeen years, and it was in his role at UNLV that he had been asked to put this proposal together. He states that he has mostly been hearing about the fees from other business officers, business managers, and university systems when budget is brought up in conversation.

Lopez asks if there has been any analysis done on how this fee would impact enrollment numbers.

Viton answers no.

Odunze references that both UNLV GPSA and CSUN wrote a resolution to disapprove this fee. Odunze states that many students use credit cards as a means of necessity and that many students come to NSHE institutions because of affordability and lack of options.

Viton hopes that no student should have to finance their entire education on a credit card, stating that he understands that some students have no other options. Viton believes a user fee for the card payment is more sensible than having it absorbed.

Aglubat asks Viton to clarify if the fee would impact debit cards as well.

Viton states that the fee would impact debit cards as the system cannot distinguish them at the time the fee is assessed, but he assumes that students who could be using a debit card would use the e-check option instead.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano states that some students use partial payments or payment plans, and asks Viton if these fees would impact those payments.

Viton states that the fee would be the same regardless of whether the payment was made all at once or in a series of payments. The fee would be implemented once on each payment with a card.

Hone asks what would be the case for international students who might not have access to American banking and whose only means of financing would be on a credit card.

Viton states that if an international student does not have an American bank account, they would still need to convert their home currency to pay a bill. They would pay a conversion fee on their card, which would need to be paid anyway. Viton states that students end up paying these fees because they're not being assessed on the user, and that these international student payments are one of the most expensive fees on the card side.

Hone asks a follow-up question and asks if any surveying was done for students to ask how they felt about this.

Viton states that there has not been any work related to this before June, and that he has had conversations about this in the past. He understands that this is not a fee he would want to pay if he were paying it, but it is common that NSHE is the exception. Viton states that this is not an unusual fee to encounter across higher ed institutions.

Salas states concerns for online students who may not have access to a cashier on campus.

Viton states that most students make payments online, and that an alternative could be through check.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks if there are any plans to help mediate the stress of this fee if it were to be passed, such as fee waivers.

Viton states that, like all fees, the real issue is the total cost. Viton emphasizes that it is important to consider how campuses can utilize the freed-up funds when implementing the fee.

Odunze asks Viton to clarify that the only way to avoid this fee is to pay by cash or check.

Viton confirms.

Odunze asks that, in the case of students primarily using cash, if NSHE institutions have the capacity to take the influx of cash in terms of employee, staff, and ATMs.

Viton states that it is a concern of the campuses in terms of increased foot traffic into cashiers' offices and describes that he has no way of knowing the likelihood of something like this happening without actually doing it. Viton states that his assumption is that a student would use an e-check as an alternative rather than paying in cash.

Haidar mentions a concern that international students rely on credit cards to build credit.

Viton states that this proposal is only targeted at payments made through the student account. Viton notes that there is no alternative for individuals relying on tuition payments to build credit.

Haidar states that they won't take international students because they don't have a credit history.

Viton states that he understands the concern of using cards to build credit, but mentions that this is different from students not being able to make the payment from not being locally banked.

Hone asks if this fee would be revoked if enrollment numbers potentially decrease.

Viton states that every time a fee is raised, there is a concern of a potential impact on enrollment. Viton states that he is not aware of any fees withdrawn in the past due to this reason, and that every fee increase has been accompanied by general concerns about enrollment.

5. **PROPOSED *HANDBOOK* REVISIONS, STUDENT GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

INFORMATION ONLY

NSHE Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Chris Viton and NSHE Deputy General Counsel Carrie Parker will present draft proposed revisions to the Board of Regents *Handbook* (Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 15 and Title 4, Chapter 20, Section B, Section 2). The *Handbook* revisions concern the use student association fees for financial support of student government association positions. Deputy General Counsel Parker will ask for feedback on the proposed policy revisions. (*Ref. NSA-5*)

Carrie Parker describes student financial support for being in student government. Parker notes that some institutions offer scholarships, while others provide payments through payroll. Parker states that being provided financial support in two different ways for those in the same position can raise legal concerns. Parker references the handbook revisions and states that consistency is needed in this area, urging each student body president to consider whether they would like each position to be financially supported by payroll or scholarships in their governing documents.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks Parker to clarify if each officer would need to be compensated solely by either payroll or scholarships at each institution.

Parker states that this choice would only apply to each category, for example, senators.

Viton states that there are differences in the specific manner of each institution in classifying positions.

Parker adds on and states that if a position requires a specific number of hours, it starts to sound like payroll, and it raises legal concerns with the Department of Labor if these positions aren't being paid by payroll.

Viton provides an example in that a stipend for attending a meeting is fine as a scholarship, but stating that an officer must perform a certain number of hours weekly is not.

Hone asks if offering a scholarship as compensation would open up opportunities for undocumented students to serve.

Parker and Viton confirm.

Hone asks that if something needs to be implemented in the bylaws if a payroll system were implemented in the bylaws, but student government officers still received scholarships.

Viton says that this would need to be addressed within a student government's bylaws if the scholarship and payroll are all related to a position in student government.

Oduenze asks how students' financial aid packages would be impacted if institutions were to move toward scholarships as compensation.

Viton states that this would potentially limit other financial aid based on cost-of-attendance and awards.

Parker urges the NSA members to come back during the October meeting and provide specific feedback, as they would like to put this on the December Board of Regents' agenda.

Viton states that the policy revision does not obligate student body presidents to choose between scholarships and payroll but instead allows them to decide how to handle the situation.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

INFORMATION ONLY

The NSA Chair will lead a discussion during which members may provide information on the goals of their respective student governments and updates regarding their respective campuses planned activities and events. The NSA Chair may request abbreviated updates due to time constraints.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano waives the agenda item due to time constraints, reminding NSA members to send their updates via email.

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.*).

Lopez mentions post-tenure review.

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Parker Tobin mentions that in his discussion and research on the credit card fee, he has yet to see a serious need for it. Tobin states that this would put extra pressure on cashiers’ offices and affect accessibility. Tobin describes that NSHE’s lack of credit card fees is the price institutions pay for easier access and making education more accessible to students. He urges the NSA to disapprove of a fee on credit cards.

Adjourn at 8:45 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/>