



Meeting Minutes – Approved

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

AGENDA

September 12, 2025

8:00 a.m.

Great Basin College

Carl Diekhans Center for Industrial Technology (DCIT) Room 203

1500 College Parkway

Elko, NV 89801

MEMBERS:

Present/Tardy: Entered at 8:09 a.m. 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 Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA

Absent – Excused Devan Glensor, 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:

Heather Rikaw, WNC

Sherlyn Vasquez, WNC

James Kendall, WNC

Becca Franssen, TMCC

Parker Tobin, TMCC

Calvin Cowan, GBC

Naomi Tecson, UNR

Ethan McNamara, UNR

Isabelle Hatch, UNR

Matt McNair, NSHE

Bryon Brooks, NSHE

Stephanie Goodman, 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: 8:01 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, SEPTEMBER 11, 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. 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.

Odunze asks both the Chair and Chancellor about their goals for the 2025-2026 year.

Chair Brooks states that one of his major goals is analyzing inefficiency in policy and how we can ensure that there is no current policy inhibiting institutions or students.

Chancellor McNair states that he wants the system office to help each campus operate as a system rather than having eight individual campuses. McNair describes that he wants the system office to be proactive and help support each institution.

Hone asks what steps are being taken to make college more affordable.

Chancellor McNair states that he has talked to the presidents about making sure that they are looking for inefficiencies within their campuses. McNair states that the expenses and budgets he has to work with are among the lowest in the country, so the campuses are just about as efficient as they get. McNair adds that they are looking at a scholarship campaign and a two or three-year sprint for scholarship fundraising, especially in the context of potentially having to raise fees in December. McNair also mentions asset monetization, and states that he is trying to leave no stone unturned, looking at different sources of revenue and how it can be made more accessible and affordable.

Chair Brooks describes that it is important that NSHE institutions remain extraordinarily affordable for students to attend. Brooks states that higher education isn't funded the best way that it could be, and that it would be plausible to work in partnership with legislators. Brooks states that more collaboration and a better partnership would be helpful.

Jennifer Rodriguez Serano entered at 8:09 a.m.

Hone asks how student input is factored into high-level decision making, and if student feedback is necessary when making these quick changes.

Brooks states that student feedback is extraordinarily important, and that basic student empowerment is significant. Brooks urges the NSA to use their voices because it matters. He states that when students get together with a commonality in the message that they want to send, there's usually some type of action that can be taken to support student success.

Chancellor McNair adds and states that the fee conversation is a good example, stating that he will be talking to all of the student body Presidents to get input.

Odunze states that the NSA has been talking a lot about shared governance and the importance of student voice, thanking both the Chair and Chancellor for stating these ideals and calling the NSA members about the registration fee. Odunze asks if it would be easier for the system to work with the NSA for the next legislative session on the Board's priorities and NSHE priorities.

Chancellor McNair states that he completely agrees and states that if they can have the NSA at Carson City, they would.

Aglubat thanks Chancellor McNair for calling all the NSA members individually. Aglubat states that the University of Nevada has the highest rate of out-of-state registration for students, describing that with the proposed fee increases, the University of Nevada will be on the same level as other California schools. Aglubat states that there is some concern that we will no longer be competitive with those California students that we are trying to continuously recruit at the University of Nevada. Aglubat asks if the Chair and Chancellor

would take into consideration how that could uniquely affect the University of Nevada's registration as they cater toward out-of-state students.

Chancellor McNair states that there are plans over the next two months to look campus by campus, and student body by student body. McNair states that they need to figure out the right mix of increases that needs to be looked at, because not every institution will be the same.

Aglubat asks Chancellor McNair to clarify if every single institution's raises will be done on a case-to-case basis.

Chancellor McNair provides examples of groupings in that that UNR and UNLV might be in one category and that Nevada State might be on its own. McNair states that the R1 universities might require a bigger increase than the colleges.

Aglubat asks what is the soonest that this needs to happen, and what is the latest that this could possibly happen.

Chancellor McNair states that the soonest it could happen is in December, which would then take effect in the Fall of 2026. He states that if they don't do it by then, the increases will not have taken effect by the time the legislature comes back. Chancellor McNair states that if the NSA members have any questions, they can call him at any time.

Chinnappan states that the whole point of the predictive pricing program is to bring stability to the system. He asks how they expect students to trust the program, especially if they had a 5% increase last year and now have another proposal this year.

Chancellor McNair states that NSHE is where it is today. He mentions that this is one of the reasons NSHE is trying to look at the full amount that it would take to keep us where we are in relation to our peers. McNair describes that Nevada is second-to-last in terms of what students pay and second-to-last in terms of budgets for providing an education. He states that he is making his best assessment about what needs to be done today.

Chinnappan states that UNR's statistics from Fall 2025 reflect that the institution has declined in doctoral enrollment and master's enrollment. He states that this is because the institution has lost assistantships and funding from the department, and that he anticipates a risk in future enrollment with UNR. This puts students with more financial burden that NSHE might come up with another proposal.

Chancellor McNair describes that when observing the amount we're paying, we're 49th out of 50 states in that alongside budget. McNair states that we do not want to be at the bottom and must find a way to stay in the game.

Chair Brooks states that what Chinnappan is describing is something occurring throughout the state, and that it's not necessarily specific to one institution. He references that there is a decrease in enrollment across the state and that there are several spokes on the wheel in terms of how things are moving.

Chancellor McNair states that many students attend NSHE institutions for free, and that he doesn't anticipate that the students who are the neediest be impacted because the average net tuition shows that most students who are needy are paying \$3,200 at most.

Chinnappan asks if NSHE has looked at other areas to bridge the legislature gap as to not look into just student fees as a source.

Chancellor McNair states that they are hoping to do a scholarship campaign, monetizing assets, corporate sponsorships, corporate research, and more options that can diversify revenue sources. He states that if fees aren't raised, NSHE will have to cut programs and faculty due to lack of funding.

Odunze states that a lot of students who go to NSHE institutions are needy in general, and that's because of affordability. Odunze explains that he believes NSHE institutions have such high enrollment rates because students are unable to attend other institutions due to affordability. Odunze expresses his concerns about the R1 institutions and their enrollment rates, noting that he believes the fee increase is intended to cover budget gaps. However, he still feels that they will lose a significant number of students to community colleges and dual-enrolled high school students.

Chancellor McNair states that Odunze's concerns are part of what will be looked at over the next couple of months because essentially, NSHE doesn't want to be ranked dead last. McNair states that they have to figure out the revenues and expenses in a balanced manner.

Vice Chair Goodman states that it is vital to look at what the expenditures are. Goodman states that we don't take this lightly and want to get to a better place, but must keep in mind the questions of overspending or duplicating services. Goodman describes that Nevada prides itself in having affordable education.

Chinnappan references that the credit card fees were an operational cost, and asks if NSHE is going to stick with the proposal or have an alternative proposal.

Chancellor McNair states that he isn't aware that the Board voted on that, so he doesn't think that is an official position, as the item was for information only. McNair states that he wants to come up with something similar to an efficiency ratio. McNair describes that a lack of 3% in credit card fees means 3% less for faculty and 3% less of our overall budget. McNair states that the 3% has to come from somewhere.

Vice Chair Goodman states that there will be more clarification around the verbiage of credit cards and debit cards.

Chancellor McNair states that the debit card verbiage might have been a typo at the past meeting, mentioning that this will also be of concern over the next few months.

Hone asks if the budget deficit is a result of structural issue or unexpected changes in revenue and funding.

Chancellor McNair states that the faculty hadn't received raises in the past nine years. This resulted in an expanded budget by 23% alongside a \$57 million hole to keep NSHE equal to where they were before.

Vice Chair Goodman describes that in 2019, there was a financial accounting mistake and that the legislature gave NSHE 80% of 80% for COLAs. However, the legislature made a 64% reimbursement permanent. Goodman states that 64% of COLAs versus 80% of COLAs is a significant disparity, referencing that when NSHE passed those 12% or 11% COLAs, they were supported by the student body presidents who were in office at the time.

Hone asks if NSHE will be releasing a full breakdown of the revenues and expenditures for the public to review.

Chancellor McNair states that the budget is public every year, and that it can certainly be put together in terms of state support, expenses, tuition, and fees.

Hone emphasizes the importance of being able to explain the breakdown and many other things that take money out of the budget. Hone also asks if there will be an external audit or review of the financial practices leading to the deficit.

Chancellor McNair states that NSHE gets audited every year.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano asks if raising these fees will help keep us afloat or help grow our institutions to become better overall.

Chancellor McNair states that if the fees aren't raised, there is not going to be compensation to cover the \$50 million hole this time around. McNair urges that we must think about this in terms of where we want to be, stating that he doesn't want to raise fees, but that is blankly going to happen to fund programs and faculty.

Odunze states that he understands where Chancellor McNair is coming from. He states that he thinks the reason the NSA presidents were so supportive of the previous fee increase was because they didn't think that within the next two years, there'd be an 11 to 12% increase on the same subject. Odunze also mentions that UNLV is very transparent with their student fee balance reports, and that every other institution should uphold the same practice.

Chancellor McNair states that these student fee balances are public and are reported, and that UNLV just gets more attention as it's a bigger institution.

Chair Brooks states that it wasn't just the student body supportive of the previous fee increase, but also each institution's president and business officers.

Vice Chair Goodman states that NSHE was told by the Senate Finance Chair that they would be able to fix the 80% of 80%. However, they passed a financial mistake into reality, which is causing a disparity as they were under the impression that things would change.

Secretary Malasaga asks what the best-case scenario is for improving education and the quality of life on campus if the fees were raised.

Chancellor McNair states that if the fees were raised, it will allow NSHE to keep operating as it is. McNair describes that the fee will allow NSHE to not cut programs, not cut faculty, and remain somewhat competitive with our regional peers.

Chair Rodriguez-Serrano closes the floor for questions.

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.*).

Odunze states that each NSA member should provide information from their respective institutions on the proposed fee assessed on tuition at 11 to 12%.

Hone states that each NSA member should come up with a strategy to help students transition through this time of fee increases.

Secretary Malasaga mentions the topic of post-tenure review, urging all NSA members to gather information from their respective institutions.

Chinnappan mentions an agenda item where every student body president votes in favor or against a credit card fee.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

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No public comment.

Adjourn at 8:41 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/>