



## **Meeting Minutes – Pending Approval**

### **NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)**

#### **AGENDA**

**January 9, 2026**  
**9:00 AM**

#### **Via Video-Teleconference**

##### **Meeting Link:**

[https://nshe-nevada-  
edu.zoom.us/j/98059782429?pwd=sBVK1amyEv5PD7VEMj15Yb6GrBBUqM.1](https://nshe-nevada-edu.zoom.us/j/98059782429?pwd=sBVK1amyEv5PD7VEMj15Yb6GrBBUqM.1)

##### **Meeting ID**

980 5978 2429

##### **Passcode**

368833

##### **One Tap Mobile**

+16694449171,,98059782429#,,,\*368833# US  
+16699009128,,98059782429#,,,\*368833# US (San Jose)

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (VIDEO-TELECONFERENCE) ONLY PURSUANT TO NRS 241.023. THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY HEAR, OBSERVE, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING VIA THE MEETING LINK OR TELEPHONE NUMBER IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY PRERECORDED MESSAGE BEFORE 4:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026, VIA EMAIL TO [ASALISBURY@NSHE.NEVADA.EDU](mailto:ASALISBURY@NSHE.NEVADA.EDU) OR VOICEMAIL: (775) 784-3444. MESSAGES RECEIVED BY 4:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO NSA MEMBERS AND INCLUDED IN THE PERMANENT MEETING RECORD; 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:**

**Present | Proxy: Denielle Kirkman Jennifer Rodriguez Serrano, Great Basin College, SGA (Chair)**  
**Present Lahana Pearce, Nevada State University, NSSA (Vice Chair)**  
**Present Brianna Mae Malasaga, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (Secretary)**  
**Present Carmina Aglubat, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN**  
**Present | Proxy: Hanine Haidar Ratchanya Dev Chinnappan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA**  
**Present 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/Tardy | Entered at 9:15 A.M 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**  
**Terina Caserto, NSHE**  
**Carrie Parker, NSHE**  
**Matt McNair, NSHE Chancellor**  
**Heather Brown, NSHE Board of Regents (702) 381-4295**  
**Chris Viton, NSHE Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer**  
**Alejandro Rodriguez, NSHE**  
**Isabel Graf, Representative from the Office of Governor Joe Lombardo**  
**Amber Stidham, Representative from the Office of Governor Joe Lombardo**  
**Amanda Brazeau**  
**Renee Davis**  
**Julie Stokes**  
**Brianne Heinle**  
**N. Pendegraft**  
**Virginia Smercina**  
**Kanani Espinoza**  
**Isabelle Hatch**  
**Robin Hager**  
**Ryan McInerney**  
**Dr. Constance Brooks**  
**(702) 523-0886**

**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, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512, at (775) 784-3444, or emailing her at [asalisbury@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto: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: 9:00 A.M.**

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Roll call of members and any persons serving as a proxy for a member will be taken and any members of the public that are present may be asked to identify themselves verbally so their names may be recorded in the minutes.

**Roll call taken; Quorum established with 9 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. To call, dial 1 (669) 444-9171, meeting ID 980 5978 2429 and passcode 368833.

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](mailto:asalisbury@nshe.nevada.edu). Written statements received by 4:30 p.m. on THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026, 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.

**Regent Brown: "I want to first start by thanking the NSA for their thoughtful and proactive engagement on the topic of student fees. The conversation you lead and the outreach you have done shows not only how serious you take your roles but how deeply you care about the student you represent. You've asked tough questions and brought forth some real concerns. You've done it with clarity and purpose, and I wanted to just**

acknowledge that. Um this kind of leadership doesn't go unnoticed, and I wanted to let you know that I see it and I appreciate it. I also want to acknowledge how hard this moment is. As a regent, access to higher education and dismantling barriers to students is at the heart of why I serve. You guys saw that with championing credit for prior learning. Higher ed is important to our state. But the reality is that we are facing significant financial pressures due to inflation and rising cost of delivering high quality education. It's brought us to a point where I mean there is no easy answer and certainly no perfect one. The decision we will have to make on January 16<sup>th</sup> will be difficult, but I am incredibly grateful for this dialog and every other conversation and the thoughtfulness you continue to bring to this topic. Please know that I am listening and paying attention and I do remain committed to ensuring that students remain part of this concertation as a focal point on any decision we must make. As always, if you'd like to talk further you know how to reach me. Thank you."

No written public comment.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meetings held on December 4, 2025 and December 5, 2025.

Vice Chair Pearce asks if there are any corrections or edits that need to be made. President Salas requests a correction on December 4<sup>th</sup> minutes in the guest section due to a misspelling of a last name, where Palach should be written as Paluch.

Vice Chair Pearce seeks a motion to approve the minutes for December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and December 5, 2025, with the correction asked. President Hone motions to approve. President Salas seconds.

NSHE Legal Counsel Carrie Parker asks for clarification on if the motion includes the amendment as suggested. Vice Chair Pearce responds that she asked with "correction stated" but asked if she should reword that or if that would be okay. NSHE Legal Counsel Carrie Parker answers that as long as it is clear for the record it should be fine.

Majority of members vote in the affirmative and therefore the motion passes. None opposed. Abstained by proxy Hanine Haidar.

### 4. TUITION AND FEE INCREASE DISCUSSION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### INFORMATION ONLY

NSA members will meet with a representative from the Office of Governor Joe Lombardo to discuss the proposed NSHE tuition and fee increases and their implications for NSHE students. NSA members will have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

NSHE Ashley Salisbury noted that those representatives will be at the meeting at 9:30 am. Therefore, this item was skipped until they arrived.

**Item 4 was reintroduced at 9:34 am. Vice Chair Pearce gave the floor to Amber Stidham and Isabel Graf, who are representatives from the Office of Governor Joe Lombardo. Amber Stidham introduced herself and wanted to offer her support to student leaders in the southern area of Nevada.**

**Isabel Graf introduced herself as the policy director for Governor Lombardo and she looked forward to hearing from us regarding our constituencies.**

**President Malasaga thanked Amber and Isabel for taking time out of their day to meet with us and inquired if the legislature has any plans to increase NSHE funding within the next biennium.**

**Isabel states that the NSHE submits a budget for them to the governor and then the governor makes his own edits. From there, the governor will then submit a recommended budget to the legislature, who will make the final decisions.**

**CFO Chris Viton added his team had already started the process of gathering priorities from the NSHE institutions in October. They will then take it to the Board of Regents, who will then make their recommendations. These are submitted to the Governor, who creates the executive budget and then submitted to legislature. The legislature will review, adjust, and approve the budget before sending it back to the governor for final signature.**

**President Odunze thanked Amber and Isabel as well. He then inquired whether the Governor would like to prioritize more higher education funding and if, in the future, we can create a stable channel of communication between NSA and the Governor's office.**

**Isabel stated that they always welcomed feedback from students on how the budget affects them and said they would share it with the Governor and the chief of staff. They noted that Nevada's revenue is lower than pre-covid levels making budget decisions challenging.**

**President Hone thanked Amber and Isabel too. She questioned what safeguards are in place to prevent low-income, first generation, or non-traditional students from being disproportionately affected by the increases that are happening right now.**

**Isabel noted that since the Governor's office was not involved in setting the proposed new tuition rates, she'll defer the question to Chancellor McNair or CFO Viton.**

**Chancellor McNair stated that they did recommend continuing the 15% access fee to support the neediest students. This approach focuses on net tuition rather than gross tuition and benefits four-year and R1 institutions more than two-year colleges. He mentioned that other forms of assistance will still be available. For example, Pell grants, Millennium scholarship, and others are still in place.**

**President Lopez thanked our guests. He then brought up concerns about how a 12% tuition increase along with the new federal loan cap will make it harder for new students to afford graduate school. This may force students to choose between an advanced degree and living expenses. Additionally, Nevada's tuition could become higher than some California**

**schools, which risks the loss of local talent. This could hurt efforts to diversify the state's economy, particularly in Las Vegas where, as mentioned previously, tourism is dropping.**

**Isabel replied that those concerns are recognized and align with the governor's focus of building the workforce for the economy of tomorrow. They will be kept in mind as planning moves into the next legislative session.**

**President Aglubat inquired about the Millennium scholarship and how given projections support that the current funding model may become unsustainable in the coming years. Therefore, what is the Governor's plan to ensure long-term stability for students who are already relying on the scholarship especially as tuition/fee continue to increase across the state.**

**Isabel deferred the question to Chancellor McNair and/or CFO Viton.**

**CFO Viton stated there's no specific answer yet, the issue is well known and actively discussed with the treasurer's office. Initially the program was supported by tobacco settlement funds. However, as those declined, the program has been supported mainly through general fund appropriations, with continued backing from both the governor and treasurer. The focus is on forecasting costs and ensuring sustainable funding. While considering impacts on the Millennium and other state-funded scholarships.**

**Isabel stated that the Governor is very supportive of the millennium scholarship and doesn't think he intends to decrease the funding in any way for that program.**

**Vice Chair Pearce questioned what were some other alternative funding options that were considered to avoid raising the increase on tuition and fees such as state appropriations, reallocations, or targeted funding for student support.**

**Isabel noted that during the 25<sup>th</sup> legislative session, the legislature did appropriate a one-time general fund money to help close the gap on funding. She mentioned that there was a proposal last legislation session for a new funding formula but ultimately, the legislature decided not to move that forward. She then deferred the question to CFO Viton.**

**CFO Viton stated that the Governor supported making this funding ongoing, but the legislature chose to treat it as temporary bridge funding. After two sessions, it's unlikely the legislature will change that approach, which is why fee increases are being used to maintain current services. The legislature has otherwise been supportive, providing additional funding for institutions. He does note that budget priorities remain consistent across sessions, focusing on core needs like student support, safety, security, and program expansion, and will require a strategic approach moving forward**

**Chancellor McNair added that the \$57 million one-time funding from the last legislative session prevented major program/staff cuts and allowed current service levels to continue. However, the legislature made clear this was a one-time solution and expects alternative revenue sources going forward. With tuition being the only significant option. Even with the full recommended increase, Nevada would remain the third most affordable state, behind only Florida and Wyoming.**

**Vice Chair Pearce questioned why the proposal last session to adopt a new funding formula didn't move forward.**

CFO Viton informed us that the proposed funding formula aimed to better reflect costs by considering both student credit hours and headcount, especially differences between full-time and part-time students at community colleges. The legislature did not move forward mainly because it would have reduced funding for research institutions, and they were concerned about reallocating funds without holding all budgets harmless. As a result, the formula needs further revision and is being reworked.

Alejandro Rodriguez agreed that CFO Viton's description was accurate.

**President Glensor questioned Chancellor McNair is whether if the discussed tuition/fee increases will affect UNR medical school and whether protections for medical school tuition are still being considered, not just for residency programs. Especially given Nevada's physician shortage, there is concern that increasing medical student tuition could undermine efforts to attract and retain doctors.**

**Chancellor McNair emphasized that to this understanding raising tuition/fees for the medical school is not on table, hasn't been on the table, and won't be on the table anytime soon.**

**CFO Viton added that the tuition proposals discussed in December Board of Regents meeting and this January's Special Session meeting do not apply to professional schools, including medical, law, and dental programs. Those programs follow a separate board-approved process with student input, reviewed in March for information and returned in June for approval. Any professional school fee changes are handled independently through this biennial process that is occurring this year.**

**President Odunze inquired what the governor's office thinks of investments in equity, diversity, and inclusion especially since funding on the federal level for this has decrease. Specifically, he asked if it is something that is we should still factor into the state budgets especially in higher education.**

**Isabel recommended we look into our individual institutions for those decisions. She then deferred the question to Chancellor McNair.**

**Chancellor McNair informed us that each president decides how to handle these issues. Like many institutions across the country, we aim to stay consistent with the Constitution and state law. All while providing services to all students, especially the neediest, who often fall under DEI programs. By focusing on every student, we can achieve similar goals, continue receiving federal funding, and stay legally compliant, even if the language we use changes.**

**Isabel informed us at 10:02 am that they had to leave for another meeting but appreciates the work with do for our institutions.**

## **5. DISCUSSION WITH THE CHANCELLOR**

## **INFORMATION ONLY**

NSA members will meet with Chancellor Matt McNair or his designee. They will discuss aspirations and concerns for the higher education system. Topics of discussion may include the fee increase proposal and impact on students and/or programs if it is or is not approved by the Board of Regents.

**Chancellor McNair wanted to echo Regent Brown's comments. He noted that these are hard questions, but the board looks forward to resolving the issue and determining a path forward at next Friday's NSHE Board of Regents special session meeting. Whatever path that may be, it's important to know that everybody here and the regents care about the future of higher education in Nevada. He acknowledged that there may be differing views on how to achieve goals, but he expressed appreciation for everyone's engagement and that he and Chris Viton are available to answer any remaining or specific questions.**

**President Hone inquired if it has been mentioned to the board to reduce the percentage allocations for the registration fee over the coming years or extending the timeline for those allocations to lessen the financial burden on students. She noted that students are already facing numerous additional fees due to collegewide budget deficits.**

**Chancellor McNair stated he and the board office have submitted to the board, which is to be published shortly, their recommendation of 12% for 4-year program and 9% for 2-year programs. 3, 4, 5 for the 4-years and 2, 3, 4 for the 2-years. Also, he provided information to them on what that would look like if rather than twelve, it was 8, 4, 0 for the 4-years and 6, 3, 0 for the 2-years. So, they can see what the dollar impact is, if there is a lower percentage recommended, and the number of positions that would be correlated to for those amounts. He tried writing the item as broad as possible; they have made their recommendation, but the regents can do whatever they want from 0 to whatever amount and from year one to as long as they want to implement that over.**

**President Hone thanked Chancellor McNair**

**President Aglubat asked for more information regarding December's meeting agenda item that provides student governments with input on university spending leftover fee funds.**

**Chancellor McNair deferred this question to CFO Viton.**

**CFO Viton said he could not provide campus-specific details. He explained that the policy revision allows campuses to address inactive or leftover student fee balances. and, if a fee is reduced, work with student government to repurpose those funds. The policy identifies three primary approved uses for repurposing balances: student scholarships or grants, student government-related purposes, and general improvement fee purposes. This is handled at the campus level. There is a main report that shows balances exceeding the board's policy limits, and the appendix contains a detailed inventory for each campus.**

**President Aglubat thanked CFO Viton.**

**President Odunze questioned CFO Viton about the purchase of the Carson property that was an agenda item for the December business finance meeting, which was removed at the meeting.**

**CFO Viton stated that the Carson property was identified as an opportunity to create a shared system office in Carson City to support engagement with the legislature and governor's office especially during the legislative session. He noted that UNR has leased the property in Carson City for years for this specific purpose. Therefore, the purchasing of that property would replace ongoing lease costs with a one-time expense, making it more cost-effective long term. The space would be owned by the system and shared by all institutions.**

**President Odunze thanked him for the clarification.**

**Chancellor McNair added that the money for the Carson property purchase would come out of their reserves and echoed CFO Viton's comment.**

**Proxy Denielle Kirkman inquired on the timeline of the fee implantation if they are passed.**

**Chancellor McNair states that they have recommended for them start the fall 2026 but it is up to the discretion of the Board.**

**Proxy Kirkman thanked him.**

**President Aglubat stated that besides showing our efforts (both as a system level and individual institutions) to take of our financial situation, what are our other priorities are going into the next legislative session?**

**Chancellor McNair stated that is the driving factor for the decision. Which is why the working group picked 12% because that is the amount where the campuses do not have to make any cuts and they can keep providing the level of service they are providing today. The legislation did state that they have limited funds and they made it clear that we need to make other sources of revenue or else. Besides that, he deferred it to Alejandro Rodriguez to discuss the other priorities.**

**Alejandro Rodriguez stated that they will be collecting the priorities for our institution from our institution presidents to bring those to the regents for the approval of overall priority. A lot of it will be the continuation of programs that were started last session and other issues affecting our institutions. One of the lingering questions was financial and food security study that is ongoing through NSHE, which will be coming up to the interim for possible bills. He encouraged everyone to reach out to our institution's government affairs representatives.**

**President Odunze asked how the tuition proposal will be reframed for this upcoming special session and if there will be any new talking points that differ from last December meeting.**

**Chancellor McNair states that he will be showing them more options along with charts and the consequences of each one. For example, which services and jobs would have to be cut. He will remark that he understands that it is a difficult decision to make.**

**CFO Viton added that in the despot reference material for this agenda item for the special session agenda we will find more specific information about campus level impact that not having the fee increase will lead to.**

**Chancellor McNair wanted it to be known that Chris, the business officers, and the presidents have been working tirelessly to prepare materials that answer regents' questions and provide clarity. Seemingly the overall options are either increase fees now or face costs and service reductions later. He reiterated that the difficulty of this decision but the goal for them is to give enough information to help guide the regents to an informed decision.**

**This item was paused at 9:33 am to go back to agenda item number 4.**

**This item resumed at 10:02 am.**

**Vice Chair Pearce asked if there were any more questions for the chancellor or the CFO. There were no more.**

**6. DISCUSSION ON FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

NSA Chair will ask NSA members to discuss possible student fee increases, including proposal presented at the December 4-5, 2025, quarterly NSHE Board of Regents' meeting and proposal anticipated to be discussed by the NSHE Board of Regents at the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, special meeting regarding the fee increase proposal. A representative of NSHE may be present to discuss this item. NSA members may consider a formal position on the possible student fee increase and may take a vote at this time or at a future meeting.

**Vice Chair Pearce stated that she requested this item because she wanted to hear from all the members, their constituents, and their student governments about this item. Whether they have a formal stance or not. She asked President Hone to start us off.**

**President Hone and her student government voted for an official stance in opposition of this fee increase.**

**Proxy Kirkman and her student government have not voted on an official stance though there is a consensus of opposition to the increase.**

**Proxy Haidar and her student government have formally opposed the increase. Due to financial strain that graduate students already experience, specifically graduate assistants whose stipends have not been increased even with rising costs. She notes that implementing an additional fee increase under this increase will place even more financial strains.**

**President Odunze and his student government will be voting official opposing the increases during their next meetings. He questioned the transparency of the institution's budgets. He noted that the Board has failed twice to follow their own predictability pricing program that they voted on.**

**President Aglubat explained that ASUN chose not to vote on the issue, which put her in a difficult position in terms of voting on this matter at NSA. Due to ASUN not taking a stance, she feels it would be wrong to vote on this because NSA represents all the institution student government bodies. Although this is challenging, she warned that if the fees do not pass, the university risks losing not just 12% of funding, but potentially more, especially given the request for action from the state legislature. She encourages everyone that instead of forcing a vote through the NSA, we should engage with active discourse with the regents**

and our administration.

**President Malasaga and her student government have taken a formally vote to be neutral on this issue.**

President Lopez stated that his student government did not have time to meet before this meeting. He notes that in generality, consensus seems split at best. Due to his counsel not having a formal stance, he states that he in good faith cannot stance on behalf of his constituents. If NSA decides to move forward with a vote in opposition, he requests that an amendment be offered that access funds still be included in the final proposal because it protects the most vulnerable students.

President Odunze says this is a moment to hold state legislators accountable and urges students to contact them. He argues that when funding is cut, essential student services and programs suffer, and lawmakers should be held accountable. He acknowledges that university leadership are forced to make difficult decisions but emphasizes their duty is to represent the students, not the institution. He concludes that blame should not fall on students. If services are cut or funding fails, responsibility lies with the institution and state legislators. Issues like underfunded DEI programs, disability resources, and unfair graduate student wages should be framed as failures of state leadership, not student leaders.

President Salas stated that students strongly oppose new fees because they increase financial burden. While the fee is meant to keep the college operating, and not for upgrades, she notes that any increase, even small, can harm students already under financial strain. She also echo's President Odunze's prior comments. Her student government has formally voted to oppose the fee, but if it must be implemented, they advocate for keeping it as low as possible to maintain basic operations.

President Lopez appreciates university transparency but questions their own budget. He notes that student enrollment has been stagnant, but the university keeps hiring and expanding services. He states that these choices, not COLA alone, could have caused the increases. Which could have been avoided. They encourage others to explore and question their institutions' budgets. They also emphasize the importance of voter mobilization, especially in upcoming primaries. He notes that primaries decide who even gets on the ballot, and many candidates who support higher education lose due to low attention. To prevent future tuition increases, students must engage in primaries and support candidates who truly and consistently support higher education.

President Aglubat restates that she is not taking a stance but agrees that must be active and dynamic in state politics even after the upcoming vote on increases. While student bodies cannot support specific candidates, we can stay engaged by asking tough questions and working within our local communities to support leaders who value higher education. She emphasizes and echoes President Lopez's prior comments on how important it is avoid facing similar issues again in the future by supporting student engagement in the primaries as well as candidates who support higher education.

**Vice Chair Pearce states that after much contemplation, her student government decided formally to oppose the increases. She then read her student government's formal statement. After that, she echoes President Lopez, President Aglubat, and President Odunze. She states that she would like to ask again whether we'd like to take a verbal stance. She chose President Aglubat to start off.**

**President Aglubat recommended that we vote on whether we should vote on a stance.**

**President Odunze agrees on President Aglubat's position.**

**Proxy Haidar noted that they tried to stay neutral as graduate students and state employees, but many saw that as prioritizing the institution over students' concerns. This left them stuck between supporting our constituents and supporting an institution they care about.**

**Vice Chair Pearce thanked her.**

**President Hone recommends that NSA should take a vote. She agrees that staying neutral is still a statement and even though this affects each institution differently, it impacts all students, so NSA should vote and stand together in a united front to advocate for them.**

**Vice Chair Pearce thanked her.**

**President Aglubat questioned whether taking a stance as NSA helps or hurts, since each council already has its own position, voice, and lobbying efforts. Due to our institutions having diverse needs and aren't unanimous in stance, she restates if it's appropriate for NSA to vote or speak on behalf of everyone.**

**Vice Chair Pearce reiterates her agreement to vote on a vote and so she inquired NSHE legal counsel Parker on the procedure for this.**

**NSHE legal counsel Parker stated that she has three options. Option one being to make a motion to decide whether to take a motion for a formal position. Option two would be just to move on without a motion. Option three would be to take a motion for a formal position.**

**Vice Chair Pearce questioned on how to go about the phrasing of seeking a motion to vote on a stance.**

**NSHE legal counsel Parker noted that it would be worded along the lines of "Do I have motion on the floor to take a formal position on agenda item number six?." If someone then makes a motion and another seconds it, you may then call for a vote.**

**Vice Chair Pearce thanked her and then asked for a motion to take a formal position on agenda item number six.**

**President Hone motions to take a formal position on agenda item number six.**

**President Aglubat clarified whether this vote was whether we want to take a formal stance.**

**Vice Chair Pearce thanked both President Hone and President Aglubat. She then asked for a second.**

**President Aglubat seconds the motion to take a formal position on agenda item number six.**

**Vice Chair inquires if there is any further discussion. There was none. Therefore, she asked for a roll call vote.**

**Secretary Malasaga called of names:**

**Proxy Kirkman – Nay**

**Vice Chair Lahana Pearce – Nay**

**Secretary Brianna Mae Malasaga – Nay**

**President Aglubat, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN – Nay**

**Proxy Haidar – Abstained**

**President Glensor – Absent**

**Present Hone – Aye**

**Present Lopez – Aye**

**President Odunze – Nay**

**President Salas – Nay**

**2 Aye, 6 Nay, 1 Abstain; Motion fails.**

**President Odunze echoed President Aglubat's comments, which is why he voted nay because he agreed that NSA should not be forced into pact.**

**Vice Chair Pearce encouraged all the members to make public comments by reiterating all the points we've discussed in this meeting and spread the word out.**

**President Aglubat thanked both NSHE legal counsel Parker, for her help, and our members for their patience.**

**Proxy Haidar explained her abstention on the vote and echoed President Aglubat's previous comments on this matter.**

**NSHE legal counsel Parker wanted to answer a prior question regarding whether an absence counts as a nay. She stated that an absence would be pulling out of the vote. Therefore, it would just reduce the number of people who are voting but majority is still needed to pass. She thanked the NSA members for their patience and understanding.**

**Vice Chair Pearce thanked NSHE legal counsel Parker as well for her help, research, and time.**

## **7. MEMBER UPDATES**

## **INFORMATION ONLY**

Members may provide an update regarding their respective campuses' planned activities and events.

**Vice Chair Pearce understands that due to winter break we might not have many updates and so she won't go down the list. She inquired to Ashley Salisbury, whether she'd give her report now or during the NSA chair update.**

**Ashley Salisbury confirmed that this section would be for the individual institutions' update.**

**Vice Chair Pearce opens the floor to those who may have updates.**

**President Lopez stated that their GPSA is undergoing a constitutional reform process and one of the major reforms is bringing about direct elections for our legislature. He thanked the members for their help and feedback on how elections run in your government that it helped with their own reforms.**

**Proxy Haidar informed us that their first GSA Council meeting is January 20, followed by our first GSA breakfast on January 28. They are also working with Microsoft Copilot on training opportunities and planning UNR's Diversity Event in April, which highlights inclusion and community engagement. Additionally, GSA continues to strengthen partnerships in the Reno community, including Pack-Friendly initiatives, local discounts, and new housing partnerships to help incoming graduate students find affordable housing near campus.**

**President Salas shared that her student government stayed active in serving our students and community, including participating in Carson City's Holiday with a Hero event. Over the break, our team planned an exciting Welcome Back Week with food and activities in both Fallon and Carson to help students connect. They are also looking forward to their February 5 listening session with the Chancellor and an engaging semester focused on connection and advocacy.**

## **8. NSA CHAIR UPDATE**

## **INFORMATION ONLY**

NSA Chair or her designee may provide an update on any projects or tasks she is currently working on that pertain to NSA business.

**Vice Chair Pearce noted that Chair Rodriguez Serrano did not have an update. So, she will share her student government's updates instead. She shared that they announced their scholarship winners and award over \$27,000 to students. They are currently working on class initiatives and that she has a retreat to attend after today's meeting. Lastly, they are preparing for their general elections by finalizing the timeline and promoting involvement.**

## **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.*).

**Vice Chair Pearce opened the floor for any new business.**

**President Lopez requested for an informational agenda item for February's meeting regarding voter mobilization and political outreach in general.**

## **10. 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](mailto:asalisbury@nshe.nevada.edu). Written statements received by 4:30 p.m. on THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026, 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.

**Matthew Winterhawk: "Hello meeting board and everybody here, thank you and I know it's late in the year, but Happy New Year and I hope you had Happy Holidays. My name is Matthew Winterhawk. Speaking on behalf of fellow Nevadans and their children. For the record, I want to express concern regarding the approval of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, NSA minutes as written. Those minutes document multiple unresolved and material issues including admissions of budget gaps caused by prior funding assumptions, the absence of system level accountability mechanisms, and a lack of clear reporting standard for proposed student fee increases. Now students ask substantive questions during the meeting which were not answered. Approving the minutes without clarification would risk a public record that implies informed consent where it did not exist. Transparency requires accuracy not speed ladies and gentlemen. More broadly, I would like to be very clear that students are not opposing education and Nevadans are not opposing higher learning. What we are opposing is a process where tuition and fee increases are discussed before the public is even given clear itemized justification as to why it is being done. The concern is heightened with families and students being asked to absorb additionally costs while according to publicly available NSHE records that the Chancellors compensation package includes a base salary reported at approximately \$550,000 ladies and gentlemen. That is more than half a million dollars not even counting stipend and bonuses. The public deserves a transparent explanation on that. Not personal criticism but as a context, when leadership compensation grows while students and parents are told that the affordability gaps must be closed through higher fees. The public deserves transparent**

**explanations of priorities, cost containment effort, and shared sacrifices. Tuitions and fees are not abstract numbers. They determine whether a student enrolls, whether a family takes on debt, or whether rural Nevadan is priced out of the opportunity all together. If these fee increases are being considered, Nevadans deserve full disclosure, amounts, duration, accountability, the metrics, and assurances that these fees are directed to instruction rather than unchecked administrative growth salaries possibly. I urge this body for informational purposes to prioritize transparency so that any student position taken reflects informed understanding rather than pressure that is created by the incomplete information. Thank you so for allowing me to comment today and once again I am speaking opposition to that. Maybe because I'm seeing regents and board members that are making extremely lavish salaries \$550,000+. I don't even want to know if I calculated all of them to turn around and then squeeze our parents, our Nevadans, our kids, and people that are sending them here for higher education. To then have this outcome, I am appalled. Once again, my name is Matthew Winterhawk. Thank you so much for allowing me to comment today."**

### **Adjourn at 11:09 a.m.**

Posted at the following locations:

CSN, Building D, 1<sup>st</sup> 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), 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Pursuant to NRS 232.2175 - <https://notice.nv.gov/>  
NSHE Website <https://nshe.nevada.edu/system-administration/departments/asa/students/nevada-student-alliance/>