

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes

October 13, 2014

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Videoconference Sites:

Carson City-WNC Dini 105

Elko-GBC LCSL 122

Henderson- NSC DAW 218

Las Vegas-CSN CHEY 2638

UNLV SCS 102

Reno-System Administration, Room 134

Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. by NSA Chair, Stephanie Prevost

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Stephanie Prevost, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (NSA Chair)
Mr. Angelo DePerez, Western Nevada College, ASWN (NSA Secretary) – *arrived late*
Mr. William McCurdy, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN – *departed early*
Ms. DeMarynee Saili, Great Basin College, SGA – *arrived late*
Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Ms. Sharon Young, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA (NSA Vice Chair)
Ms. Megan Johnson, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

with an e-textbook. If the student declines the e-text book, they have the right to purchase a new or used printed book, and the bookstore would credit them the 50 dollars to go towards it. This proposal is currently just to seek “authorization” for the institute to allow this. The institution has to decide if they want to go in that direction, but if approved by that institution, it can be applied to any course at any level class. However, a fee over \$50 would need to be approved by the Board.

This proposal may be considered by the Board of Regents at its December 4-5, 2014 meeting. If you have any further questions, you can email NSA Chair Provost and she can forward them to Vice Chancellor Abba.

5. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ADVISERS AND INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

INFORMATION

Vice Chancellor Brooke Nielsen apologized for missing the September NSA meeting. She explained she wanted to start the discussion and maybe later to draft a policy, which would then be broadly reviewed across the System. The question is whether a new Board policy might help student government in disputes, where the constitution may not be clear or even cover particular issue. There are two ideas that Vice Chancellor Nielsen has been thinking about.

According to Board policy, the institution can appoint a financial advisor, who is then responsible for reviewing all financial transactions, and there is an appeal process built right in to the policy. As to anything else that doesn't concern finances, there is nothing set up for this. So we are discussing having a same system set up where the institution can appoint someone to help go over everything other than finances. This position would function as the liaison to all sectors of the institution. She searched for models at institutions outside Nevada and found only one example at George Mason University, which is an extremely detailed policy that includes provision for an “Election and Disputes Commission.” The Commission is broken down into two separate boards, one side just for elections and the other for all other disputes. Each board consists of appointees from student government officers and appointees. Disputes are referred to a board, which provides for an initial hearing. A second level of appeal goes to the full commission, and then a third level of review by the faculty review committee. In this case, the Faculty Review Committee does come up with a decision, but still turns it back to the board to come up with the final outcome. The faculty is really just an advisory position. Vice Chancellor Nielsen is in favor of a body that would come up with a final outcome, not just advice from a faculty review committee. If adopted, such a policy would apply to the individual student governments and might require a constitutional revision.

Chair Provost shared that TMCC SGA has hired a parliamentarian who is paid out of the SGA budget. They have also created an election committee that handles election grievances. She will send TMCC's current constitution and information on the grievance process to Vice Chancellor Nielsen.

A question was asked by Secretary DePerez whether the intent of such a policy revision would be for all governments to have the same process or whether campuses would be allowed to keep existing processes. Vice Chancellor Nielsen explained that in her mind the Board would provide basic guidance, but all institutions are different. Student governments would have the authority to tailor processes to their own institutions. Secretary DePerez expressed support for pursuing this topic further.

President McCurdy asked about the intent behind this revision. Vice Chancellor Nielsen said the intent was to provide for a grievance procedure for student governments, on par with the existing policy for faculty and staff. President Cortez-Lopez said he was confused because NSSA already has a general advisor. Vice Chancellor Nielsen said the intent is to help with alternative ways to resolve grievances and disputes. An advisor is just one possible way. Renee Davis explained that most institutions already have a general advisor who works with student government. Vice Chancellor Nielsen responded that this would add the provision in policy.

