

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Minutes
September 8, 2016

University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union
Room 420
87 West Stadium Way
Reno, NV 89557

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez at 5:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Ms. Desiree DeCosta, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) – Present

Mr. Carlos Fernandez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN (NSA Vice Chair) - Present

Mr. David Turner II, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA (NSA Secretary) - Present

Mr. Brandon Boone, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN – Present

Mr. David Clark, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA Present

Ms. Chelsey Fox, Great Basin College, SGA Present

Mr. Diana Gurrola, Western Nevada College, ASWN Present

Ms. Meghan Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPPSA Present

Ms. Jill Robinson, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN Present

Mr. Deep Sengupta, Desert Research Institute, GRAD Present

3. GUEST RECOGNITION

Mr. Rick Trachok, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Chairman

Mr. Michael B. Wixom, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Vice Chairman

Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents

Mr. John V. White, Chancellor

Ms. Renée Davis, Director of Student Affairs with the Nevada System of Higher Education

Ms. Lilly LeonVicks, Western Nevada College Coordinator for Student Life

Ms. Bea DeBelen, UNLV CSUN

Mr. Marclem Hernandez, UNLV CSUN

Mr. Ryan Romero, UNLV CSUN

Ms. Heather Phelps, NSC NSSA

Mr. Elias Benjelloun, NSC NSSA

Mr. Luis Montanez, NSC NSSA

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time

INFORMATION

5.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez opens up the floor to any member who would like to address any concerns.

NSA Secretary David Turner brings up concerns with the Chancellor Search Committee not having adequate representation between all the institutions. As outlined in the code that all the Presidents, all the Faculty Senate Chairs and All the Student Body Presidents should be allowed to sit on the committee and would like to make sure that happens.

Mr. Rick Trachok appreciates the opinion but disagrees with the interpretation of the code. That the committee has been appointed and is not going to change.

NSA Secretary David Turner wonders how the code that states the Presidents, all the Faculty Senate Chairs and the Student Body Presidents does not mean plural.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that they follow the code, follow the council for the board and system. That he appointed the committee that will sit as the advisory committee for the search. That any one of the NSA members are free to attend and voice any opinions during public comment during any of the meetings. As can any other president.

Mr. Dean J. Gould interjects that the way that they interpret the code is that the pool has to include members from all those categories. Which the Board Officers believe they have done that, because the Senate Faculty Chair and Student Senate Chair are members of that advisory committee and asks if NSA Secretary David Turner has seen the roster. That that's why those members are on the committee. That they represented those groups. The Presidents and community members on there. This is why the Board Officers believe they have met the requirement of the code based on history, even though Mr. Dean J. Gould is not a part of the previous searches, is that

NSA Member Chelsea Fox asks if it's the meeting where they select the final candidates that NSA members can attend.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that the NSA members can attend every meeting, and that if a member has input they can speak at the public comment before and after.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox states that there is then a way that the NSA members can be involved through the entire process.

Mr. Dean J. Gould adds that these meetings have to be in compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Laws. That NSA Secretary David Turner went through this at TMCC. That NSA Secretary David Turner can attest to this process as he sat through this with the institutes presidential search committee. Every meeting, that there should not be a lot of meetings, however every meeting will have an agenda. September 30 is the first meeting, that Mr. Dean J. Gould's job is to post that agenda on time. That Mr. Dean J. Gould is planning on posting that agenda September 22. If any member attends, to the NSHE website and sign up, that every time NSHE posts something, there will be an email notification. Any member can go on and download the agenda and supporting material. You can video in at GBC, the office in Reno or Las Vegas, be there and speak during public comment. That the NSA Chair will be there as NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta is on that committee and is the NSA's conduit. That if there are concerns to communicate with them.

NSA Member Chelsea Fox clarifies that there are many ways to be involved in some way.

Mr. John V. White adds that there are ways to get involved both formally and informally.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta thanks the Board of Officers for pointing those items out as well as for appointing her, NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta to sit on the committee. That for the record, NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta will be at the September 30 meeting and that the NSA's voices will be heard. The NSA will have its representation shown there. NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta states that this topic is being discussed, it's a good and important discussion. That the chancellor will be the liaison for the students and the system. That she also understands everyone's concern here.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez brings up a discussion of having a student Regent. That it is known to NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez that the idea has been brought up in the past of having a student Regent and that it has been turned down. However, it is being requested to have clarification for why it has been a no in the past and if there is a way to go about having one or a process.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that if the NSA truly wants a student Regent to lobby a letter to the Nevada Legislation to change the constitution of Nevada. If the legislation agreed to do so it would go to the vote of the people in the state of Nevada, twice, to amend the constitution. The process at best case would take five years but normal course would take ten years. The item has been brought up two times prior with Mr. Rick Trachok. The Regents rejected it stating under the current system that we have under our constitution, any student can run in the same process that the other Regents have.

recession. Which NSA Member Jill Robinson brings up that if it is that big at CSN then there is a possibility that this is all over Southern Nevada. Which could play into the drop in enrollment numbers, which hurts the schools. However, she questions if this factor is being taken into the account when going over the drop in enrollment with the school.

Mr. Rick Trachok questions if the meaning of Jill's question was to recruit from the homeless populations to increase enrollment.

NSA Member Jill Robinson clarifies that if enrollment is dropping, is the increase in the homeless population being taken into account as a factor.

Mr. Michael B. Wixon states that the Regents have done this back in 2008/2009. The Regents took a close look at the homeless student population issues. As the issues had come to light with the number of students couch flopping, they would just float as they had no where else to go. The school could create a myriad of reasons for it, but becomes a waste of time, as the reasoning are unique to each individual. The solution to the problem, the conclusion the Regents at the time had come to, was that there was not enough resources at that time to create programs or systems to address that issue. That the best thing that NSHE could do at the respective institutions was to raise issues publicly as they could. Then address it in connection with organizations that were already equipped to address it. While the issues hasn't been looked at for some time. That is what was done at the last time the Regents looked at it. Strengthening bonds with the homeless shelters, between aid groups that were focusing on students, or would focus on particular needs. Some of these students were minors or came from other situations. That those become social service

education. Becoming philosophical questions driving the policy debate. This goes back to all of our institutions being very concerned with a student's ability to stay enrolled and to complete their degree. They are handicapped to a degree with not having various funds to dedicate to do that, which varies from campus to campus. UNLV has an emergency fund, though it is very small. Mr. John V. White is not aware if CSN has such a fund. Though, this fund is just a stop gap if someone is about to lose a home. Typically the grant is in the \$500 range. It isn't very substantial. Which shows there is an interest on the campuses to do this, part of what the problem is that there is not a whole lot of flex. The system is sparsely staffed and sparsely supported.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom to bring this conversation to a productive close, states that this is a very serious issue. That if you are going to address the issue in a productive manner that this needs to be done on a campus by campus basis. As student leaders we need to go to our presidents and say this is a problem. While we may have limited resources what we can do is provide it to access other resources. Which is what the Board found they needed to do before which is a timely discussion as it has been several years since they looked at that. Which is a real need and something that Mr. Michael B. Wixom himself is also sensitive too. This is something that the Board should look at, though more is going to get done by taking it to the president and addressing it at that level.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that she has been working with Doctor Richards, and that CSN has been doing that. That CSN works with an organization such as Project 150, 3Square and others that come to the school offers hot meals.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom brings up that even the Salvation Army has some great outreach. These are to students with unique needs or are in a subgroup.

NSA Member Jill Robinson states that the institution does indeed work with organizations such as these, that the question is if there was a study done that she could work off of.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom replies with no.

NSA Member Jill Robinson thanks the Board for their insight.

NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta asks if there is any more that the NSA members would like to discuss.

Mr. Rick Trachok questions if the president has the ability to waive this fee. Being a veteran, Mr. Rick Trachok has a soft spot for the issues facing our veterans and asks for a copy of the resolution. The Board will then review it to see if they have flexibility is designed in the system, then if they need to as a Board make an exception for the cases the one appears to address for veterans. Because of their service with the on and off active duty that has this problem. Though it is believed that the president has the ability to address this, and there shouldn't be any reasons for anyone to object to this. Mr. Rick Trachok will be more than happy to have this brought up as an agenda item with the Regents.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom adds that another person that NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez reach out to is Crystal Abba, who is a key resource. That the next time NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez sees her, to raise this issue with her. She would know off the top of her head, she can also identify specific resources by a campus by campus. In addition to the president having that flexibility that there are other resources as well.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that if it is a problem that needs to be addressed that the Board will be happy to address it.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez is very pleased with the response as this is the first resolution he was able to write up and thanks the Board. That with past presidents, after going through the minutes that a resolution is passed and then it just stops, as a resolution.

Mr. Michael B. Wixom requests to circle back to the homeless issue. To touch upon the previous statements for resolutions for veterans, that this is a resolution that would be productive. To address a homeless issue, introduce a resolution to combat it at a campus level. Then bring that resolution to the Board so that the Board can direct the institutions to create programs and facilities to address the issue. Which is a productive use of time.

NSA Secretary David Turner states, to touch upon NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez is, that this isn't just an issue facing UNLV or veterans, that this is an issue facing a lot of students. That we see students hit this issue a lot at the community colleges. While there is a student's appeal board to override the excess credit fee, it is still an issue following the students as they transfer to UNR or UNLV. Creating a lot of issues with advisors, and the ability to override it. Because it becomes an issue that is out of the hands of the community colleges and becomes an issue of the universities, especially if they are going into a graduate program. That this is an issue that we can take care of early on. The community colleges have a lot of nontraditional students. Who learn in different ways from the traditional students and cannot take them longer to learn. Some of these students need different outlets to help them learn. For example, being a nontraditional student, NSA Secretary David Turner had to take one class a semester outside of the typical curriculum to destress and aid in his ability to get through the week. Now facing excess credit and looking to move to UNR which makes it that he has to give up this class to be able to continue on, which aids in performance of the other classes and GPA. That the students with disabilities are also facing this with the same issues.

Mr. Rick Trachok suggests that this group create a resolution and submit it and the Regents will discuss it. That Mr. Rick Trachok sat on the board when this policy was adopted, so we might want to take a look at the minutes and the audio from when this was adopted. This is so that the current NSA members can understand what was being debated at the time. This is also that we can see why the policy was adopted in the first place. Then armed with the audio from the

past we can come up with an argument on why there needs to be a change or an adjustment to the policy.

NSA Secretary David Turner states that he is helping TMCC explore collegiate sports. The students seem to be behind it, that some have already stated that they would be willing to speak to the Regents during public comment at the next meeting. That even some of the nonathletic

Mr. Rick Trachok responds that NSA Secretary David Turner might want to speak with President Burton. Who, dropped their athletic program. When it came down to taking the money from the class room or put it into a baseball field.

Mr. John V. White adds that CSN doesn't have an athletic fee, however UNR and UNLV do, they always try to make it bigger and it is always unsuccessful.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that the athletic fee at UNLV is \$1.00 per credit. That UNLV is looking to increase the fee at the next Board of Regents meeting. They are proposing a \$1.00 to \$3.00 per credit fee.

Mr. John V. White adds that the Board treats these proposals independently from each other. That the strength of the proposal is going to come down to what the campus wants and how well it is articulated.

Mr. Rick Trachok states that NSA Secretary David Turner may want to look at the minutes from the Board of Regents meeting from p.n4 (t)-2 (B)1 (o)-JTJ -29.45 -1.19 Td [(al)-2 (w)-3 (ay)4 (e)4 (ge)2

