

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)
Minutes
October 13, 2016
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)
Reno System Administration Building, Room 134
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
Carson City-WNC Dini 105
Elko-GBC LCSL 122
Henderson- NSC RSC 370
Las Vegas–CSN CHEY 2638 and NSHE System Admin 101

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez at 4:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Ms. Desiree DeCosta, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) - Absent
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. Sandesh Kannan, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA - Present
Ms. Augustina Fernandez, Great Basin College, SGA - Present
Ms. Diana Gurrola, Western Nevada College, ASWN - Present
Ms. Meghan Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA - Present
Ms. Jill Robinson, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN - Present
Mr. Deep Sengupta, Desert Research Institute, GRAD – Absent

3. GUEST RECOGNITION:

Ms. Renée Davis, Director of Student Affairs with the Nevada System of Higher Education
Ms. Sara Weston, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Student
Ms. Samantha Bivins, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN, Senator College of Liberal Arts
Mr. Marclem Hernenez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN, Chief of Staff
Mr. Fabian Donate, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN, Interim Public Relations Administrator
Mr. Steven Cohen, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN, Student
Ms. Adriana Mendez, Great Basin College, Student Advocate
Mr. Michael Ausben, University of Nevada, Reno, E-Electronic Technologies Committee Member, Vice President and Legislative Director of the Federation of the Blind of Nevada

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez introduces the guests present at the NSHE System Admin Office 101.

NSA Member Brandon Boone introduces guest Mr. Michael Ausben a student at UNR who is knowledgeable with accessibility.

Mr. Michael Ausben states the importance for the creation of an Accessibility Resolution to ensure equal access to education for students with disabilities. Pointing out that there are a few issues with the NSA Accessibility Resolution with the specific definitions of and including, developmental, cognitive, learning disabilities, intellectual and mobility. This leaves out students with physical disabilities such as blindness, hearing, impaired deafness, etc. Urging to take into consideration this perspective, as well as HR6122 The Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act.

NSA Member Jill Robinson upon reviewing the UNLV resolution states how thrilled she is to see something like this go through. That CSN currently no longer offers physiological assistance through their CAPS programs. Pointing out that students have now been sent to UNLV for assistance. That a Resolution like the one from UNLV might be something to implement for CSN as well.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

NSA Member Jill Robinson moves to approve the minutes from September 8, 2016 a.m. meeting. NSA Member Meghan Pierce seconds. Minutes approved by majority vote.

6. NSA NEWSLETTER: INFORMATION

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that the NSA Newsletter is an opportunity for the NSA to show the public what is taking place and has been done at each institution. It is also a chance to show what the NSA as a whole is coming together with to get things done. November 18, 2016 is the deadline to have information submitted for what is taking place at each member's individual institutions. The word count for each article is no more than 500 words. This is to have the Newsletter ready for the Board of Regents meeting taking place in Las Vegas December 1-2, 2016. NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez will send out a reminder to all members before the dead line, to make sure there is time for edits or additional information.

7. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: INFORMATION

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez reminds the members that NSA Member Brandon Boone did bring a guest regarding this information item that brought up some good points. The resolution was also sent out to all members that mirrors, more as the NSA, the UNLV resolution. This would be the NSA adopting the resolution itself. NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez asks for clarification on whether or not the NSA can take any action with this item or not.

Ms. Renée Davis points out that this is an information item. The material that was sent out regarding UNLV's resolution should have been sent out sooner if this was going to be an action item. That the NSA can return to this item as an action item at the next meeting.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that the Senator that he is personally sponsoring this resolution for is one of the guests at his location, Ms. Samantha Bivins. Ms. Samantha Bivins will read through the resolution with the NSA members so that every member is aware of the content.

Ms. Samantha Bivins reads through the Accessibility Resolution. (See Attachment A) It was brought up that the Resolution did not state physical disabilities. However, as this is only a point of discussion, not for action, that it should be amended to include the points that were brought up in Public Comment by Mr. Michael Ausben. There is supplemental material attached after the

resolution acknowledging visual and hearing disabilities. It also includes information urging NSHE to included supplemental aids for all attendees and guests with effective communication, including audio and visual accommodations at their meetings. This is including, but not limited to those hosted by the NSA. Which addresses visual and hearing disabilities, though it should still be added to the wording of the resolution itself.

Mr. Steven Cohen wants to address the physical point first, stating that they wanted to take a keyhole first approach to this. So that the mobility language was written to cover all forms of mobility including both physical and mobility technology.

Mr. Michael Ausben states his appreciation for the physical changes and understands the approach that was taken from the academic perspective and using the language that was used to discuss the resolution. Though it is necessary that the amendment does go forward with including physical. As mobility is defined with all individuals with physical impairments. The concept as a whole does not go forward within the legal realm. Mr. Michael Ausben also feels that it is necessary to urge the NSHE administration to develop system wide policies for software or electronic information technologies. UNR is currently doing this, which allows for specific accessibility within the classroom. Though there is information in the supplemental material stating as such that it is important to acknowledge that some institutions do not have pure vetting technologies. For example, the program that was sent out for Campus Clarity is currently inaccessible. Though many institutions implemented it. Which is excluding students which is why it is necessary to create this resolution. Which is why it is encouraged to write letters of support for HR6122 to go along with this resolution. That President Mark Johnson of UNR has already written a letter of support for this, demonstrating his commitment to accessibility. That if institutions do not have set guidelines for what accessibility should look like that the institutions will never been in compliance with Title I and II with the ADA or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. That it can be acknowledged that it's important, unless they have specific guidelines and ways in understanding what accessibility looks like that it is impossible to achieve it. Which is why it should be added to urge NSHE to support any such policies.

Ms. Renée Davis points out that the system has a universal accessibility committee that is meeting and working on addressing some of the issues with accessibilities, mainly with electronic, but in all aspects. That the information will be given to NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta to have on the next meeting, and that it might be possible to have someone from the system office to come speak with the members. That this is a good companion piece to this resolution.

Mr. Steven Cohen questions the best route to amend certain Board policies that flow through the institutions. The big one that should be a part of the existing documentation, which is the fourth bullet point in the supplemental material. Which points out requirements for the two universities and the state college with a compliment immediately below that addresses community colleges. Stating that the only exclusion is, for example, for professional development workshops. The universities and state colleges have a more than have time language that doesn't make sense. There doesn't seem to be any historical president to show if this is pre or post ADA. To know where there was any visionary insight. That this issue, with the legal counsel, whenever it has been challenged, has limited the court's jurisdiction to the internal documentation. Which is merely a flow through from system documents. Until the system fixes their documents, there will be issues within the institutions.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states that it might be pertinent of each member to take this back to their individual groups and have them pass resolution in support of this as well, to show that it isn't just the NSA but each institution. Having it go from the bottom all the way to the top.

8. CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: INFORMATION

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez asks Ms. Renée Davis if there is any information she can give out in the absence of NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta.

Ms. Renée Davis states that discussion mainly entailed further details the committee wanted to look for in a Chancellor. The decision was made to bring in a search consultant. It was centered on the advisory members giving input on the process.

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez reminds the members about the letter that was sent out to all members about being more involved with the process. As well as reaching out to NSA Chair Desiree DeCosta with any questions or concerns.

9. NEW BUSINESS INFORMATION

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez states in the past, the NSA voted in support Undocumented/DACA students. That a proposal/resolution will be sent out to be able to take it to the next level. To show that we can offer something more to Undocumented/DACA students.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION

NSA Secretary David Turner II gives the NSA an update about a student survey that was sent out at TMCC. The survey is to find out the student's opinions on pursuing an athletics program. So far 80% of the students who have taken the survey are in favor of bringing athletics to TMCC.

11. ADJOURNMENT

NSA Vice Chair Carlos Fernandez adjourns the meeting at 4:30 p.m.