WHAT IS THE NSA?

The Nevada Student Alliance is a coalition of student representatives from all of the institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education. NSA advocates for and on behalf of common issues that effect all of Nevada’s college and university students.

The NSA is constitutionally charged to:

- Promote, foster, advance, represent, and protect the interests and welfare of the students of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
- Give the students of the Nevada System of Higher Education a unified voice before all systems and legislative bodies;
- Aid in the enactment of legislation for the common good, as well as the good of students;
- Aid member schools’ student governments in the attainment of their goals without undue interference in their internal affairs.

MEMBER BIOS

CHAIR: MICHAEL J. GORDON

GPSA President (Graduate and Professional Student Association at UNLV)

Michael Gordon came to Las Vegas from Cape Town, South Africa in September 2006 on a Rotary International Ambassadorial scholarship. He received both his LLB (bachelor’s degree) and LLM (master’s degree) in private law from the University of South Africa. He is an alumnus of the Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2012 and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. (Public Affairs) program and hopes to ensure the continued existence of ethical governments worldwide.

If Michael were a candy bar he would be a Snickers bar for two reasons: One, it’s his favorite candy bar and two, just like the Snickers commercials, he gets cranky when he’s hungry.

VICE CHAIR: ORION CUFFE

GSA President (Graduate Student Association at UNR)

Orion is a Ph.D. student in Political Science and Economics. He completed his undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley and his master’s work at UNR. His favorite distractions from his school work are coaching skiing and snowboarding and practicing Ashtanga yoga.

If he was a candy he would be an M&M’s because his body is round and he doesn’t melt when you touch him.

NAVGEET “KING” ZED

SGA President (Student Government Association at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno)

King is a Business student at TMCC. He is originally from India but has been in Nevada for fifteen years. He is the Executive director at a Non-Profit. In addition, he is also active in student life at TMCC and is the founder of five clubs and member of three others. His favorite distractions when he can make time for it are “The Daily Show” and
“The Colbert Report”.

Since he loves music and he used to be a DJ, if he were a candy bar he would be Twix (King-sized, of course) because, as the slogan goes, “It’s all in the Mix.”

TRAVIS BROWN

ASCSN President (Associated Students of the College of Southern Nevada)

Travis Brown is currently studying Political Science with a minor in Sociology at the College of Southern Nevada. After graduating with an Associates in the Spring Travis will continue his education at one of the Universities in Nevada and then move on to a career in politics. Travis wants to work at the ground level in politics with a focus on organizing the young vote, but will always leave the option of running for office on the table.

Whatchamacallit - Much like myself, this candy bar is a mixture of very different parts and has a little bit of what everyone wants mixed in it to make sure everyone’s pleased.

ALEXANDER O. PORTER

SGA President (Student Government Association at Great Basin College)

My name is Alex and I grew up in Eureka, NV. I have been attending Great Basin College for two years, going into my third, and have been active with the Student Government Association every year so far. I am very committed to fighting for the students of Nevada and plan to do so 110% this following year.

I would be a Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup because, along with the sheer amazing taste, I also prove that awesome things in a small, convenient wrapper can pack quite a punch.

KATHRYN BYWATERS

GRAD President (Graduate Student Association at Desert Research Institute in Reno)

Kathy received her BS in Biochemistry from California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) near her hometown of San Diego, CA., during which time she participated in a 4 month stay on Devon Island in the Canadian High Arctic as part of a joint research project conducted by The Mars Society, NASA and CSA. After graduating from CSUSM she worked for the City of Houston as a Microbiologist III before starting graduate school. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in the Systems Microbial Ecology Lab under Dr. Christian Fritsen. Her current work focuses on utilizing microalgae as a potential source for biofuel production.

If you were a candy bar, what candy bar would you be and why? Mounds and Almond Joy because sometimes I feel like a nut and sometimes I don’t.

DEUVALL DORSEY

NSSA President (Nevada State Student Association at Nevada State College in Henderson)

Deuvall Dorsey is a sophomore at Nevada State College. Relocating to Nevada in the fall of 2010, he enrolled in school shortly thereafter. His major is Visual Media along with Ethnic Studies as a minor. At the end of his freshman year, Deuvall was elected President of the Student government. As President, Deuvall encourages the development and centralization of Nevada State College’s physical campus. He is also assisting Nevada State College in becoming
the first Hispanic Serving Institution in the state. He spends his spare time running, bicycling, and swimming; training for a triathlon. When asked of his future plans, Deuvall speaks of learning to play the wooden flute, and winning the Pulitzer Prize. After receiving his bachelor’s degree Deuvall plans to pursue a PhD. in Visual Anthropology with a focus in Ethnography.

I would be a cliff bar [because I’m] back with energy always in the thick of things.

**HUILI WEINSTOCK**

**ASUN President (Associated Student of the University of Nevada, Reno)**

Huili Weinstock is the undergraduate student body president at the University of Nevada. He has been a leader in several aspects at the university. His involvement includes Greek Life, Hawaii Club, Circle K, Hall Council and more. Huili wants to evolve campus culture, engage in new pedagogy and make ideas safe for students. He understands and promotes student engagement in a variety of channels. He wants to make sure that students are able to explore the college experience while establishing a strong academic foundation for their future.

If I were a candy bar, I would be a 3 Musketeers. I believe that everyone acts on the best intentions. So no matter how tough they are on the outside, they are still gentle on the inside.

**CURTIS BLACKWELL**

**ASWN President (Associated Students of Western Nevada in Carson City)**

Curtis John Blackwell was born in Biloxi Mississippi, grew up on the beaches of Southern California, and has lived in Gardnerville for the past 11 years. After graduation, Curtis intends to transfer to the University of Nevada, Reno and pursue a bachelor’s degree in lobbying, public administration, or international affairs. He is considering a double major. It is his intention to serve the public, and eventually run for public office.

Besides school government, Curtis is currently involved in governmental affairs and interns at the Nevada Association of Counties, a firm that represents all 17 Counties in Nevada.

As far as a candy bar: I am definitely a Snickers... sweet, kinda nutty and fun! I am filled with luscious caramel, so when someone gets to know me well, they are rewarded with a deep and rich relationship. And of course... Snickers always satisfies!

**MARK CIAVOLA**

**CSUN President (Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas)**

No Biographical Information Provided
FEBRUARY 25TH DAY FOR EDUCATION AT THE CAPITOL

As most NSHE students know, the past two Nevada Legislative Sessions have resulted in massive budget cuts to education in this State. At each of our campuses programs have been closed, faculty positions eliminated, and student fees have risen while services have been cut. Believe it or not, however, the damage to our NSHE institutions likely would have been much more extensive had it not been for the important role that the Nevada Student Alliance played in lobbying our State’s decision-makers.

Members of the NSA worked hard to organize numerous rallies for education across Nevada; lobbied behind the scenes in face-to-face meetings with individual Legislators, staffers in the Governor’s office, and members of the Board of Regents; and wrote editorials and other promotional materials to educate the State’s students and voters as to the seriousness of the proposed cuts.

One of the most effective things that NSA did was organize a Day for Education during the Legislative Session in Carson City. NSA members organized buses to bring students to the Capitol and arranged for meetings with influential Legislators who listened to our concerns. The Day for Education was covered by the media and some Legislators expressed the importance of that day in influencing how they ultimately voted. In the end, the cuts to education budgets were much less than originally proposed, as painful as they were.

As the 2013 Legislative Session approaches, the NSA has begun efforts to ensure that our voices are heard and our influence felt at the Capitol. We have once again arranged for a Day for Education at the Capitol, which will take place on February 25th. We are currently working on arranging for buses to bring students to the Capitol, a breakfast and lunch for students and Legislators, and possibly a second rally in Southern Nevada for students that cannot make it to Carson City. Please stay tuned for more details, and if you are interested in helping to organize or lobby, please email NSA Vice-Chair Orion Cuffe at cuffe@unr.edu.

- Orion Cuffe, Vice-Chair, NSA

NEW DIRECTION FOR FUNDING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEVADA

Senate Bill 374, adopted in the previous legislative session, created the Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education with the main objective being the creation of a new higher education funding formula. This particular legislative committee has been busy over the last nine months hearing various presentations from interested stakeholders ranging from access for minority and low-income students to funding formulas in other states – all of which can be found here: http://tinyurl.com/9uv55fa

Additionally, Chancellor Klaich introduced his new funding formula proposal during the Spring 2012 semester. An updated version of his proposal can be found here: http://tinyurl.com/8vkjwrx

In it, the Chancellor proposes that institutions retain any tuition and fees collected on the individual campuses together with an additional $362 million divided between the eight NSHE institutions. State funding will also be distributed based on a discipline matrix regardless of the institution’s size, type or mission. The discipline matrix assigns weights to each degree program based on the cost to the state. One of the debating points is how these weights are determined and whether specific degree programs should be weighted more to better reflect higher education’s alignment with the state development goals.

The main thrust of the Chancellor’s proposal is to bring Nevada in line with best practices found in other states’ higher education funding decisions and that is to reward institutions based on performance metrics specifically related to output/outcome measures.

The next steps for the Committee will be to come up with a list of recommendations for a new, transparent and easy-to-understand formula that will be presented to the 77th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature – a formula all stakeholders, including students, will be able to support.

- Michael Gordon, Chair NSA

STUDENT REGENT POSITION

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Huili Weinstock, Michael Stannard, the ASUN and support from the Nevada Legislators, the Student Regent position now has a Bill Draft Request in the legislature for the 77th (2013) session and with support, there might be a student voice on the Board of Regents soon.

- Navgeet “King” Zed
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NSA MEETING SCHEDULE

October 8, 2012
November 12, 2012
December 10, 2012
January 14, 2013
February 11, 2013
March 11, 2013
April 8, 2013
May 13, 2013

EDUCATION AWARENESS DAY BREAKFAST

Date: February 25, 2013
Time: 7:30 am to 9:00 am
Location: Room 3100 Legislative Bldg, Carson City

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING SCHEDULE

October 19, 2012—Tentative Special Meeting
November 29-30, 2012—University of Nevada, Las Vegas
January 11, 2012—Tentative Special Meeting
February 28-March 1, 2012—Desert Research Institute (Las Vegas)
April 19, 2012—Tentative Special Meeting
June 6-7, 2012—University of Nevada, Reno

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Biographies and pictures provided by respective individuals.