



March 22, 2024

RE: Response to the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents

As students and leaders within the Nevada State Student Alliance (NSSA), we diligently watch the actions of the Board of Regents. We recognize that authentic leadership extends far beyond mere positions and titles of authority. Unfortunately, what we are learning and witnessing within the Board does not exemplify the essence of leadership. We unequivocally denounce hate, bigotry, and ignorance in all forms.

On March 1st, 2024, the quarterly Board of Regents meeting harbored abhorrent views and comments to our transgender students in sports, with Regent Boylan referring to transgender women as “men masquerading as women” and Regent Goodman following a similar line of questioning, “is there a policy within NSHE... where you require that only biological women play women’s sports.” This dangerous rhetoric does not belong in the NSHE, or any system of higher education for that matter.

We are learning from our regents that many are controlled by singular issues that do not promote progress within institutions. Some board members, like Regent Brooks, fixate on geopolitical matters, some, like Regent Arrascada, focus on perpetuating regionalist and irrational ideologies between the north and south of our state, and some, like Regents Boylan and Goodman, regurgitate extreme ideologies that manifest in racist and transphobic remarks. These dogmas have no place in the realm of higher education.

We implore the regents to engage in introspection, to be students again, to do their homework, to learn from their missteps, and to strive for improvement. Our regents must understand, recognize, and respect the lived experiences of all community members, even if those experiences differ from their own. Students in the first grade learn the golden rule: treat others the way you want to be treated—a foundational truth to empathy, compassion, kindness, and respect that we must all continue to practice and carry in our lives to guide the actions of our leadership.

As students of Nevada State University, we urge the regents to recognize the significance of our educational environment and to acknowledge that our institution is dedicated to serving the diverse needs of the New Majority. Recognize our existence, recognize our diversity, and recognize our mission. We belong.

At a time where violence and dangerous language have become omnipresent, it is imperative—now more than ever, that all individuals, regardless of background or identity, deserve to feel respected, valued, and safe within our community—Palestinian, Jewish, LGBTQ+, Asian, African American, Latine and Indigenous students belong. Engage in compassion, and treat others the way you want to be treated. These principles are non-negotiable, and we call upon the regents previously listed to resign as their values are not aligned with the ideals of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. They are not fulfilling their responsibilities to the students and citizens of Nevada.

We ask our fellow regents: Will you stand with us in upholding the principles of inclusion and equity that define our institutions?