

Minutes of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

February, 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Douglass at 2:05pm in the HSC (Holmes Student Center) Sky Room.
2. **Voting Members Present:** O'Brien, Gibbons, Hensley, English, Colvin, Ashton, Woodward, Allen, Olson, Perez-Hernandez, Kolawole, Jovanovich, Althoff, Musgraves, Martin, Corpuz, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos, Rosales, Rogers
3. **Voting members Absent:** N/A
4. **Voting members Excused:** N/A

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

1. Quorum is met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. There are none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Speaker Douglass moves to approve last week's minutes.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
7. The motion is passed, and the minutes are approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Speaker Douglass moves to approve the agenda.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to move new business to old business.
7. So moved.
8. Seconded.
9. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
10. There is none.
11. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
12. Vote passes business is moved.
13. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote to approve items a and b to the agenda.
14. The motion is passed, and the minutes are approved.
15. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to add reports from President Majeed, Vice president Lee, a written report from, Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion Newman, and, a piece of legislation to recognize a student org to the agenda
16. So moved.
17. Seconded.
18. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
19. There is none.
20. The motion is passed, and the agenda are approved.

SPEAKER REPORT

1. Douglass states
 - a. Hello everyone, all currently elected senators are here.
 - b. Reminder for meeting recordings please speak clearly and into the microphone.
 - c. If you can't hear yourself on the speakers the transcript won't pick it up
 - d. Two-week faculty senate Fred Williams, cyber info sec wants to launch a campaign for students on how to protect themselves digitally February the 9th any

concerns talk to Douglass after meeting student grievance panel 2023-2034 is looking for students.

- e. 18 seats by April 1st don't have to be voting members but must be in categories.
- f. We have the power to and oversee nominations.
- g. President oversees nominations.
- h. No meeting next week

SPECIAL REPORT

- 1. There is none.

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT

A. Clerk's Report

- 1. Clerk English is recognized.
- 2. Clerk English states
 - a. he apologizes for missing the minute from last week there was a technical issue that has been fixed where he didn't get the recording until later than expected.

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion's report

- 1. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Rogers is recognized.
- 2. Chairperson Rogers states
 - a. Dei met this week talk about plans and meeting times stated getting the ball rolling.

B. Chairperson of Environmental Affairs' report

- 1. Chairperson of Environmental Affairs Jovanovich is recognized.
- 2. Chairperson Jovanovich states
 - a. EA met on Wednesday meetings are on Wednesday at 5pm.

C. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report

- 1. Chairperson of Public Affairs Ramos is recognized.
- 2. Chairperson Ramos states
 - a. Public Affairs met this Tuesday and meetings are on Tuesday at 10am

- b. Women's money event as well as a few more things learn more about on the 17th
- c. If you have flyers for SGA stuff, send them to Ramos to post.

D. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report

- 1. Chairperson of Board of Elections Olson is recognized.
- 2. Chairperson Olson states
 - a. Met Saturday
 - b. Set secretary and vice president.
 - c. Meeting next Saturday 11am to organize work.

E. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight's report

- 1. Chairperson of organizational Oversight Hensley is recognized.
- 2. Chairperson Hensley states
 - a. OO is meeting on Wednesdays at 6pm
 - b. One org last week
 - c. No org this week
 - d. Next week 5 orgs

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. President's report

- 1. President Majeed is recognized.
- 2. President Majeed states
 - a. Me and Innis will be hosting interview for open directors.
 - b. Greek affairs and governmental affairs
 - c. 1 on 1 meetings with directors
 - d. Food pantry met with dean of students finalized \$5000 to help with Food pantry.
 - e. Began working on long term.
 - f. Dr. George Middlemist the new CFO introduced himself looking forward to meeting with him.
 - g. State of student address February 24th at 3:30pm Carl Sandberg
- 3. Senator martin is Recognized.

4. Sen martin asks.
 - a. Last event mentioned please repeat.
5. President Majeed is Recognized
6. President Majeed Responds.
 - a. State of student address February 24th at 3:30pm Carl Sandberg

B. Vice-President's report

1. Vice-President Lee is recognized.
2. Vice-President Lee states
 - a. Student involvement fair thank to helpers.
 - b. 305 names reported on the QR code scan but think closer to 400 students in person.
 - c. Finalizing winners for competition
 - d. Sent in updated bylaws.
3. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. He will post bylaws after review.

CABINET REPORT

A. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion

1. Speaker Douglass reads a report from Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion Newman,
 - a. Hello Members of Senate,
 - b. The past few weeks have been a lot of setting goals for what I want to accomplish within my position for the semester and being realistic on what will be attainable for me this semester. I have also recently begun on a project with CAB called celebrating culture night, it is a formal event that we will be having in early April. It is going to be an event where people of all different cultures will be able to come and educate others on their culture. I was able to attend the BSU mass meeting this past week, where we just discussed some of their events and also the Tyre Nichols situation. I was also able to look over the CBS petition, and I think that the ideas of it are extremely important. Even if the university has plans for the black community, they do not do a good job

of communicating them or do a good job of making sure the black community feels that we have the University's support. In these next few weeks I will continue to work closely with CAB on the celebrating culture night event and I am also in the works of communicating with the different resource centers to figure out the different ways I can support them this spring semester.

- c. Thank you,
- d. Director Newman

OLD BUISNESS

A. SR54027

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item A. A resolution to appoint a Sergeant-At-Arms
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Speaker Douglass introduces the bill.
 - a. Historian Babcock is stepping down so that senator Corpuz is stepping up.
5. Senator Corpuz is asked to the front.
6. Senator Corpuz states
 - a. Historian Babcock was willing to stand down if any was interested and I was interested.
 - b. Believes the position is good for them.
 - c. Has been reading up on Roberts rules.
7. Historian Babcock is Recognized
8. Historian Babcock asks.
 - a. Besides looking over the book any other prep
9. Senator Corpuz is Recognized
10. Senator Corpuz Responds.
 - a. Not much more then talking with you and reading the book
11. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
12. Chairperson Jovanovich is recognized.
13. Chairperson Jovanovich calls for to question.

14. This pass

15. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 16 yay // 1 nay // 1 abstain 2:28pm

B. SP54001

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item B. A petition to NIU administration for improvement of diversity, equity, and

2. inclusion on campus

3. So moved.

4. Seconded.

5. Historian Babcock is recognized.

6. Historian Babcock Introduces the bill.

a. Stated when noticed issues with homecoming.

b. This is an effort that started in the DEI committee.

c. Lots of connections through orgs and staff

d. Director Newman provided list of complaints from black orgs.

e. These was found to be the main concerned that black students on campus are facing.

7. Chairperson Ramos is Recognized

8. Chairperson Ramos states.

a. Full support as member of black org

b. You all should support it, it's the bare minimum really.

9. Senator Kolawole is Recognized

10. Senator Kolawole asks.

a. Where are we getting this information from?

11. Historian Babcock is Recognized

12. Historian Babcock Responds.

a. From list form director Newman

b. Look up number for breakdown of student and staff by race and you can see the disparity.

c. Does that answer your question, Senator Kolawole?

13. Senator Kolawole is Recognized

14. Senator Kolawole states.

- a. Yes, it does, thank you.

15. Deputy Speaker Allen is Recognized

16. Deputy Speaker Allen states.

- a. Many of us were at State of the University
- b. NIU is willing to do work.
- c. But this isn't always communicating.
- d. All evidence is that the school is aware of

17. Senator Kolawole is Recognized

18. Senator Kolawole asks.

- a. What does this mean for SGA?

19. Speaker Douglass Responds.

- a. Senate has power to pass petitions.
- b. A petition is a formal request to NIU to change official policy.
- c. We would vote the 17th the next meeting.
- d. Student died in a classroom that was then used the next day.
- e. Senate came together to write a petition.
- f. This petition then passed.
- g. This cause Freeman to take action to start a committee ultimately created a new protocol for student deaths on campus.

20. Senator Martin is Recognized

21. Senator Martin asks.

- a. Does there require a certain amount of signatures?

22. Speaker Douglass is Recognized

23. Speaker Douglass Responds.

- a. Every senator who votes yes will sign it.

24. Senator Martin is Recognized

25. Senator Martin states.

- a. A lot of students feel they aren't being heard.
- b. Ran because not feeling being heard.
- c. Students need to know who to talk to
- d. [NIU] is known to be predominantly white.

- e. Might find more African professors in like African American studies.
- f. Students are mad but don't talk to the right people.

26. Senator Ramos is Recognized

27. Senator Ramos states.

- a. We should be more obvious on who to come to
- b. The speaks for so many students.

28. Senator Rogers is Recognized

29. Senator Rogers states.

- a. Over policing of black orgs is real and happening/doesn't happen with white Greek orgs
- b. Black student orgs don't feel they can come to the senate.
- c. I have been working with black students and those orgs don't feel that same welcoming energy as those black orgs.

30. Senator O'Brien is Recognized

31. Senator O'Brien asks.

- a. These are serious issues and I agree fully.
- b. Have we met with members of NIU about this issue?

32. Senator Martin is Recognized

33. Senator Martin states.

- a. More policing of these events agrees with Rogers.
- b. Need to post time of so not get policed.
- c. What do we need to do?
- d. What do we (senate) need to do to tell others that we can help?
- e. This is good as an African American and an African Latino this will help.

34. Senator Musgraves is Recognized

35. Senator Musgraves states.

- a. I have been having personal issues and I Have heard a mature response.
- b. Is in full support.
- c. This could bring the community together steppingstones, put your votes where your words are

36. Deputy Speaker Allen is Recognized

37. Deputy Speaker Allen states.

- a. Thank you that was moving.
- b. We have talked with admin.
- c. They have somethings but they don't communicate.
- d. Admin didn't invite black org leaders.
- e. Don't do enough.
- f. We heard testimonies simar to this in abundance.

38. Historian Babcock is Recognized

39. Historian Babcock states.

- a. The university is dragging its feet.
- b. I am tired and I am not even a student of color It must be harder for those black students who live it.
- c. No on websites of who can go to
- d. Need to put money where mouth is.

40. Speaker Douglass is Recognized

41. Speaker Douglass states.

- a. I am unsure of the exact numbers so don't quote me on this but,
- b. 17-19% students are African American with 1-4% faculty being African American
- c. I can double check later.
- d. *When later checked the numbers where 17-20% of students are reported as black and 11% of faculty BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) as of 2020

42. Senator Kolawole is Recognized

43. Senator Kolawole asks.

- a. How do you track this?
- b. How do you follow up this?

44. Chairperson Rogers is Recognized

45. Chairperson Rogers states.

- a. I don't want another MLK statue.
- b. I don't want another mural.

- c. I don't want another physical representation of our trauma.
- d. I want policy.
- e. I want there to be work done.
- f. I see a need for concrete work to be done.
- g. Issues are being ignored not seeing work being done.
- h. If you don't include black orgs when you should be and it speaks volumes on what your intentions are

46. Senator Martin is Recognized

47. Senator Martin states.

- a. Totally agree with Chairperson rogers
- b. Similar to the statement, "I have a black friend."
- c. Notice how black person vs white person are treated.
- d. Black students were happy when they saw someone like them was in SGA.
- e. School is aware but don't care unless you make a huge deal and then only barely cares.
- f. This is overdue.
- g. We are paying \$27,000 we should want to be here.
- h. Mom was first African American woman with Electrical engineering with recognition.
- i. Has bigger shoes to fill?
- j. My mom stopped paying then they took things down.
- k. Not doing enough to keep us here.
- l. We give you money, so you need to do stuff for us

48. Senator Musgraves is Recognized

49. Senator Musgraves states.

- a. Can feel the room.
- b. The University knows what going on they are aware, they have been aware.
- c. They could have hired.
- d. Hired for in higher position not just janitors.
- e. More than doing simple work

- f. two years ago painted Black Lives Matter on Castle Drive, [hate crime] culprit has not been caught not been repainted.

50. Chairperson Jovanovich is Recognized

51. Chairperson Jovanovich states.

- a. This just says all this does is say that NIU should try harder.
- b. This does not do enough.
- c. The statue is a shame that is patronizing since every one need role models and MLK is a good role model.

52. Senator Kolawole is Recognized

53. Senator Kolawole asks.

- a. Is there a way to document actual occurrences?
- b. People has said this has done is there a way we can show that this is working?

54. Speaker Douglass responds.

- a. I can verify the faculty is skewed.
- b. BLK has not been repainted can be seen.
- c. Over policing is proved by life experiences.

55. Senator O'Brien is Recognized

56. Senator O'Brien states.

- a. Apologize for earlier remarks if I came off as insincere.
- b. I want to address these topics.
- c. Wants to add African American representation to petition.
- d. Want to see actual change.
- e. Knows there are a lot more topics.

57. Historian Babcock is Recognized

58. Historian Babcock states.

- a. Based on last year Historian Babcock will go with Newman who will be the voice
- b. The petition asks NIU to be faster, involve students more, and be better communicated.
- c. Most issues are addressed in petition.

59. Deputy Speaker Allen is Recognized

60. Deputy Speaker Allen asks.
 - a. Would you like to make a motion to add that language?
61. Senator O'Brien is Recognized
62. Senator O'Brien responds.
 - a. Yes, I would like to make that motion.
63. Chairperson Jovanovich is Recognized
64. Chairperson Jovanovich states.
 - a. We could establish more outreach.
 - b. Add we wish to all language.
 - c. Shouldn't lead as a white guy.
65. Senator O'Brien is Recognized
66. Senator O'Brien states.
 - a. Wants to hear ideas form the senate.
67. Deputy Speaker Allen is Recognized
68. Deputy Speaker Allen States.
 - a. Add the language to include specific.
 - b. meeting times
69. Senator Martin is Recognized
70. Senator Martin asks.
 - a. How long of meetings?
71. Senator O'Brien is Recognized
72. Senator O'Brien responds.
 - a. It's hard to say there are lots of groups.
73. Senator Martin is Recognized
74. Senator Martin states.
 - a. General is good.
 - b. African American students go through a bunch of issues.
 - c. Would need to work harder to be on SGA.
 - d. This petition might be 10 pages long
 - e. Do you want instances/ what do you want?
75. Deputy Speaker Allen is Recognized

76. Deputy Speaker Allen responds.

- a. Language I added is generic enough for it to fit what Senator Martin wants.
- b. We can add quantification for police reports.
- c. Putting forth a petition is a good way to get those responses.

77. Chairperson Jovanovich is Recognized

78. Chairperson Jovanovich states.

- a. Just putting it out is good.
- b. Measurements are good but at the end of the day bill is good by itself.
- c. We should vote as soon as possible.
- d. We can but we should vote this through.

79. Historian Babcock is Recognized

80. Historian Babcock states.

- a. Echoes Chairperson Jovanovich left vague on purpose to involve black org and students.
- b. I am white and don't know how to solve these problems.
- c. If the university goes to black orgs

81. Sergeant at Arms Corpuz is Recognized

82. Sergeant at Arms Corpuz states.

- a. Vague is good but we should have a plan.
- b. We should have a way to include black orgs and those affected by

83. Senator O'Brien is Recognized

84. Senator O'Brien states.

- a. Wants to hear ideas form the senate.
- b. Senator O'Brien calls for a motion to add language "Involve the creation of regularly scheduled meetings with university leadership, SGA Leadership, and African American/minority organizational leadership represented at these meetings, to further involve students as much as possible."
- c. So moved.
- d. Seconded.
- e. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
- f. Historian Babcock is Recognized

- g. Historian Babcock states.
 - i. That's good I like it.
- h. Chairperson Ramos is Recognized
- i. Chairperson Ramos made a friendly amendment accepted.
 - i. We should take out /minorities.
- j. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
- k. Senator O'Brien accepts the amendment.
- l. Speaker Douglass asks.
 - i. Do we want to say black instead of African American?
- m. Senator Martin is Recognized
- n. Senator Martin responds.
 - i. Both black and African American
- o. Senator Kolawole is Recognized
- p. Senator Kolawole States.
 - i. Black has other connotations sometimes negative.
- q. Senator Martin is Recognized
- r. Senator Martin responds.
 - i. Disagrees also allows large more representative.
 - ii. I am multiple.
 - iii. I want it to be more inclusive.
 - iv. Want to keep it as general as possible.
 - v. There are students who are Nigerian.
 - vi. This is to be more inclusive.
 - vii. Black and/or African American
- s. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate on the motion to add the "involve the creation of regularly scheduled meetings with university leadership, SGA Leadership, and Black and/or African American organizational leadership represented at these meetings, to further".
- t. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
- u. This passes.

85. Senator O'Brien is Recognized

86. Senator O'Brien calls to questions.

87. This passes

88. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 19 yay // 1 nay // 0 abstain 3:21pm

C. SR54028

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item C. A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations.

2. So moved.

3. Seconded.

4. Chairperson Hensley is asked to the front.

5. Chairperson Hensley introduces the bill.

a. Huskie Battalion meets all requirements.

6. Senator Martin is Recognized

7. Senator Martin asks.

a. What is the org about?

8. Chairperson Hensley is Recognized

9. Chairperson Hensley Responds.

a. Purpose of the org is "The purpose of this organization shall be to teach unit leadership and military tactics to students enrolled in Military Science courses. Our goal is not limited to leadership, but also excellence in physical training and academics."

10. Historian Babcock is Recognized

11. Historian Babcock asks.

a. Is the org under the athletic category?

12. Chairperson Hensley is Recognized

13. Chairperson Hensley Responds.

a. No

14. Senator O'Brien is recognized.

15. Senator O'Brien calls for to question.

16. This pass

17. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 16 yay // 1 nay // 1 abstain 3:25pm

NEW BUISNESS

1. There is none.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. There is none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Senator Perez-Hernandez is recognized
2. Senator Perez-Hernandez states.
 - a. In class looking for students in STEM not traditional
 - b. Will send pitch to Speaker Douglass
3. Historian Babcock is recognized
4. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Mavis Staples is performing at Egyptian theater tonight.
 - b. Thanks audience.
5. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized
6. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. First nations are having an event in November.
 - b. Please reach out to Deputy Speaker Allen
 - c. Don't need to be 1st nations.
7. Senator Kolawole is recognized
8. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. Don't forget about the career fair February 15th.
 - b. Afternoon in HSC
9. Senator O'Brien is recognized
10. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. NIU is hosting a comedy show from SNL on Wednesday Feb 8th 8pm in Boutell memorial concert hall.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.

4. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.

CLOSING ATTENDANCE

1. **Voting Members Present:** O'Brien, Gibbons, Hensley, English, Colvin, Ashton, Woodward, Allen, Olson, Perez-Hernandez, Kolawole, Jovanovich, Althoff, Musgraves, Martin, Corpuz, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos, Rosales, Rogers
2. **Voting Members Absent:** N/A
3. **Voting members Excused:** N/A
4. **Candidate Members Present:** N/A

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Clerk English on February 3, 2023