

Minutes of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

December 1st, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Hensley at 2:05 PM in the HSC (Holmes Student Center) Sky Room.
2. We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations
3. **Voting Members Present:** Yuen, Hensley, English, Bereolos, Guerrero, Anukwuocha, Musgraves, Khanjian, Corpuz, Sofia
4. **Voting members Absent:** Osman, Anastopoulos, Senator Rosales
5. **Voting members Excused:** Onebunne

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

1. Clerk Corpuz confirms quorum is met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. There is none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos makes a motion to approve the minutes
2. Clerk Corpuz is recognized
3. Clerk Corpuz states
 - a. Their purpose, so as you may have noticed, minutes were not sent out from last meeting due to some audio visual errors on our part. I will be releasing simplified minutes as soon as I get that hear back from legal.
4. Clerk Corpuz makes a motion to table
5. Deputy Speaker English seconded
6. There is no discussion or debate

7. The minutes are tabled.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Speaker Hensley moves to approve the agenda.
2. Deputy Speaker English so moved.
3. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded.
4. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to add New Business items A through G to old business
6. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded.
7. Speaker Hensley asks if there is discussion or debate.
8. There is none
9. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
10. The motion is passed, New Business A through G is part of Old Business
11. Deputy Speaker English motions to add a new agenda item A: Student Recognition
12. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
13. Speaker Hensley asks if there is anymore discussion or debate.
14. There is none
15. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
16. The motion is passed and new agenda item A: Student Recognition is added
17. Senator Yuen is recognized
18. Senator Yuen states
 - a. I would like to add a new agenda item as well. It is a resolution to clarify the office hours for all paid positions in SGA
19. There is none
20. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
21. The motion is passed and new agenda item B: A It is a resolution to clarify the office hours for all paid positions in SGA
22. Speaker Hensley asks if there is anymore discussion or debate.
23. There is none
24. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
25. The motion is passed, and the agenda is approved.

SPEAKER REPORT

1. Speaker Hensley states

- a. This week was a busy week with this agenda. As you can see, R&P look through all of this. R&P is currently considering written verbal and suspension warnings for some directors that stuff. We'll start you out next week and more will go our second semester. Besides that, I have nothing else to report

SPECIAL REPORT

1. There is none

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT

A. Deputy Speaker's Report

1. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. Hello we've recently contacted our communication with the faculty and University Faculty Senate and the University Committee Council. We have a lot of open spots. If you are, interested in joining some committees, most of them are on Wednesdays. Please reach out to me. These are. Committees and forums that are with the administration. So you're going to invoice to the administration. If you're interested in that, please reach out to me and I'll make sure to get those interested and eligible on those positions. Also, we are looking for Supreme Court justices. We want to make sure our Supreme Court can actually meet and review cases. If you know anyone who's interested in becoming a student government, the Supreme Court. Please send them to either President Newman or Speaker Hensley, because we need more justices so we can actually work. Finally I want to make some comments about last meeting. If you ever feel that. This is supposed to be discussion space. We're supposed to have comments, concerns that we bring to the floor. if for Ever have a reason, For voting one or the other, that's not grounded, please bring it up. Even if you think. It won't matter that much, having that discussion about it, what we're here to do, so even if we're here. Please bring it up. If you're very concerned. Feel free to send it to either the clerk or me or the speaker and we can read it for you, but please have that discussion. That's what this body is for.

- b.

B. Historian's Report

1. There is none.

C. Clerk's Report

1. Clerk Corpuz states

- a. In regards to minutes, while I was doing it, I overheard a conversation that should not be talked about in live feed that is recorded like this. I went to notify HR immediately. That's why its not up. In regards to volunteer hours, please submit them and any other forms of training that you are required. I believe we also will be having CODE training that should be done by next semester. So please submit everything. Please also speak into the mics because it helps my job and makes my life a lot easier.

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Chairperson of Campus Life and Greek Affairs' report

1. There is none.

B. Chairperson of Environmental Affairs' report

1. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos is recognized.
2. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states
 - a. EA met two weeks ago, at this point or less, the Same with what we've been doing planning events for the next semester. We also did have our Clean up event that went well. We were able to clean up the parking lot with just me and Chris.

C. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report

1. Clerk Corpuz is recognized.
2. Clerk Corpuz states
 - a. PA met this last Tuesday and we decided to hold a tabling event all of next week from 1-3. If you guys do need to get your service hours done, we are looking for senators and I will release information about it by this weekend. PA will be meeting later tonight to help with the set up for the table.

D. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight's report

1. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker English states
 - a. OO has continued to do a great job with especially Director Innis' help. Moving forward, as you see in Document 6, ready to go up today and that will be fully voted on next semester and we continue doing good work, we're going to be going into break with a lot of work in our hands because we're working on checking out all orgs have the stuff they need to and get the resource today

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

1. Chairperson Musgraves is recognized.

2. Chairperson Musgraves states

- a. DEI met this week. We have some big projects for next semester. We are pretty excited as well as doing some community service work at the food pantry as well as working with them to run drives.

F. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report

1. There is none.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. President's report

1. There is none.

B. Vice-President's report

1. There is none.

C. Treasurer's report

1. There is none.

D. Deputy Treasurer's report

1. There is none.

E. Chief of Staff's report

1. There is none.

CABINET REPORT

A. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion

1. Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Alcantar states

- a. As all most of you know, I started a little late, so I'm still kind of getting used to SGA and planning stuff so I didn't do much next semester. I have met with different department resource heads talking about there shouldn't be their donation organizations involved with them, and the major projects they have upcoming this spring. I've also tried to meet and attend different organization events on campus for different cultural and ethnic centers. Right now I have three major plans for this spring, so I've been working with the Committee for DEI to potentially do a first Gen. conference to make an NIU population feel more included, since NIU is a 52% first generation for this freshman class. Also planning to do a close security project with the Gender Sexuality Resource Center, along with attending POWER, which I encourage everyone to extend, there's potential that will be speaking with Doctor

Sumner during POWER, but that's still in the works, specifically in regards to SGA and get involved.

b.

B. Director of Organizational Development

1. There is none.

C. Director of Athletics

1. Director of Athletics Becker states

a. Hello all thank you for your time. I first like to say I am sorry for lack of reporting at these meetings because this semester has been hard. I have had some family issues that have impeded me into doing my job early on this semester but nonetheless the reason I am here is tell you what I have done this semester. I have reported to two athletic board meetings where we learned about huskie invest and new media contracts athletics is pursuing, we also learned that there has been more student attendance at football games plus we got tailgate food again early on and we need to increase attendance for basketball games for basketball. I have met with Keith in marketing every week since the beginning of the semester and help plan a successful Greek night volleyball game their last of the season a few weeks ago and broke an attendance record. I have also been very active in talk to different teams to connect with players so I can promote the teams better and talked to the Men's basketball coach about trap crew. Also, I plan on partnering with D.A.W.G. pound to get Huskie Spotlights going again. I want to shoot for a Huskie Pride day in the spring which is in the works.

D. Director of Student Life

1. There is none.

E. Director of Public Affairs

1. There is none.

F. Director of Academic Affairs

1. There is none.

G. Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs

1. There is none.

OLD BUSINESS

A. SR55022

a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to discuss SR55022

- b. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
 - c. Clerk Corpuz states
 - i. This piece just changes the Constitution so that it reflects that there's only one way for the HR policy to work.
 - d. Deputy Speaker English states
 - i. One thing we also changed was to kind of make sure the Senate can't change the HR process. We did this by including the 2/3 majority vote requirement to any legislative piece that changes directly to the policy, because when it was in the Constitution, it required that vote. Now it's in the bylaws and we also wanted to make sure they needed that same requirement.
 - e. There is no discussion or debate
 - f. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
 - g. This resolution passes with a vote count of 14 yays, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- B. SR55025
- a. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos makes a motion to discuss SR55025
 - b. Deputy Speaker English seconded
 - c. Senator Rosales states
 - i. This resolution is to add the flag ceremony and pledge of allegiance to the opening. It was in the previous SGA meetings and it should be put back
 - d. Clerk Corpuz states
 - i. I motion to table this for one week to help fix all errors within the piece of legislation
 - e. Deputy Speaker English seconded
 - f. There is no discussion or debate
 - g. The motion is approved and the resolution is tabled.
- C. SR55016
- a. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos makes a motion to hear SR55016
 - b. Senator Yuen seconded
 - c. Speaker Hensley states
 - i. At our last Senate meeting, we believe we have the chairperson of BOE, which would have been Senator Onebunne. Due to being a graduate student, she cannot be. Are there any nominations from the current BOE?
 - d. Deputy Speaker English nominates Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos
 - e. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos accepts the nomination

- f. Deputy Speaker English nominates Senator Anukwocha
- g. Senator Anukwocha accepts the nomination
- h. Clerk Corpuz states
 - i. The reason Senator Onebunne had to step down because she was a Graduate Assistant. Senator Anukwocha are you also a graduate assistant
- i. Senator Anukwocha states
 - i. I do not work as a graduate assistant mainly, but I do work with NIU's graduate assistant program
- j. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states
 - i. I accepted the nomination for Chairperson of BOE because last election nearly failed in advertising the election. It failed to staff the in-person voting. I believe under my leadership I can hold in-person voting as much as possible because actually having physical polling places allows people to see that there is an election to vote instead of just relying on the electronic votes.
- k. Clerk Corpuz states
 - i. In the interest of making my job easier and I would like to fully endorse Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos because he will not have any interference with it in the case that Senator Anukwocha might have interference with being a grad assistant. This job might interfere with it and we would have to bring up another person to which it would just come back to Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos
- l. Senator Anukwocha withdraws from the running
- m. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
- n. The resolution passes with a vote count of 12 yays, 1 nay, and 1 abstention

D. SR55007

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55007
- b. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
- c. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states
 - i. This bill is to add that every organization has to at least have two executive board members attend CODE training every year. Just to make sure that everyone is following the discrimination clause, make sure that it is inclusive.
 - ii.
- d. There is no discussion or debate
- e. The resolution fails with a vote count of 6 yays, 8 nays, and 0 abstentions

E. SR55026

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55026
- b. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
- c. Director of Government Affairs Phelps is recognized
- d. Director of Government Affairs Phelps states
 - i. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to listen to me today. My name is Khardell Phelps, I am a 20-year-old from Chicago, Illinois. I am currently a sophomore here at Northern Illinois University majoring in Political Science with an emphasis on Political and Governance. Currently on campus I serve as a Community Advisor for Patterson Hall West Complex, as well as the Director of Community Outreach for the Black Student Union. Both of these positions have pushed me into the leader I am today. As well as giving me the opportunity to do what I am truly passionate about, serving my community. Both of these leadership roles have helped bloom my character as someone who can be described as resilient, open minded, organized, and compassionate. These same skills and lessons I've learned have not only pushed me to want to take a step further in community involvement here at NIU but has provided me with the experience to do so as well. I've learned many lessons throughout my semesters here, from how to collaborate with people with different personalities and goals, executing successful events, and most importantly listening and taking feedback from others. These same lessons and skills I plan on using while serving as Director of Governmental Affairs. My current involvement on campus will allow me to be able to hold a certain standard of professionalism throughout my term. As well as helping me network and connect with the student body. It will also allow me to behave in a manner that will exemplify the students of NIU in a great way, as well as the Student Government Association. Entering this position is something I am truly passionate about. I strongly believe learning comes from experiences. Being the Director of Governmental Affairs will allow me the opportunity to gain a sense of the Political Science world and allow me to connect with political figures. More importantly, although I am currently in positions that serve parts of the study body, this position will allow me to serve the student body as a whole. I believe young adults' involvement in politics is significant. Not only is the political future in our current generation's hands, but invoking change and protecting our communities through political action is as well. These beliefs have driven me to want to see change here on our campus. As

Director of Governmental Affairs, I plan on holding voting registry events, some form of panel or summit, discussing the importance of politics, and building a relationship with our own political department as well as with local politicians. Although all these are a key factor to my plan, my focus is student involvement, and community engagement. I believe you cannot serve your community if you don't know your community. Meeting the student body and connecting with them is something I look forward to. I plan on doing this by some form of tabling, or even just being in the Holmes Student Center. Actually, connecting with the student body will not only allow me to build relationships with them, but as well as help them gain some political insight. Overall, there's many great things I could possibly put on, but I would love to focus on communicating, educating, and engaging with our community myself. Once again, my name is Khardell Phelps, and I would like to thank you guys for listening to me today. I would like to be completely transparent, stepping into the role of Director of Governmental Affairs won't be an easy journey, but it's one I'm ready to conquer and learn from. Thank you!

- e. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states
 - i. How did you hear about this position?
- f. Director of Government Affairs Phelps states
 - i. I personally knew about this position but I didn't first believe I was at the capacity to fill it. I thought other people would fill it, but I was encouraged by other people like my org and later on I talked to President Newman and she said it was a great fit for me.
- g. Deputy Speaker English states
 - i. Your position has a lot of keeping up with local and national student orgs as well as with the city of Dekalb. Do you have any connections within local, national or state governments? The second question is are you willing to connect with these governments and reach out to them?
- h. Director of Government Affairs Phelps
 - i. To answer the first question, I do throughout my life I have always been into politics. I have met many different government officials like senators, governors, and even Obama. I will use those connections in my role as director.
- i. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos

- i. Do you have enough time through the day to achieve and work towards your position?
 - j. Director of Government Affairs Phelps states
 - i. I personally have good time management and that is something that I have always been amazing at and I use different skills like a planner to manage my day. I will strive to keep up with the role of Director of Government Affairs
 - k. Chairperson Musgraves states
 - i. I believe he will best be able to fit into this role and he has the qualifications and connections to be in this position. I think he will be able to work in this position as well as have commitment to other organizations. I don't think you will find another candidate that is well suited for this position as him.
 - l. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
 - m. This resolution is passed with a vote count of 14 yays, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions
- F. SB55009
 - a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SB 55009
 - b. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
 - c. Deputy Speaker English states
 - i. Bylaws and Constitutions are routinely reviewed by committees and the Organization Oversight, review it, make suggestions and funding suggestions for help with clarity, responsibility, designation and accuracy intent so the changes that are being made beyond just the formatting stuff is we already do some of these steps, so the first one is officer selection proceedings. That's what we do and if you look at the next step that it's deleted. That's because some national orgs today have some of their bylaws and constitutions that are supposed to be private and second of all. As long as it follows school policy and continue pertaining to that to be recognized, or they have to, they sign it, they say they will. The national does not require that, so that's what we're suggesting that. In Section 2, we added staff because that's different designation and as it stands now, those aren't recognized. Then we clarified GPA requirements, because it should be 2.5 to 3.0 for undergraduate and graduate respectively, and we changed the way people talk to people to follow that or what we're doing. Doesn't go to speaker, goes to the chairperson Organization oversight committee. And last but not least, we've deleted article in article last Section D because if you look at C, it's the exact same thing.

- d. There is no discussion or debate
- e. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
- f. This bill passes with a vote count of 14 yays, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions

G. SR55028

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55028
- b. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
- c. Deputy Speaker English states
 - i. This one we will also table later but I will introduce. Going into it, we're adding a new article to operators, manual Article 21 number and after that we adjusted Senate meeting scheduled deadline. We don't currently have a deadline of power scheduled. This can be used for future sessions.t. One thing I would like to change as well was instead of. Parts four and five change that to opening ceremony and have those as tapped once over and then right before announcements, but right after adjournment and roll.
- d. Clerk Corpuz states
 - i. Couldn't you just change this before going into the Senate Meeting?
- e. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to table
- f. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
- g. There is no discussion or debate
- h. This motion is tabled

H. SR55029

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55029
- b. Senator Rosales seconded
- c. Speaker Hensley states
 - i. Vice President Kaylin Lee has not worked a single day this semester. This year, we have gone through the HR policy we implemented last year. This is following the constitutional amendment that we did earlier today to make sure we were following the Constitution. This is with agreement with myself, advisor and President Newman that we terminate Kaylin Lee so we can put in a vice president in place if President Newman wishes.
- d. Senator Yuen states
 - i. Has Vice President Lee not reached out to anyone about not working?
- e. Speaker Hensley states

- i. Currently, SGA uses the first past the post selection system, first past the post. Election systems are one of the objectively worse election systems for fairness and equity, especially as you get past the three candidates. This would be. Changing that from first past the post to something to note that are a bit different, are it also changes the way we important election Commissioner to hey, you did great choice. That's it's just stating that instead of having every person post. Then it also does change it to be first past the post and they're changing the right choice. Technically there can be a tie, but in the case of a tie for executive, whether one slot open, it would just go to the highest 2 remaining. Possibly the time and they would. Go to rank choice election. Yeah. Then it would be Senate candidates is a. Bit harder because it is multiple seats most of the time, and So what they are doing is great choice or they just keep doing that until you got one. It kept it from getting tied. Finally, it is changing the language because originally said in section 5B and said one day runoff election shall be held a week following started the initial election. This says that most of the week following so you have some weak wave where just make sure it's on a weekday when most people are on campus.
- d. There is no discussion or debate
- e. The bill passes with a vote count of 13 yays, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions

K. SR55030

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55030
- b. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded
- c. Deputy Speaker English states
 - i. So what this does is it's updated and heavily changed from students have approached their senators about their safe developments in Israel and Palestine. SGA's stated goals to be a voice for students on campus. There have been occurrences of connected students being. There's, I think links. Yeah, there's links there and students on campus pointed to those pieces of concern. There have also been occurred to the people nearby. Those to us in Dekalb, having been killed. Once again, students have come to us, pointed to these SGA does have the ability to provide support and educational services. So what this would do and what would it would require SGA is. This resolution itself, if it passes, basically says we condemn any behavior of those treated to events that have been transferred, those Palestinian Muslim Jewish origin, as well as condemning

Islamophobia overall. So what that section is basically doing is saying. We think hate is not a good thing. We condemn any. Acts that perpetrate the next, therefore, is SGA will provide campus resources to the postal community, including but not limited to, mental health, educational, informal, informational resources. What that will probably look like is working with counseling and consultation services. To provide resources there as well as facilitating an educational problem, talk-in or teach-in kind of thing like the events that happen in the Holocaust The final therefore is SGA will support Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, Jewish, Muslim and allied people. Really, what that means is. We are telling them. Hey, we hear you. We understand your concern. That's what it is.

- d. There is no further discussion or debate
- e. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
- f. The resolution passes with a vote count of 11 yays, 2 nays, and 1 abstention

NEW BUSINESS

A. SR55018

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55018
- b. Senator Yuen seconded
- c. Deputy Speaker English states
 - i. It passed all the stuff. It just was due to a technical glitch, there is six going up.
- d. There is no discussion or debate
- e. The resolution is tabled for next meeting

B. SR55032

- a. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to hear SR55032
- b. Senator Yuen seconded
- c. Senator Yuen states
 - i. So what's this resolution is it's just some formality adding to bylaws of SGA. We're in the executive and legislative branches we have mentioned within those sections, paid positions like Manny has as clerk and all that stuff. This is just so that anyone who wishes to be a holder will wish to apply the holder of these positions to just understand the amount of hours one would have to work in order to maintain the positions. Because right now we don't not have. That everything is mentioned in contracts which. Is not seen by the public, but this is just the

formalities that whoever wants to apply for them, you would know. How many you have to work. I will take it any and all questions.

- d. Senator Robinson states
 - i. Would the hours have to be where the executive branch comes up and say what they have been doing or would it be just clocking hours
- e. There is no further discussion or debate
- f. The resolution is tabled for next meeting

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A. Deputy Speaker English states
 - a. There are a bunch of seats we need to fill for University Council and Faculty Senate if anybody is interested. They are at Wednesday at 3PM and I will work with anyone that would like to fill them.
- B. Senator Yuen states
 - a. I am graduating this December and I will be resigning my seat as Senator of Business. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and I wish you the best of SGA. I know that the remaining senators will do well in the spring and I wish you the best as well as give you my goodbyes.
- C. Senator Rosales states
 - a. Are there any pieces of legislations that need to still be worked on?
- D. Speaker Hensley states
 - a. Speaker Hensley, Deputy Speaker English, Clerk Corpuz will work on them over break.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states
 - a. EA meets tonight at 7:45PM on Teams
- B. Clerk Corpuz states
 - a. As mention before, PA meets downstairs after this meeting to meet to assemble our giveaways for tabling next week.
- C. Deputy Speaker English
 - a. Don't forget graduation is coming up. Graduates, congratulations and go support your friends and family who are graduating.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Speaker Hensley calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos so moved.
3. Senator Yuen seconded.
4. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.

CLOSING ATTENDANCE

1. **Voting Members Present:** Osman, Yuen, Hensley, English, Bereolos, Guerrero, Anastopoulos
Anukwuocha, Musgraves, Khanjian, Rosales, Corpuz, Sofia
2. **Voting Members Absent:** Onebunne
3. **Voting members Excused:**
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Clerk Corpuz on December 5th, 2023

55th Senate on December 5th, 2023