

Minutes of the  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

October 20th, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Hensley at 2:06 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:** Osman, Yuen, Hensley, English, Bereolos, Guerrero, Anukwuocha, Onebunne, Musgraves, Khanjian, Rosales, Corpuz, Sofia
4. **Voting members Absent:**
5. **Voting members Excused:** Anastopoulos

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Clerk Corpuz confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. There is none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Hensley moves to approve last week's minutes.
2. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos so moved.
3. Senator Rosales 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 is passed, and the minutes are approved.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Speaker Hensley moves to approve the agenda.
2. Clerk Corpuz 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 SR55018 to new 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, agenda item SR55018 is added to new business
11. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to table SR55014.
12. Senator Yuen is recognized.
13. Senator Yuen states
  - a. Is there a reason we are tabling this?
14. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. Due to some HR policy stuff with regarding background checks and how long they take that is why we're tabling it. So it's not a reflective of the applicant senator, but it is on our HR side.
15. Speaker Hensley calls for a point of information
16. Speaker Hensley states
  - a. He should be coming up at our next meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
17. Speaker Hensley asks if there is discussion or debate.
18. There is none
19. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
20. The motion is passed, and SR55014 is tabled until November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
21. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to move all agenda items in new business to old business
22. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded.
23. Speaker Hensley asks if there is discussion or debate.
24. There is none

25. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
26. The motion is passed, and all agenda items in new business is moved to old business.
27. Speaker Hensley asks if there is anymore discussion or debate.
28. There is none
29. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
30. The motion is passed, and the agenda is approved.

## **SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Speaker Hensley states
  - a. We have started to give written warnings and verbal warnings out as they are supposed to have staff reports up weekly and supposed to attend the Senate meeting every four weeks and some of that is not happening. So we are getting out to them. Besides that we do not have a meeting next Friday due to scheduling conflicts with the HSC our next meeting is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Considering today we have 5 nominees for the Board of Elections we will vote for that so that is all I have.

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none

## **OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

### **A. Deputy Speaker's Report**

1. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. As you may or may not have noticed you have all been added to a Teams. This Teams is that all of the SGA is not just the Senate so this is where most of the information will be posted and if you go into files if you're looking to make legislation and you can see something called 55th session legislation template you can use that to kind of start if you haven't started yet. You can also check on staff reports of both the executive judicial as well as the legislative branches to see what the various elected and paid positions are getting up to. Also leadership quizzes so those of you who are in like legislative leadership positions which includes chair people and the clerk, Sergeant at arms, deputy speaker you will be receiving or have received a

leadership quiz when you finish that please return it to me. You can take it multiple times but it's mostly just to get a feel of what you know and what you need to learn and finally amendments there's been some confusion with amendments hopefully the this legislation helps some of it some of the problems have just been historically we've done amendments slightly incorrectly which have led to a misunderstanding how they work um the way they were supposed to work is they're presented one week then two weeks from then is when they're voted on. We don't need the two votes on it and if you make a change during that time period that does not extend to the two weeks though you are welcome to table it if you think it needs more time. So that is the updates of how amendments should be done.

B. Historian's Report

1. There is none.

C. Clerk's Report

1. There is none.

**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. Environmental affairs met last Friday at 7:30. our minutes are posted to Huskie Hub we met and discussed topics for events that we can hold this semester like cleaning up tailgating after football games or after basketball games and possibly working with different organizations on campus for clean up, planting trees that is all we have right now thank you

C. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report

1. Clerk Corpuz is recognized.
2. Clerk Corpuz states

- a. PA met this last Tuesday. We discussed ideas for potential events that we're going to be holding during finals week and for November. For the most part, I believe we are keeping our time but it is right now still in the works we are trying to decide an actually stable meeting where we could all meet at the same time.

D. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight's report

1. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. We had six orgs that we're reviewing right now this week. We have one organization who's coming up for resolution next meeting. We should have three and I would want to praise director Innis's hard work he's really helped us make this really productive.

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

1. Chairperson Musgraves is recognized.
2. Chairperson Musgraves states
  - a. DEI is going to meet next week after Senate and like Clerk Corpuz said trying to find this table time we can meet consistently along with running down the procedure on how committee meetings work since I have all new members have to go to the flow of how to create agenda and the minutes.

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. There is none.

B. Director of Organizational Development

1. There is none.

C. Director of Athletics

1. There is none.

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. SR55016: A resolution to select the Spring 2024 Board of Elections

1. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos so moved.
2. Deputy Speaker English seconded.
3. Speaker Hensley states
  - a. Today the last meeting of October, is the deadline for president Newman to select an election commissioner She did not do so therefore we are starting the Board of Elections process. Considering we have 5 nominees today we will vote on those five nominees and if there's a six or seventh person those would be our two alternates after the vote of the five nominees the Senate will choose the chairperson of the Board of Elections or nominate people for that position, pending that they will give a 5 minute speech chair of the Board of Elections will be set which is also the election commissioner.

4. Deputy Speaker English nominates Deputy Speaker English, Speaker Hensley, Senator Anukwuocha, & Senator Onebunne
5. Deputy Speaker English accepts the nomination.
6. Speaker Hensley accepts the nomination.
7. Senator Anukwuocha accepts the nomination.
8. Senator Onebunne accepts the nomination.
9. Deputy Speaker English nominates Senator Sofia & Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos
10. Senator Sofia accepts the nomination.
11. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos accepts the nomination.
12. Deputy Speaker English nominates Senator Guerrero.
13. Senator Guerrero accepts the nomination.
14. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
15. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. This is a general piece of information you're able to nominate people who are not senators and as well as people who are not in SGA as a whole so if you have anyone who you know would say yes and is able to respond quickly, you can nominate them now.
16. Speaker Hensley calls for a point of information.
17. Speaker Hensley states
  - a. They must be present.
18. Speaker Hensley asks if there are any candidates that wish to give a speech.
19. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
20. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. Last year I was one of the main driving people behind a lot of the election reform kind of stuff that happened so I'm intimately familiar with a lot of the ways that the rules have changed. So I know a lot of the ways they did it and one of the things I was running on when pushing those pieces of legislation forward last year was that I would be on the board and willing to help. Even if I'm not elected I will be happy to be a resource for people to use but I'm intimately familiar with not only the SGA but also these specific pieces of

legislation. I'm not looking to be chair but I would like to help whoever is on the board whether or not I'm on it myself. I yield the rest of my time.

21. Speaker Hensley asks if there are any questions.

22. There are none.

23. Speaker Hensley asks if there are anymore candidates that wish to give a speech.

24. Senator Anukwuocha is recognized.

25. Senator Anukwuocha states

- a. I'm coming for this position to become part of this electoral commission because I observed sometime in the last election that there are not much publicity so I intend to do more publicity and carry out more publicity so that everyone is part of the election even the disabled. I'm looking forward to let us have the next Senate have the disabled be part of the next Senate. Another thing is that I have had the opportunity to be the electoral commissioner back home in Nigeria as an undergrad and I was the electoral commissioner for the student government association election. So I've had experience in organizing the elections and all that

26. Speaker Hensley asks if there any questions for the candidate.

27. Senator Yuen is recognized.

28. Senator Yuen states

- a. Do you feel that the obligations that it does take to be on the Board of Elections that you will have the time and the capabilities to ensure that you have full commitment to becoming one of the commissioners?

29. Senator Anukwuocha states

- a. Yes of course. I have the time. Already I have the time for my schedule and all of my activities for the week. I always create time for anything volunteer. I am very passionate about volunteering activities. I will always have time for anything I decide to come out for. Except for if I want to work for. And if I decide to go for it, always give it my time and best to make sure there is success in that.

30. Speaker Hensley asks if there are anymore candidates that wish to give a speech.

31. Speaker Hensley calls for a rank vote.

32. Clerk Corpuz collects the votes.
33. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to recess for 5 minutes to count the votes.
34. Clerk Corpuz seconded.
35. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
36. There is none.
37. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
38. The motion is passes and Senate is at recess until 2:33 PM
39. Senate is resumed at 2:33 PM
40. The votes were counted and Speaker Hensley, Deputy Speaker English, Senator Anukwuocha, Senator Onebunne, and Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos were selected as the Board of Elections while Senator Guerrero is selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate and Senator Sofia as the 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate.
41. Clerk Corpuz calls Point of Information
42. Clerk Corpuz states
  - a. I believe that Deputy Speaker English and Speaker Hensley are not allowed to be chair for the Board of Elections.
43. Speaker Hensley asks for any nominations to the Chair of the Board of Elections
44. Senator Yuen nominates Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos.
45. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos accepts the nomination.
46. Senator Anukwuocha nominates Senator Anukwuocha, Senator Onebunne
47. Senator Anukwuocha accepts the nomination.
48. Senator Onebunne accepts the nomination.
49. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any candidate that would like to give a speech.
50. Senator Anukwuocha is recognized.
51. Senator Anukwuocha states
52. I just have three reasons to why I should be the Chair for the next Board of Elections for this election cycle. One, I have this influence in making sure that there is high level of publicity in the next coming election. The reason being is that I observed in the past election we hardly get to get information concerning the election. I think we need to do more in the area of publicity and I plan to adopt collaboration process with some other organizations and speak to the IT department of NIU to ensure that every

student gets to know about the election that is going on. I have come to understand students most times like to get information directly to their phones. We need to upload to the SMS and bulk SMS to send down to everyone to make sure that everybody gets the information. When I was campaigning for this election, when I talked to students about it, they said they didn't know what SGA was. I was trying to explain to them what SGA was. Secondly, I am looking forward to have an election where everybody is presented. So we need to correct that. If you can observe that, we are still looking for more senators. When we assumed position, there are so many people that could not come up to this position probably because they did not know about it. So I think there is need for us to let everyone is presented and that there is diversity in this next Senate. We are looking forward to see that even the disabled are part of this Senate. We are looking forward to have make sure that the universities. Another area that I want to look at is making sure that the next election will be the best elections so far in NIU. Like I said that when I was in my undergrad in Nigeria I was on the election and made sure that the management did not interfere much into the student affairs. So I tried to carry on the management carry on what have been. However there are not the ones that should probably take over the student affairs. We report to them. They coordinate what we do. They guide what we do. They guide our actions. However they don't take over from the students so I will make sure that the management collaboration between the management and the students to ensure that they there is cohesion you know. The better force in one page. So they are something and they're not saying something different. So these are the areas I want to work on. Number one publicity, number two everyone is carried along, and number three management and the students are working hand in hand to ensure that we produce the best candidate for the next election.

53. Speaker Hensley asks if there are any questions for Senator Anukwuocha.
54. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
55. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. As chair of the Board of Elections you would probably work closely with the faculty advisor of the SGA, have you met or had any contact with Sladjana Grbic, the advisor of the SGA?

56. Senator Anukwuocha states

- a. I have been making contact actually contacted the speaker he was able to give me full details because of how the election today will work or the the chair of the board so he actually gave me the full details so but I tend to if I become the chair I will collaborate more with more people who are concerned about us. however I worry I'm always one person that always like to consult before I take any action even yesterday I consulted in before making so I'd like to take steps take us to technical suggestions before I take any position

57. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

58. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. What is your opinion on physical polling places?

59. Senator Anukwuocha is recognized.

60. Senator Anukwuocha states

- a. I think my opinion on that is okay to have a physical elections. However going by the current situation the technology area we are I think virtual elections is more better because number one if we should rely on physical election difficult for us to get students to come and vote and consider the weather condition we might even have the condition where it is a bad weather condition where they might not even want to come out and eventually not get the number of votes we need. But if it's virtual students can comfortably sit in the comfort of their homes and cast their votes. So for me I think it is a good one, but given the fact that the environment today to make some students not to vote which will lead to disenfranchisement and I wouldn't want this to happen

61. Speaker Hensley asks if there are any other questions for Senator Anukwuocha.

62. There is none.

63. Senator Anukwuocha steps down

64. Senator Onebunne is recognized.

65. Senator Onebunne states

- a. Hello everyone I would like to serve as the chair of BOE. I plan to bring these three things to the table which I will go by the mode TRC. T is for

transparency, R is for representation, and C is for collaboration. For transparency, as someone with an experience in working in real national election back home and work with APC which is like political party back home one of the things that people struggle with in election is that if the process is not transparent the outcome will be flawed. So I believe that as the chair of BOE, I would bring transparency. The second one is representation. When every board every voice matters I would make sure that in the BOE Electoral Commission not just anybody but anybody devoid of judgment, devoid of race, devoid of religion, devoid of background. I would create a safe space where women, men, nonbinary, everyone matters regardless of political affiliation or racial, secondly collaboration. I understand that to be a good leader or to deliver or make good delivery there's a need for good collaboration. I've been working with every committee because all hands must be on deck starting from the PA committee which is public affairs, DEI and every other community on the SGA. If there is a need to make more publicity about the elections, I'll be working with all of these committees.

66. Speaker Hensley asks if there any questions for Senator Onebunne.

67. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

68. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. As chair of the Board of Elections you work closely with the faculty advisor of the SGA have you met or had any contact with Sladjana Grbic, the advisor of the SGA?

69. Senator Onebunne states

- a. To kickstart off with my mode of transparency, I'll be transparent with you I have not. But I am someone that is open to adaptation and adoption. I would also want to speak with the necessary offices and also like I said collaborates with them in the sweet manner so that we deliver outstanding results.

70. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

71. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. What is your opinion on physical polling places?

72. Senator Onebunne states

- a. my opinion on physical polling place as someone who is studying communication and not just any kind of communication but digital communication I firmly believe that we are in the age of digital media where physical spaces are getting smaller and then given the weather conditions and where we are and given the age that we are where everybody can connect to anything and even achieve maximum result from the comfort of their home, I believe that it's necessary for us to host to maintain virtual places and then if it's also possible give physical polling units for people that are on campus

73. Senator Rosales is recognized.

74. Senator Rosales states

- a. What would you as the chair do to verify or relive the BOE and what format do you see any problems from the last election that you would want to fix?

75. Senator Onebunne states

- a. Honestly in the last election, one big problem that I noticed was lack of publicity that I actually talked about. Most people that I met did not know what SGA was and this lack of publicity was not just I noticed that it was not just amazing American students it was amazed international study that is where my collaboration comes in because I'm going to collaborate with every community everybody and everybody

76. Senator Yuen is recognized.

77. Senator Yuen states

- a. In terms of transparency how would you make the whole student body care about the elections of voting for senators for SGA

78. Senator Onebunne states

- a. I believe that for me to be transparent I will start from myself because the change we all want to begin with one self. I would make sure that every process is truly committed in timely fashion and then if there is any need for us to tackle issues there is also I will be providing tables of platform where we can collaborate together and discuss what these things openly discussion with conclusions

79. Senator Onebunne steps down

80. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos is recognized.

81. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states

- a. I believe that I should be chair for this committee based on the fact that I've when elected I went through the special election instead of the main election because I didn't even know about it I wasn't aware it happened until after voting I didn't even know about it until three days before getting on the ballot because I I don't even know there is going to be a special election anyways. I find the failure of the previous year's SGA to be significant and the fact that we are barely above half for the amount of senators that we could have I believe that it should have been. We should have had more and I find this to be extremely disappointing from last year's government I believe with the committee this year we can do better I believe we can reach out to more people and more students and actually gain more attention this year through campaigning with posters and outreach through emails and actually talking with people in dining halls and in the student center itself. I believe these are good topics to start with to increase our presence on campus which frankly should be a lot larger

82. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

83. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. As chair of the Board of Elections you work closely with the faculty advisor of the SGA have you met or had any contact with Sladjana Grbic, the advisor of the SGA?

84. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states

- a. I have not, but I am definitely wanting to reach out especially if I became chair. I will need as much help as possible to chair the committee and make sure we get a better election

85. Senator Yuen is recognized.

86. Senator Yuen states

- a. You have mentioned before that we do have half of the required Senate here today given that the whole point of an election is to have senators running for positions. How would you increase the number of possible candidates for the

positions that we can have so that we could have at least a somewhat larger standard body than we have currently?

87. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states

- a. I'd like to start with like reaching out with the colleges that are currently not represented at all we from my right now I'm the only one present for College of Health and Sciences we're missing College of Arts and we're missing a lot of the university at large and housing I believe that without a lot of those students we have we don't have as much of A scope on things that we could have and we need the diversity of every single College in place to actually improve what our Senate can do

88. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

89. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. What is your opinion on physical polling places?

90. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos states

- a. I think we should use them in all honesty last year I didn't even know about it until I was approached by I'm pretty sure the vice president to vote and I didn't know about it then. So if we have physical voting places preferably if they were outside of dining halls so that we can kind of conveniently get students to vote as they're going to eat it'd be a smart option I think the digital voting was useful for when COVID was still affecting us all but now when we're actually in person I believe that if we have strategic strategically placed voting section they're polling places we can get a better turnout and it won't be hunting down students to vote.

91. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.

92. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

93. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. One thing to keep in mind is one of the jobs of the chair of the election Board of Elections is that they if some disciplinary stuff comes up so for example someone send a mass e-mail using incorrect things it's up to the chair to give out that violation notice and to make sure those notices are posted publicly so

keep in mind as some of the responsibilities involve making sure they can post things publicly and that they can do it in a timely manner.

94. Senator Rosales is recognized.

95. Senator Rosales states

- a. I just want to give my full support to Senator Anukwuocha that the experience is there

96. Senator Rosales is recognized.

97. Senator Rosales states

- a. In regards to the seats, in the future if we had more senators, why is this going on in October?

98. Speaker Hensley states

- a. In years past I have been in SGA as long as you have. Last year it was second semester when all this got done. Christmas Break we have a month of and it is a real important time for the Board of Elections to meet. You can plan logistics, you can plan on where you are putting the voting places. And that is part of last year's failure. with today being the last day that Olivia can appoint someone for election commissioner and from communicating with her I knew she wasn't going to appoint anyone and in the bylaws we actually have to have this up by a don't I might be around is it the second or third week in November so with that I had it up both I had to go up this week I was not sure if we're going to have five nominees so we're going to keep bringing it up

99. Deputy Speaker English makes a motion to use rank choice to vote

100. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos seconded

101. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.

102. Deputy Speaker English explains how rank choice works.

103. Senator Yuen is recognized.

104. Senator Yuen states

- a. Given the complexity of this, should we give a five minutes recess to confer after?

105. Clerk Corpuz calls a point of information

106. Clerk Corpuz states

- a. I will be making a motion for a recess after I collect the votes
- 107. Speaker Hensley calls a point of information
  - a. This vote needs to have the highest vote with 2/3rds vote to pass since this is a paid position
- 108. Senator Rosales is recognized.
- 109. Senator Rosales states
  - a. I would like to have senators who have not spoken during this session to respond since this is a paid position
- 110. Senator Osman is recognized.
- 111. Senator Osman states
  - a. uh I think this is an important decision I think the rank system brought up definitely should be used because we want the best person for chairperson since we don't want what happened last year to happen this year again I think as long as we take this vote seriously and pick the best person that we believe in think it'll be good
- 112. Senator Khanjian is recognized.
- 113. Senator Khanjian states
  - a. We should vote smartly since it is a paid position and pick the best for the position.
- 114. Senator Guerrero is recognized.
- 115. Senator Guerrero states
  - a. Like Senator Osman has stated, this is a really important position, mostly if we want to make SGA successful for this upcoming school year and I think we should think very carefully about who we are choosing for this position
- 116. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
- 117. The vote is passed, and ranked choice voting will be used
- 118. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
- 119. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. Where are you getting the idea that it should be a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote for a paid position?
- 120. Speaker Hensley states

- a. This was a problem a couple years ago and the Supreme Court overruled the ruling on the vote since there was not a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote between three candidates.
  121. Clerk Corpuz collects the votes and makes a motion to recess for five minutes to count votes
  122. Senator Rosales seconded.
  123. Speaker Hensley ask if there is any discussion or debate
  124. There is none.
  125. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
  126. The vote is passed and the Senate is at recess until 3:11 PM
  127. Senate resumes at 3:12 PM
  128. With a count of 6 votes for Senator Onebunne, 2 votes for Senator Anukwuocha, and 4 votes for Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos, Senator Anukwuocha is named Chair of the Board of Elections and Election Commissioner
  129. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate
  130. There is none.
  131. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote
  132. This resolution passes with 12 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.
- B. SR55017: A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their Constitution.
1. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos so moved
  2. Senator Yuen seconded
  3. Deputy Speaker English states
    - a. Miss would you like to introduce this want to know how we're actually supposed to do amendments so you know how the US constitution does amendments where they have amendments one through I think we're up to 22 right now and each one has like amendment number at the top and then it says it that's how we're supposed to do it right now according to our constitution we have not done that for at least two years. The way we've done it is the way this changes it to and while it is important to preserve and keep the constitution it is also important to recognize how we actually function and so that we can function to the best of our ability to students here on campus. This way we still make sure we keep the changes that we have we preserve the old

ones by giving it to the historian um and that way we're still preserving it while still being able to update our constitution in a way that's reader friendly because imagine if we had I think there were 14 amendments last year alone imagine if we had that times 55 we would be in the hundreds of amendments that would be very hard to read as a constitution this allows the constitution to be easily readable by students faculty and anyone who's interested which is why this change is being made we already do it this way this is just making it so we do it officially. We are not voting on this today we will be voting on it two meetings from now

4. Senator Yuen is recognized.
5. Senator Yuen states
  - a. Does this mean that any previous amendments that have been passed will have to go through certain changes to accommodate this new amendment or do we just keep it as is?
6. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. it is my opinion that we should keep the constitution as it is with the notice that hey we made a mistake we are now correcting that mistake um but if people are so inclined we do have I think the 40th constitution and we have most of the amendments that are there so it would be a very long piece of legislation that would be very confusing but we could pass something that says the constitution that we have now is the correct constitution and should be updated as follows from here
7. Senator Rosales is recognized.
8. Senator Rosales states
  - a. Are we going to restart each amendment count with each session?
9. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. If we were supposed to keep the count going from the previous sessions, we have not been doing it incorrectly. We are trying to move away from the old system in general
10. Senator Rosales is recognized.
11. Senator Rosales states

- a. How would it look like moving forward?
- 12. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. The format moving on for future sessions to keep counting up if this resolution does not pass
- 13. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
- 14. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. I like what Senator Yuen was saying and I would like to work with them to fix the wordings to better reflect their idea to allow previous amendments to be recognized. as still valid amendments
- 15. Speaker Hensley calls for a point of information
  - a. This legislation can be fixed next week after we table it for this meeting
- 16. Deputy Speaker English calls for a point of order
  - a. This legislation is not tabled, but is just finished looking at
- 17. Deputy Speaker English calls the question.

C. SR55018:

- 1. Sergeant-at-Arms Bereolos so moved
- 2. Senator Yuen seconded
- 3. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. This resolution is welcoming one new org, Sigma Gamma Epsilon. They are a geology org. They passed Organizational Oversight's checklist they meet all the standards yeah they have my full support I can answer any questions
- 4. Chairperson Musgraves is recognized.
- 5. Chairperson Musgraves states
  - a. The Internet is a bit slow during the meeting
- 6. Senator Rosales is recognized.
- 7. Senator Rosales states
  - a. Can you read the purpose of this organization?
- 8. Deputy Speaker English states
- 9. The society shall have for its objectives the scholastic and scientific advancement of its members and the extension of the relations of friendship and assistance among colleges, universities, and scientific schools here and after referred to a school or

schools with recognized. standing which are devoted to the advancement of earth sciences. Furthermore the society shall encourage research and publication both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

10. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate
11. There is none.
12. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
13. This resolution passes with 12 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. There is none.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- A. Senator Rosales is recognized.
- B. Senator Rosales states
  - a. I just want to acknowledge Speaker Hensley for doing the BOE work early as previous sessions lacked on that.
- C. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
- D. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. For the people who are interested in working on the amendment amendment wording that crystallizes the current constitution is the most updated one please meet with me after this meeting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
- B. Deputy Speaker English states
  - a. Two things first one there is a startup stand up stand up stand up next Saturday October 28th from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM in 71 N in the library basement it's a fun little hackathon thing where you're given a topic or a thing that you need to sell a comedy I think there's going to be some yeah there's going to be some things that help you learn how to do that that'll be really fun event I won't unfortunately I will not be able to go but I should be a fun event and I think we could benefit from people going there. Also there Is next week one of the reasons that we are not

meeting is because of the real talk conference announcement so real talk conference bridging race identity and community one of the things as senators you need to do is complete a code training Cole is working on doing some specific code trainings getting those set up for you guys however this does fulfill that requirement so if you go to this it will count it is on Friday October 27th from 8 them to 4:00 PM SGA has been heavily encouraged to attend this unfortunately I will not be able to go because I will be out of the state or out of the town county but it is it looks very interesting and there is also free food so you do need a registered by today but I would suggest registering for the real talk conference on October 27th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

C. Senator Onebunne is recognized.

D. Senator Onebunne states

- a. Going off of real talk conference we also have positions for volunteers that can also help fast track conference.

E. Speaker Hensley is recognized.

F. Speaker Hensley states

- a. I have one thing as Chris said we have Code training and for the bylaws have been set up one person semester for us this semester I believe that will be November 17 uh the exact time I do not know yet but I believe it's 10 AM to 12:00 PM but I have to check on that other sites that we did not meet next week uh so please do not come up here at 2:00 PM

G. Chairperson Musgraves is recognized.

H. Chairperson Musgraves states

- a. The movement incorporated is hosting a breast cancer awareness event if you want to learn more about breast cancer everyone can attend this not just females page good girls take NIU we also giving away 50 free gifts provided by a breast cancer awareness organization from Chicago um another announcement is members of the I can you please stay back there's been an error with scheduling time so please please as soon as possible this meeting is over

I. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.

J. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. If you guys have a bunch of cool costumes or even just one costume or even partially made costume for Halloween or other reasons makers club is putting on a costume showcase in the Duke Ellington ballroom next Wednesday October 25th from 4:30 to 6:00 so if you have some cool costumes that you want to show off feel free to go there I'll be running it.

K. Senator Rosales is recognized.

L. Senator Rosales states

- a. So a few sessions we always been like tradition I know we don't meet on Halloween but would you prefer do like a costume thing or are we just going to skip that this year?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Hensley calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Senator Yuen so moved.
3. Chairperson Musgraves 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 3:31 PM.

## **CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

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

## **MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Corpuz on October 24th, 2023

55<sup>th</sup> Senate on October 20th, 2023