

Transcript of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

September 22nd, 2023

CALL TO ORDER Nominated Director Anderson ROLL CALL

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Hensley at 2:07 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, English, Hensley, Bereolos, Guerrero, Anastopoulos, Anukwuocha, Onebunne, Musgraves, Khanjian, Rosales, Corpuz, Sofia
4. **Voting members Absent:**
5. **Voting members Excused:**

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

1. Quorum is met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. There is no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Speaker Hensley moves to approve the last week's minutes.
2. So moved by Senator Corpuz
3. Seconded by Senator Rosales
4. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote to approve the minutes.
5. The motion is passed, and the agenda are approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Speaker Hensley moves to approve the agenda.
7. So moved by Deputy Speaker English.
8. Seconded by Senator Rosales
9. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
10. Speaker Hensley requests a motion to table items C, and D of new business to next week.
11. Motioned by Senator Bereolos
12. Second by Senator Rosales
13. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
14. Speaker Hensley
 - a. The reason for the table is that these two nominated directors are not here this week.
15. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
16. Vote passes business is tabled.
17. Speaker Hensley requests a motion to move A and B from the new business to the old business.
18. So moved by Deputy Speaker English.
19. Seconded by Senator Rosales
20. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
21. There is none.
22. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
23. Vote passes business is moved.
24. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote to approve the agenda.
25. The motion is passed, and the agenda are approved.

SPEAKER REPORT

A. Speaker's Report

1. Speaker Hensley States

- a. I don't have much to say there are a few senators who need to do their own training so please do that also please keep on your service hours start working on your outreach hours and your legislation.

SPECIAL REPORT

1. There are none

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT

B. Deputy Speaker's Report

1. Deputy Speaker English is recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker English States
 - a. Thank you all for signing up to meet with me for your one on ones all those have been met which means committee meetings appointments will begin starting this weekend so be on the lookout on teams you'll be assigned to a committee once you're in those committee you'll be able to decide who's going to be a chair and the time of the meeting times.

C. Historian's Report

- a. There are none

D. Clerk's Report

- a. There are none

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Chairperson of Campus Life and Greek Affairs' report

1. There are none

B. Chairperson of Environmental Affairs' report

1. There are none

C. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report

1. There are none

D. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight's report

1. There are none

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

1. There are none

F. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report

1. There are none

EXECUTIVE REPORT

- A. President's report
 - 1. There are none
- B. Vice-President's report
 - 1. There are none
- C. Treasurer's report
 - 1. There are none
- D. Deputy Treasurer's report
 - 1. There are none
- E. Chief of Staff's report
 - 1. There are none

CABINET REPORT

- A. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion
 - 1. There are none
- B. Director of Organizational Development
 - 1. There are none
- C. Director of Athletics
 - 1. There are none
- D. Director of Student Life
 - 1. There are none
- E. Director of Public Affairs
 - 1. There are none
- F. Director of Academic Affairs
 - 1. There are none
- G. Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs
 - 1. There are none

OLD BUISNESS

- A. SR55004
 - 1. Speaker Hensley calls for a motion to discuss agenda item A. A resolution to confirm director appointments of the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to the 55th Session.
 - 2. So moved. Deputy Speaker English
 - 3. Seconded. Senator Rosales
 - 4. Speaker Hensley invites Nominated Director Alcantar to the floor.

5. Nominated Director Alcantar States

- a. “Hello, my name is Alexandra Alcantar. I am a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a concentration in Politics and Governance. I am minoring in computer science, Spanish, and Latino and Latin American studies. I am co-president of DreamAction NIU and a mentor for METAS. I am also a Newman Civic Fellow, which is a program that recognizes and supports public problem solvers.
- b. As a Political Science major, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of policies in addition to state and federal governments. As a first-generation college student, I believe in higher education for all, regardless of age, gender, status, and race. The opportunity to work as director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is critical in integrating my commitment to diversity on campus.
- c. This exciting opportunity fits with my professional experience and personal interests. I am confident that I would be an asset as Director of DEI in your organization. As a detail-oriented person, my studies have allowed me to analyze and correlate information to material. I have been a part of organizations and programs that have sharpened my interpersonal and organizational skills. As a result, I take the initiative, perform well under pressure, and have strong communication skills.
- d. Last summer, I also had the opportunity to complete a summer internship with the Chicago Bar Foundation and the Honorable Judge James Snyder at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago, where my writing skills and organizational skills allowed me to successfully assist unrepresented litigants through the judicial process. This summer, I had the opportunity to complete a summer internship at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., where my coordinating skill and teamwork skills allowed me to sustain the schedules of Congressional leadership and staff. I worked closely with the Congresswoman's office to address the district's needs while directing casework for constituents who needed assistance.

- e. To continue, I am passionate about enhancing the academic lives of all NIU Students from different backgrounds, ensuring they feel heard. My past experiences have allowed me to see the importance of diversity, especially when advocating for others.
 - f. My goals as Director of DEI would include:
 - g. Promoting the Democracy Challenge. Meaning that SGA would be more active with voter registration. This means informing eligible huskies to register to vote and check their vote registration status. Specifically, I want to promote this to diverse and marginalized groups, especially as we enter a critical election year.
 - h. Most importantly, I understand that change can't happen overnight. Still, over time, we can help build authentic institutional change. Diversity is critical for higher education, especially if we want to maintain a culturally welcoming campus here at NIU. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak and look forward to working with all of you. Thank you.”
- 6. Senator Corpuz recognized.
- 7. Senator Corpuz asks.
 - a. Thank you for that I was just wondering what your working relationship with Olivia Newman is at the current moment.
- 8. Nominated Director Alcantar States
 - a. currently since I'm not in any official capacity with SGA just been the interview process and having feedback on my speech.
- 9. Deputy Speaker English recognized.
- 10. Deputy Speaker English asks.
 - a. I know when you answer questions, please when you answer them just bring Mike up to your mouse. With your Co presidency of the dream action committee would you have enough time to dedicate to both that and SGA
- 11. Nominated Director Alcantar States
 - a. as I had spoken with my interview with President Newman, I had mentioned that Wednesday would be the only set day that I had to dedicate my time to dream action for two hours but apart from that for I've been able to deal with

multiple orientations and being vice president of mock trial while also being the legislative director of stream action committee so managing multiple Eboard positions have not been difficult for me.

12. Senator Anukwuocha recognized.

13. Senator Anukwuocha asks.

- a. What specific problem do you think you want to solve what do you think DSG is not doing well that you want it to do well what specific problem do you want to solve for instance what do you think that she is doing well what is benefit of DEI?

14. Nominated Director Alcantar States

- a. I don't think SGA is not doing a good job, but I think we are using our resources as SGA to promote other aspects, for example being more active in cultural and academic centers on campus.

15. Senator Onebunne recognized.

16. Senator Onebunne asks.

- a. You have quite an impressive profile I'll, but I want to hear about mandate on an issue of a diversity what do you bring to the table to solve.

17. Nominated Director Alcantar States

- a. personally, I've had different experiences especially when I was in DC as coming from a small institution and being the first one in my family to attend college, I found that one of the best things I can do is take a step back take a breath and understand that not everything is my control but to do the best thing that I can to further the problem or enhance the issue.

18. Nominated Director Alcantar Steps down.

19. Deputy Speaker English recognized.

20. Deputy Speaker English states

- a. I know the internship for the summer that they got is a very prestigious and requires a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication the fact that they were able to get it and it sounds like they did a good job with it shows that they can put in the work needed and based on that and what they've said along with the rest of the resume it's going to be a yes vote for me

21. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
22. There is none.
23. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
24. The resolution passes with a vote count of 11 yays, 1 nays, and 0 abstentions

B. SR55005

1. Speaker Hensley calls for a motion to discuss agenda item B. A resolution to confirm director appointments of the Director of Academic Affairs to the 55th Session
2. So moved by Senator Bereolos
3. Seconded by Senator Rosales
4. Speaker Hensley invites Nominated Director Anderson to the floor.
5. Nominated Director Anderson states.
 - a. Good afternoon my name is Timothy Anderson I'm currently a senior in here in sports management once I graduate I want to be a sports agent for the NBA overseas and international leagues something's to describe myself I'm hard working driven and done to work oriented this past summer I had a brand B sports agency where we did different events like the NASCAR event in Chicago and we did different live events where we worked with the immunity currently on campus on the vice president or the 2nd vice president and PHC as well as the treasurer for my alpha I alpha fraternity I'm applying for this position because academics is something that I hold very dear to me my parents are educators my mom is a teacher my dad is a professor this obviously something that I hold my chest I feel like people who are on campus need to oh the high standards of academics as well as everybody else y'all are on campus to graduate and not anything else you all paying this money to go to school might not use all the academic resources available to you on campus I want to make sure everyone on campus knows about the academic resources because a lot of people do not know about the resources like the resume builders team exercises other things I just feel like everybody has to have the resources available to them so they can succeed
6. Deputy Speaker English recognized.
7. Deputy Speaker English asks.

- a. with the treasurer position and the Eboard position on the national analytic council will you have enough time to dedicate to both of those as well as SGA
8. Nominated Director Anderson states.
- a. Yes, because I have a current schedule which means that I only have to do things on Thursday for my chapter it's pretty much Certain that I'll have enough time.
9. Senator Anukwuocha recognized.
10. Senator Anukwuocha asks.
- a. first of all I must commend you for your resume is first thing I want to ask is I've been able to itemize would be what you're going to do in academics I wanted to ask you how specifically are you going to achieve all of those objectives do you believe you can do it by yourself do you need it do with collaborations if collaborations who would we collaborate with to achieve all of this
11. Nominated Director Anderson states.
- a. I believe in collaboration I believe we didn't clear that the different works on campus like being male initiative which is our retention-based program so which helps people stay in schools so I'm glad we could clap with them like study tables held events like in sentence people to come out that way like free food come out like the student center have academic resources down there to help that's what I believe.
12. Senator Onebunne recognized.
13. Senator Onebunne asks.
- a. you spoke highly about academia and education you credited your parents as being reasons of your interest in academics I'm curious is there anything you've done in the past to promote academics before this have you been involved in any projects besides this to help people get involved in academics.
14. Nominated Director Anderson states.
- a. for my chapter we host study tables people come out that's something I think we could do for J and BMI also does today tables and helps people come out and it works, and it shows it works.

15. Senator Corpuz recognized.

16. Senator Corpuz asks.

- a. I understand that you said that your part of BMI and Alpha Phi Alpha correct those study tables are incentivized by being a part of a small group being SGA it is a whole campus situation how would you incentivize more directly to students who are not part of organizations.

17. Nominated Director Anderson states.

- a. for example the student center we could go down there and say we have study tables people will come and have free food free resources or just incentivize people to come out and come to these events and do their work

18. Senator Corpuz recognized.

19. Senator Corpuz asks.

- a. what is your working relationship with President Olivia Newman and have you talked to any previous directors of academic affairs for this position?

20. Nominated Director Anderson states.

- a. as far as President Olivia Newman I just went for interview and regarding previous directors I have not talked to anybody.

21. Senator Rosales recognized.

22. Senator Rosales asks.

- a. What is the problem you have seen on campus that you would like to fix as a director of academic affairs?

23. Nominated Director Anderson states.

- a. The problem, I will say, is not everybody comes to school to learn some of them are coming for parties but you're paying all this money to get this education so I would say getting people out to and get their education and increase their retention rate.

24. Senator Anastopoulos recognized.

25. Senator Anastopoulos asks.

- a. beyond study tables do you have any other ideas that can help improve the academic capabilities on campus

26. Nominated Director Anderson states.

- a. I would say get to have a better working relationship with your advisors because a lot of people don't meet with their advisors even, I didn't know who my advisor was until I talked to him so just getting a better working relationship with advisors kind of at least talk to your advisors monthly is see where you are to do checkups things like that to get a better relationship with your advisor as I see that they can see what students need

27. Senator Bereolos recognized.

28. Senator Bereolos asks.

- a. do you have any plans to set up tutor programs with more than just Black Male Initiative and Alpha Phi Alpha as a part of my program you have some of tutors available to us but not that many, I know that not a lot of students actually use them so do you have a plan to incentivize those programs to actually bring more to the public view?

29. Nominated Director Anderson states.

- a. I would say it's not just for the things nine men but it's for all the camps if you want to come out and do the work then you know do the work, so I say this everyone come out I just am pointing to things I've done.

30. Nominated Director Anderson steps down.

31. Senator Corpuz recognized.

32. Senator Corpuz states

- a. The candidate does pose some towards the position, however I believe that academic affairs would be Morse benefited by being taken someone who has more ideas than just study tables for academic affairs.

33. Senator Anukwuocha recognized.

34. Senator Anukwuocha states

- a. I also agree talking about his personal life and I think that I'd rather have someone who knows more.

35. Senator Corpuz Point of Order

- a. Please talk into the mic

36. Senator Anukwuocha recognized.

37. Senator Anukwuocha states

- a. So I'm talking about having someone who has more background is more in academics and what we're
38. Senator Onebunne recognized.
39. Senator Onebunne states.
- a. I agree with what the previous centers were saying the candidate has quite a good resume profile but it's quite unclear how he is he was not able to convince me why he could manage her passionately get the issue of education to the next level because of that I cannot recommend.
40. Senator Anastopoulos recognized.
41. Senator Anastopoulos states
- a. the candidate seems like a very well put together a person very passionate for it, but the ideas aren't there there's a lot of similar events like about that people don't really take advantage of I think it's really up to the orgs and the smaller orgs can push those events and events like that and just the way we're going about it is doing that it just wouldn't the idea is just right there for me
42. Senator Rosales Point of Order
- a. Since we're voting on different directors of different orgs and there's a lot of new senators Speaker Hensley should you talk about when senators should abstain from voting if they're on the OR on the board so there's not biased with the voting
43. Speaker Hensley states
- a. Yes, if you're on the same organization as Timothy we just abstain when voting.
44. Speaker Hensley asks if there is any discussion or debate.
45. There is none.
46. Speaker Hensley calls for a vote.
47. The resolution failed to pass with a vote count of 3 yays, 10 nays, and 0 abstentions.

NEW BUISNESS

- 1. There is none.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. There are none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Deputy Speaker English recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker English states
 - a. Once again stem fest is next Saturday at September 30th from 10am to 4pm it is in mostly the HSC it's going to be a fun event bunch of different organizations both student loans and outside of the campus are bringing cool stuff on campus but you just constituents no you should go and we still have volunteer opportunities go so if you want to get some service hours that's six hours you can get so yeah steadfast September 30th 10am to 4pm
3. Speaker Hensley states
 - a. The family weekend starts today it's in an hour. I'll be working as SGA so if you want to come, you're welcome to come.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Speaker Hensley calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. So moved. Deputy Speaker English
3. Seconded. Senator Musgraves
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 2:37 pm.

CLOSING ATTENDANCE

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

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Clerk English on September 24th, 2023

55th Senate on September 22th, 2023