Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

February 14th, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at 4:05 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. Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Voting Members Present: Klister, Lavallias, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Woodson, Ivy, Samuel, Boniecke, Guererro, Robinson, Rosales**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:** Field, Crawford, Meister, Ramirez

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Clerk Sawyer confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. There is none.

**APROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Corpuz moves to approve last week’s minutes.
2. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
3. Parliamentarian Guererro seconded.
4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
7. The motion is passed, and the minutes are approved.

**APROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Speaker Corpuz moves to approve the agenda.
2. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
3. Parliamentarian Guererro seconded.
4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
7. Vote passes with and business is moved.
8. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote to approve the agenda.
9. The motion is passed, and the agenda is approved.

**SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. Hello, I've been working this past week on trying to help Boe and trying to establish the candidate meetings. I will be giving more information about the candidate meetings in Commissioner Althoff’s report. But I've been working closely with the Commissioner to set up the meetings and the election times. I've also been working alongside Treasurer Pesavento in helping to set up more annual funding workshops, as well as helping to get the supplemental funding and annual funding set up for the end of this semester.

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Deputy Speaker’s Report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. I would just like to remind all chairpersons of Senate that earlier a few weeks ago, you have been emailed a form that you can use as a place to deposit your reports. That way it also acts as a way to be read to Senate. If you don't provide a report to either Parliamentarian Guerrero Clerk Sawyer, myself, or Speaker Corpuz. It serves as a guide, as a resource for you. It will also be updated to include minutes as well if you want to include the minutes. Otherwise, please send those minutes to either Clerk Sawyer or Parliamentarian Guerrero as well. That way we can have an accurate record in Husky Hub for that as well. Next week I will begin to e-mail everyone and send them. At what point during the week I am not sure yet, but it would just be to get a feeling of what current legislation you have planned and need help with. I mean as that is one of your requirements to remain a senator is by drafting legislation. For new senators, although you'll be attached to the e-mail, we can have a more one-on-one discussion about what legislation is that way you are aware of what it is before you write anything as well.
2. Parliamentarian’s Report
   1. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. I will just speak on behalf of Parliamentarian Guererro. Parliamentarian Guererro has emailed all of the chairs and directors to receive agendas and minutes for meetings that you have held. Please send them all to Parliamentarian Guererro. For proper records, if the meeting did not happen or the meeting was cancelled, do not send those agendas as those will not be part or included in the meeting.
3. Clerk’s Report
   1. There is none.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Chairperson of Student Life and Greek Affairs’ report
   1. There is none.
2. Chairperson of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs’ report
   1. There is none.
3. Chairperson of Public Affairs’ report
   1. Chairperson Monteleone states
      1. The Public Affairs Committee will be hosting a tabling event across from the Qdoba and the HSC in the span of one to two weeks. So we plan to submit that for approval and encourage all other senators to at least stop by and support it, and we'll have some talking points for SGA recruitment for inducting those who were running for elections as well as.
4. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight’s report
   1. There is none.
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
   1. Chairperson Rosales states
      1. I don’t have a report at this time, but DEI will be meeting after Senate at 5:00 pm.
   2. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. I will cancel this meeting because I have scheduled your meeting time to be at 2:00 PM and I told you previously that the meeting has to be approved. The meeting time has to be approved by the members of your committee. You changed the meeting time without even having a sit down with me about this. So, the DEI was cancelled because it was set originally at 2:00 pm.
6. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report
   1. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. The Board of Elections Committee reports that BOE has been working hard over these past two weeks to prepare for the upcoming election. All candidate meetings have been confirmed and the information will be sent out by university staff with details. Furthermore, the official election calendar will be discussed next week and that will be made public by the middle of the next week. If you or someone you know has any questions regarding the election process, please feel free to e-mail Election Commissioner Althoff at zalthoff1@mail.niu.edu. Thank you.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

1. President’s report
   1. There is none.
2. Vice-President’s report
   1. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. 6 new organizations have been approved by Director Rivera and himself so far this semester. There have been 34 in total so far for this academic semester. Our academic year, all constitution and bylaw updates have been completed up to this date, and please continue to send students interested in starting new student organizations to either Vice President Innis or Director Rivera. Continue to spread the word about SGA and especially with the elections quickly approaching in March.
3. Treasurer’s report
   1. There is none.
4. Deputy Treasurer’s report
   1. There is none.
5. Chief of Staff’s report
   1. There is none.

**CABINET REPORT**

1. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion
   1. There is none.
2. Director of Organizational Development
   1. There is none.
3. Director of Athletics
   1. There is none.
4. Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs
   1. There is none.
5. Director of Public Affairs
   1. There is none.
6. Director of Academic Affairs
   1. There is none.
7. Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs
   1. There is none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. SB56019: A bill to update the bylaws to include the requirements for committees.
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guererro seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. This legislation was put up so that it can clarify what quorum means for a chair. It also helps to establish what a chair normally does.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. This vote passes with \_12\_\_ yays, \_\_0\_ nays, \_1\_\_ abstentions.
2. SB56020: A bill to redefine Student Government Association legislation.
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guererro seconded.
   3. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. So, this legislation essentially just codifies the current precedent when it comes to legislation, according to the SGA Constitution, it was a bit unclear on what specifically constituted as a resolution. So, this just makes it where, any change to the SGA Senate operating manual, any axe-binding or no binding appointing or removal of an officer, using or not using SGA fund, is considered a resolution. Any bills are any updates to the SGA Constitution, Bylaws and Finance Operating Manual. It also clarifies the timeline of when a resolution should be approved as well as a bill and Item D also clarifies the order of bills and legislation in general of where they appear in old and new business in relation to when they were first read to Senate. This is more of a back end than office thing for office the speaker but also helps to make things a little bit more clarifying not just to Senate members but as well as to members of the public who see the agenda as well.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. The vote passes with \_10\_\_yays, \_\_2\_\_nays, \_\_1\_\_abstentions.
3. SR56027: A resolution to remove a sitting Senator from office.
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guererro seconded.
   3. Chairperson Rosales asks
      1. Why did you cancel the 5:00 pm meeting?
   4. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. One, logistically, there’s no reservation set for you at 5:00. I have reservations set for DEI at 2:00 pm for the whole semester. To change the time would be another aspect that we would have to change on our end. I received no further notice of this until I just saw the agenda. Granted, you did try to ask your committee about this. They all agreed that 2:00 pm was a better fit for a time since you first suggested 3:00 pm. Are there any other points you would like to bring up?
   5. Chairperson Rosales states
      1. Yes, I was going to do it at 2:00 pm because I had a meeting today. A formal report would be given in 48 business hours. What benefit of removing me would make any difference?
   6. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. This has been a repeated offense since last semester. I have worked with you and established that you know what I expect, and you know how to be a part of SGA. You have been here longer than even me. That says that you should know what SGA is supposed to be doing. Granted, I did take a couple new routes of how I wanted SGA to run this semester and I explicitly said this to you. Also, this has not been an issue with other chairs as the chairs have also tried to communicate with me about their issues as well. I’m fine with changing the time of the meeting, but I’m not fine with having to fix it without prior knowledge or reasoning why it needs to be moved. You provided no reason why 2:00 pm was the selected time and I saw nothing from you committee that the time was good for all of them.
   7. Chairperson Rosales states
      1. So, this room is reserved for two hours. There shouldn’t be an issue being there because prehistorically these meetings were longer. Normally a meeting could last for two hours. It could go from 4:00 to 6:00. So, at this current time, these meetings are getting shorter. But I mean, I don’t receive a response from every member. I do give credit to Senator Boniecki. He reaches out the most out of the other senators. So, I want to meet with them. Not official meetings since it’s been cancelled by you to establish a time to meet.
   8. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. The reason why I chose 2:00 pm was because your director requested an earlier time. She is unavailable at 5:00 pm and she does not want to stay later than she realized, because she does go home during the weekend
   9. Senator Ivy states
      1. I think the bigger issue here is the lack of communication. I think that seems to be the consistent theme here is that and based on what the bill says, I think the expectation is to communicate with the Speaker. I can’t say that you don’t, but the Speaker is saying that you don’t and if it’s consistent, it’s been an issue since last semester. It's come up before and been run through R&P multiple times about the lack of communication and based on your prior experience and still not confirming with the Speaker. I think that is a consistent issue the Speaker has. When he’s been wrong, the Speaker has publicly apologized for saying or going against what you thought because he confirmed with someone else, but I think outside of that it’s just a consistent miscommunication. I think that is the issue here. No one is saying that you’re not competent. I don't think it's even about today’s meeting. I think the issue is it seems to be a lack of effort on both ends. It seems to be continuing he says “OK, here’s how were going to move forward “and then you say “Well I'm going to do it like this”, after it’s come up before this group again, it’s come up before R&P again. So, I think this is an issue that we have to keep having this conversation with you about an expectation of communication at least just communicate. It's not your actions but just your lack of action that’s very frustrating for the Speaker, and I think also the members of DEI. I think when we started, when you became the chair, you said you were going to be late to those meetings by 15 minutes. We didn’t know whether you were coming or not. I think that was an issue as well, if I'm not mistaken.
   10. Chairperson Rosales states
       1. Yes, I was. I had class at that time, so that’s why I talked about it too and I have other things as well that I’m not going to talk about, but I don’t think removal is appropriate. Besides that, I got to ask because I sent an email. Why are we missing a lot of senators and haven’t had legislation like this before? Now there’s an issue of filling 7 committees I got that, so I don’t think removing me is the answer.
   11. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. Senator Rosales you are the only senator that is currently sitting on one committee. The only one. And to bring up a point you mentioned earlier. Did you say you had class at 2:00 pm Fridays?
   12. Chairperson Rosales responds
       1. I was talking about last semester
   13. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. But this semester. The meeting was scheduled at 2:00 pm for this semester. It was 12:30 on Mondays to accommodate your schedule last semester. It's this semester, spring 2025. Do you have class at 2:00 pm on Fridays?
   14. Chairperson Rosales
       1. I do not
   15. Speaker Corpuz
       1. So, what is the issue that you cannot meet on Fridays at 2:00 pm?
   16. Chairperson Rosales responds
       1. I do have responsibilities other than class.
   17. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. So, this brings up another point. Computing Facilities Advisory Committee, a committee that you fought and went behind my back to get on, is at 2:00 pm on Fridays. Today was that meeting. Did you attend that meeting?
   18. Chairperson Rosales responds
       1. Yes, correct as early as that. I would do a formal report 48 to 72 business hours.
   19. Speaker Corpuz asks
       1. Did you attend that meeting?
   20. Chairperson Rosales responds
       1. That's correct.
   21. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. Ok, so you have time at 2:00 pm to be sitting on this meeting. It's not a consistent week thing that you have conflict every week. So, either you have time for a committee, or you don’t have time.
   22. Chairperson Rosales states
       1. Those meetings are set in advance, being from last semester, so I would know beforehand, so that’s why I was able to attend that meeting.
   23. Senatore Ivey states
       1. So, I think what we’re getting at here is a lack of accountability. I think that is a consistent theme in the conversation here. Not once have you said, “Hey, I'm going to do better”, you just say ok and continue to return to the pattern of behavior that we’re used to. It affects everybody in this room, as we said to the Supreme Court 2-3 weeks ago. Everybody is busy. Everybody has things going on. I didn’t even know you were the only one senator on one singular committee. If the expectation is that everybody’s on two, sometimes more than two based on this room and we still would make Friday meetings. We try to align with what works best for everybody not just say, “Hey, I can’t make it. So you all need to make yourselves more available.” do you understand what I’m saying? I think that the frustrating part is that you're not even taking accountability for the consistent failed communication. You just say, “Ok, well, I have something else going on.” If it seems like it's too much for you, then maybe you need to step back. And it's not personal. It just seems like,” you all just got to figure out how to make it convenient for me”. That's how it’s coming off. I don’t know if you are aware that’s how it’s coming off, but that’s how it’s coming off.
   24. Senator Samuel asks
       1. Did you reach out to the Speaker after I spoke with you last Friday so that you guys could iron things out.
   25. Chairperson Rosales responds
       1. I did.
   26. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. In the emails that I've seen from you, which I have seen more emails from you last week than I have seen from you all semester. It seemed like there was some conflict of time in which I would be willing to help you figure this out, however, this legislation was put out a week before. I received no notice from you about it. And then come Friday afternoon at 4:05 pm, I received an e-mail from you regarding your concerns about this legislation. You have had time to see this legislation and you have had time to know about this legislation. This has been sitting in your e-mail for 48 hours before the meeting. So, to state your concerns at that point was quite alarming for me. I don’t know what I can do to help besides try and reach out every single time.
   27. Senator Lavallias asks
       1. I was on the DEI last semester, and I know we didn’t really accomplish much. What is your goal if you were to stay as chairperson for DEI?
   28. Chairperson Rosales responds
       1. Some of the agenda items I would do are events, outreach, incorporation. These are brought in and all that. My plan was also having liaison too because my committee grew from last semester as we have new members. Somebody like a liaison, a senator, to do events. I know we discussed what DEI is. I’m not aware too and we’re still learning DEI because I know there’s been new things that have been up with the current administration. So, I know there’s been talk. Having events like DEI day, like what does DEI mean to you, that tabling was unsuccessfully scheduled, but I would like to do a tabling of that.
   29. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate. The tabling event that has to do with the department of ADI. There are other events going on, Black History Month, American Pacific Islander is coming up in April, so we can do some events as well, or managing program. There’s room to grow. Normally chairpersons put in time to do that. Last semester I was available at 2:00 pm every week. I do not know what these meetings are moved for because I did not at the beginning of the semester. I have an issue which I can’t say. That's why I had other things. Some days I am not that available. And it’s just hard getting that going. So, I really appreciate the help. I’m human, I have errors. I would say those are the current ideas. Of course, I need to ask my committee, but I’m just one individual, so I need to go forward with that, to do that. And I know we can do big things there. So, I’m just here to make sure the Huskies grow because I’m here for other students as well being here.
   30. Senator Lavallias states
       1. Yeah, sorry not to drag it on. It's just last semester I was a part of DEI and we had the exact same goal at the start of the semester, and it took us the entire semester to even try to get a tabling event and I've reached out to you about getting one. It was not happening; the communication once again wasn't there. Then as far as the meeting change ups, all of us had to accommodate and move around our schedule at the end of last semester. Speaker Corpuz said that there may be times where committees do have to change times depending on everybody's schedule.
   31. Senator Samuel states
       1. I want you to accept the responsibility of whatever decision the Senate will be taking because of all you have been telling us; you have not been able to convince us of why you behave the way you have been behaving. Last time I supported you, I intervened. I expected you to go and meet him in person in the office and that is how to do it. I don't know if there's any personal issues between you and the Speaker, but I believe that the speaker has made himself very accessible to us and I expected you to do the same. You are making it very difficult for myself and for other senators who were actually supporting you to support you tonight. And the answer you gave Lavallias, it’s not convincing as well. I didn't expect you to actually open your laptop to tell us what you have as an objective for the semester. Because I don't want to be political, I don't want to be diplomatic. I just want to be honest with you in case you are given the same responsibilities in the near future. You have to be accountable. You must be proactive, and you must communicate. I'm so sorry for whatever happens tonight, but you have to take responsibility for whatever action Senate takes.
   32. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. I would also like to state that Deputy Speaker Gonzalez is also in my office. His availability is much different from mine and he is also available to talk to people. I have Clerk Sawyer in my office who is also available during different times. We cover a long range of availability and if we do have a conflict of interest, you do have more people to speak to besides me and I hope you understand that because Deputy Speaker Gonzalez is here to support me, and he is here to support you all. His whole role is to support you guys, so if you feel uncomfortable talking to me, I would hope that you guys would feel comfortable talking with at least Deputy Speaker Gonzalez or parliamentarian Guerrero or have some other senator come up and bring the issue to me. I tried to be accommodating to you all and I even fit my own schedule just so that I can help you guys during your committees. I'm here during the times you have committees just so that you guys do not feel like you are left out to dry. That was a big problem for us for two years and you know this Chairperson Rosales, you've experienced the previous two years with me. You know how hard committees were to meet. That's why I took an initial initiative to try and figure out everyone's schedule, figure out what works best for people, and I still get it wrong. I still schedule people on wrong conflicts. People have things that's changed their schedules. So this legislation was just put in just because this has been a continued issue.
   33. Chairperson Rosales asks
       1. I just want to ask something cause I don’t want to take up too much of your time. And I really appreciate you putting me as your chairperson. I I want to be more cordiant and all that. I appreciate you having the confidence in me and we’re all human and I know I failed in my part or else I wouldn’t be going up to Senate. So, what you’ve been saying, going around in these talks, it looks like I'm not fit for chairperson role anymore, is that where we are going at?
   34. Speaker Corpuz asks
       1. What are you asking about?
   35. Chairperson Rosales asks
       1. So, the issue that’s been going on is meetings and management. Everything to work on is more organization. It's been a work in progress. And I was going to reach out to the officer of the speaker. There are other things I won’t say. I say this because this is the whole nine yards. Is this just because of my role?
   36. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. This is over everything. I've contacted you as a senator, as a university level committee and as a chairperson. Apologizing to me now does not change the fact that you are now being put up to the Senate about this issue. So, I would strongly advise appealing to the Senate rather than to appeal to me.
   37. Chairperson Rosales states
       1. So, are you saying you want me to step down as chair?
   38. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. Nope, this is to be removed from SGA.
   39. Senator Samuel asks
       1. When you said he should appeal to the Senate do you mean he should apologize to the Senate?
   40. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. The Senate is the one that votes. I will not vote because I am acting as a chair and as Speaker of the Senate.
   41. Senator Samuel asks
       1. So, if he appeals does this stop the Senate from voting?
   42. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. Yes, this legislation will go to a vote.
   43. Senator Samuel asks
       1. It will go to a vote?
   44. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. Yes.
   45. Senator Boniecki states
       1. This is something I have been thinking about a lot and at the end of the day, like Senator Ivy said, the job has got to get done. Like he said it’s nothing personal, the job's got to get done. I believe that and I stand behind it. And I'll do what I can to help get there. Thank you.
   46. Chairperson Rosales asks
       1. I would say the job has got to get done in regards to the chair. As it stands today in regards, what do I have against criteria. I know we talked about the faculty meetings so maybe I'm not the best leadership or I should have said no. I really appreciate being chair, but if that’s what is required to get the job done as you said, I can step away and do that. Because right now, that’s what I feel is lacking, me being the chair. I'm just simply bereft about this. I'd rather just figure something out and other repercussion besides removal. What beside removal should a repercussion be?
   47. Senator Ivy states
       1. Again, as Speaker Corpuz said, I don’t think it’s the fact that it was being chairperson. I think it was the communication overall. In multiple things. The fact that you went around him to speak to other people about certain organizations and, again, just the lack of communication. Regardless of your leadership, it’s not just your chairperson of DEI. And again, what I see you saying; instead of taking responsibility and saying I'm human, you’re not even really providing any remedy here. “Well let’s figure out another punishment for me because I don’t like this one.” That is not really appealing to anyone here because again it’s a lack of accountability. Just say you’re human. If you have other things going on, then maybe this is too much for you. I mean if you’re serving on one committee as chairperson and you’ve yet to accomplish one thing so, and I don’t really require a rebuttal to this; I think it’s pretty clear around the room that this is just too much for you. You've served on Senate for some time. I don't know how everybody else is feeling but to me it just seems that this is too much for you and it’s offensive to everybody else who has things going on when you’re sitting here rambling, repeating yourself, not really providing any justifiable reasons to why you can’t do the things that you’re expected to do. And again, you serve on one committee and you’re the chairperson of that committee. We really didn’t get anything done last semester. Senator Lavallias was the one who took the lead on things because you said you were too busy doing other things and if it wasn’t for her, we don’t know how much more we could have gotten done because our chairperson had to go another road, right? I'm actually kind of shocked that you don’t sit on any other committees. So, I would question what is so important that you can’t complete the one job you have in Senate, I mean I don’t care, I’m just saying it seems like this is too much for you. Like besides sitting on Senate there doesn’t seem to be much value to you here. I’m just being honest. Right now when you’re asking about other punishments, I don’t think there is another punishment because you don’t do anything else. When you're asking what's the value in removing you, it doesn't seem to be value in having you in response to your question.
   48. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
   49. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   50. This vote passes with \_\_9\_yays, \_\_3\_\_nays, \_\_1\_\_\_abstentions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. There is none.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. Candidate meetings for the SGA elections will begin next week. An e-mail will be sent out for their dates and locations. Please keep an eye out. It will be a mass-email sent out by student involvement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are any announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
3. Parliamentarian Guererro seconded.
4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present: Klister, Lavallias, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Woodson, Ivy, Samuel, Boniecki, Guerrero, Robinson, Rosales**
2. **Voting Members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused:** Field, Crawford, Meister, Ramirez
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on [DATE]

56th Senate on February 14th, 2025