Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

January 24, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at 4:01pm 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, Field, Lavallias, Crawford, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Ivy, Guerrero, Rosales**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:** **Samuel**

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez 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 Guerrero 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 Guerrero 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, so previously I was working on committees from the past week. Thank you all for answering finally. Due to some clerical error reservations for rooms for our committees have been screwed up a bit, so I will be letting you guys know. Hopefully by next week that committee should be able to meet. If reservations are still being held up I will schedule a different area for you to meet. I'm also in talks with someone from Anderson pool asking or from Anderson Hall asking about Anderson Pool and I will be working later on with members of faculty Senate and University Committee on establishing a deeper connection with the university itself. I'm also in talks with another student who is looking to make changes with Illinois board of Higher Education. There's more information to come in the next following weeks.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. “ I would like to invite the members of the judicial branch. Justice Maximilian, Ford, and Justice Cardell Phelps to the front. Please sit down. Do you guys have any reports?”
2. Justice Phelps responds
   1. No.
3. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. “I have also a statement that Justice Tyler Murray has or is unavailable at this time due to his current work schedule. So I would like to ask you guys questions for myself. And we'll open it up later to the floor for you guys to answer some questions. So my first question is, are you guys representing your individual selves today or are you guys representing the entire Supreme Court as a whole?”
4. Justice Phelps responds
   1. “I will be representing my individual self today”
5. Justice Jarmula states
   1. “I, as well “
6. Speaker Corpuz asks
   1. “Can you name us the current members of the SGA Supreme Court as of this moment?”
7. Justice Phelps responds
   1. “Ashanti, Max, Tyler, and myself.”
8. Speaker Corpuz asks
   1. “For the record, can you please use the full names just for everyone's information?”
9. Justice Phelps responds
   1. “Ashanti Ford, Cardell Phelps, Maximilian Jarmula, and I’m unaware of Tyler’s last name.”
10. Justice Jarmula states
    1. “Tyler Murray”
11. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Who is the Supreme Court Chief Justice as of this semester?”
12. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “The Interim Chief Justice is Tyler Murray.”
13. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Is there a Supreme Court Chief Justice, not the Interim Chief Justice, the Supreme Court Chief Justice?”
14. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “No”
15. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Has the court reached out to SGA or the advisor to fill any vacancies within your branch?”
16. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Not that I’m aware of.”
17. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Maximilian?”
18. Justice Jarmula responds
    1. “No, not that I’m aware of.”
19. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “As Tyler Murray has stated, Tyler Murray has told me that he is at work right now and thank you for coming. Maximilian, though you said you were going to be sick, but thank you for showing up. Has there been any form of communication with the missing justice?
20. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Yes. In our SGA team chat, there's been some type of communication of us trying to find times to meet.”
21. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Has there been any form of communication from her side?”
22. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “From her side? Yes, in the chat, yes.”
23. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. And how about today's meeting as well as she stated anything about being here today? Because I have not received any information on this.
24. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “I personally haven’t heard from her today.”
25. Justice Jarmula responds
    1. “Neither have I.”
26. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. “I'd like to open the floor to anyone who has other questions.”
27. Deputy Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Has the Supreme Court done any work for the 56th session?”
28. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “We have not been able to meet as of now, so no.”
29. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
    1. “ Is there anything stopping or hindering you guys from meeting?”
30. Justice Jarmula responds
    1. It just seems to be schedules conflicting every time. You know we want to get a meeting going. Someone or others, either can't make the meeting or doesn't respond. But more so, he said nothing. Not having that 5th justice, so it’s harder to meet quorum in order to have that meeting.”
31. Supreme Court Justice Ashanti Ford enters the meeting at 4:09pm.
32. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. “I would just like to state for the record that quorum for the Supreme Court is only three members as of right now, regardless if there’s a fifth member. Quorum will still be three people, as that’s more than 50%.”
33. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
    1. So I understand that time conflicts is the one hindering for you, and by the looks of it, it seemed it was the issue of quorum that was holding you back. Was there any outreach to either the executive branch legislative branch or the SGA advisor to try to find and fill the vacancy if that was indeed the issue?”
34. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Not to my knowledge”
35. Justice Jarmula responds
    1. “Same.”
36. Justice Phelps states
    1. “And Ashanti Ford is present.”
37. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. “Ashanti Ford, you may come up as well to join the group. Just for your knowledge, we are asking individual questions to about the Supreme Court in general. The Senate will ask you questions and are you representing yourself or the entire group?”
38. Justice Ford states
    1. “Myself.”
39. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. Just Please note that please speak into the mic when you're answering.
40. Chairperson Monteleone asks
    1. Is there any legislation you're working on passing right now that may be pertinent to meet to discuss?
41. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Currently, no”
42. Senator Ivey asks
    1. “So what have y’all been doing?”
43. Justice Phelps responds
    1. Due to scheduling conflicts, we haven't had the time to actually sit down and meet. If you all don't know, I was voted in at the 55th session and since then there hasn't been a meeting and there isn't more on-boarding process to become a justice. As well as for Ashanti Ford. She was voted in at the end of the session as well. So, there's been no map or way to go, or even transitional materials on what we should do from there. And then the removal of the former Chief Justice shortly before that also set us back. I believe that, overall, our branch doesn’t have the structure that it needs and I think that’s something we need to work on as a collective.”
44. Senator Ivey asks
    1. So, so earlier they asked you, did you reach out to anybody? And you said no. So if your issue is structure, what steps have you taken to address the lack of structure?
45. Justice Phelps responds
    1. Personally, I have talked to Sladjana. We hadn't had a proper meeting about it, but it has been spoken about as well as the current president. But once again, with him, it hasn't been truly like sat down and talked about, but there has been some whispers of what we need to do and I look forward to getting those things done.”
46. Senator Samuel asks
    1. So going forward, based on this meeting, what should we expect from your branch?
47. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “I think going forward, what we should expect from our branch is actually finding time for us to find somewhere to meet and once we find that time, we can build that structure that I said we needed and move on from there in order to serve the student body correctly.”
48. Senator Samuel asks
    1. “So how long will it take you guys to find the time to meet?”
49. Justice Phelps responds
    1. With the three of us here today, I believe after we can probably discuss if they have the availability on when we could set up a time.
50. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. I would also like to ask is this the opinion of the entire Court or is this the opinion of just yourself?”
51. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Just myself.”
52. Justice Ford states
    1. But I would like to agree when it comes to the point of what steps will make next, especially since he said that all three of us are here, we will make the steps in order for us to get on a schedule, especially because it’s the beginning of the semester Hopefully we can come to a date and time today that we'll be able to meet together and be able to make some progress.
53. Justice Jarmula states
    1. I especially agree with Chief Justice Ford, considering the fact that it is new semester and it is a time where we are all able to, you know, more clearly understand what we're planning on doing for the rest of the semester.
54. Senator Ivey asks
    1. “Is there anything that Senate can do to help you get this done?”
55. Justice Phelps responds
    1. If we can, I'm not sure if the Senate could do it or if Jacoby Jones could do it by appointing that 5th member.
56. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. By the bylaws, right now, as it stands, President Jones is the one that will make the appointment and Senate is the one that approves the appointment of any justice.
57. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
    1. “Can we expect you guys to meet anytime by the end of this month or the start of February?”
58. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “I can't comment on others availability, but yes, for me, I'm willing to meet before February.”
59. Justice Ford states
    1. “I also will be able to meet, if not by the end of this month, the beginning of February.”
60. Justice Jarmula states
    1. “I second Chief Justice Cardell”
61. Senator Ivey asks
    1. So if that meeting doesn't take place, what do you all think the next step should be?
62. Justice Ford responds
    1. “That we didn't have necessarily the structure, making sure that we're able to put down a structure that will be able to meet continuously over the semester, just bringing some things together. So now that we are a team to make sure that we're all on the same page. So, I think foundational things will be the first thing. And then if time given depending on our availability with the first meeting. Then we'll start working on whatever is next in the list for us."
63. Senator Ivey asks
    1. “So that next step we'll be talking to President Jones within the next week or so, correct?”
64. Justice Jarmula responds
    1. “Yes, that is correct. I also agree with Justice Ford because of the fact that one of the major issues with the scheduling conflicts is the Supreme Court was scheduling based on a single meeting process. We need to plan out multiple meetings in advance, and we will not have that issue again if we do so.”
65. Justice Phelps states
    1. I agree. I feel like one of our main problems was that we were just more so. “OK, we're gonna meet this day and this time”, instead of coming together as a team where we look at our availabilities, because were all students first and staying where we actually can meet.
66. Senator Chigurupati asks
    1. “This is a general question, not for you. Is meeting in person necessary to have? If we really do want to meet, can we just meet online? If it’s that necessary that we need to meet, can we just meet online? Can you do that?”
67. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Who are you addressing this question too?”
68. Senator Chigurupati responds
    1. Generalized. Justices. But it’s not just a question for them. I’m just asking in general to you as well.”
69. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. In my area of expertise, for at least the Senate side, I'm holding all meetings in person to keep a level of accountability amongst all the Senators. This is my personal decision on how I want to run Senate as the Speaker of the Senate. I can't speak for the justices, but they may speak on their behalf what they believe.”
70. Justice Jarmula states
    1. “The Supreme Court is able to meet over online meetings as well as zoom calls. However, it’s there’s still a scheduling conflicts with those meetings, even if they are or not in-person.”
71. Justice Ford states
    1. This is a personal thing, but I definitely believe more work is done normally when you're in person that way, especially when it comes to certain documents. Just being able to see everything in person and not necessarily having to do it via zoom. I know when I joined things were kind of like teams and meetings and it's just a bit harder to be able to interact and see everything. But I do personally prefer us meeting in person, and that's one of the bigger things we are struggling with.
72. Justice Phelps states
    1. “Agreed. I think being in person is better.”
73. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
    1. “Do you believe the Supreme Court has a vital role in terms of student government?”
74. Justice Phelps responds
    1. ‘Yes, I so hardly believe that the Supreme Court does have a vital role. My personal experience of being a part of student organizations and also running for SGA as Vice President, I’ve seen what the Supreme Court is able to do and what it should be doing. So, I think absolutely it has a vital role. It helps us with our forms of checks and balances and without it we wouldn’t have that.”
75. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
    1. “So that means if this hearing wasn't called to order by Senate, would it have been a push amongst yourselves to meet eventually or not?”
76. Justice Phelps responds
    1. Yes, there have been talks of us meeting. The main problem was just finding a specific time for us all to meet as well. I think one of the other problems is that we have an interim chief. There's no true form of, more so going back to that structure, there is no way of how to do things and how things should be done when we need more of a road map, if that makes sense. For example, you have Speaker Manny as your Speaker, he more so governs the Senate and what y'all should be doing. We don’t have that. So, without that missing vital role, it leads to conflict in situations like us not having meetings happen.
77. Chairperson Crawford asks
    1. “So, how long has it been since you’ve had a chief, not an interim chief?”
78. Justice Phelps responds
    1. I believe the exact day is April 26th or 29th is when I believe the last Chief got removed and then we've had the intern since.
79. Chairperson Crawford asks
    1. “And that’s when you came into office?
80. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Yes, that exact date as well.”
81. Speaker Corpuz states
    1. “I believe you were earlier than that, going off my records of recollection as Clerk of the Senate of the 55th, the Chief Justice was removed in April. I have been messaging and emailing you guys over the summer and even at the start of last semester. So, the call for this meeting has been long prolonged and I believe that this meeting had to have happened, otherwise it would have called for your immediate removal at this point.”
82. Senator Ivey asks
    1. So, my understanding, you said with that former instructor, if you run into a roadblock with meeting times and you run into issue with getting in contact with President Jones, who is the next in the chain of command to address? If you cannot get in contact, if you can’t control other people who’s the next individual that you go to?”
83. Justice Phelps asks
    1. “You’re saying if we can’t contact President Jones and the advisor?”
84. Senator Ivey responds
    1. “Yes. If you all cant’t get to the advisor. But you did say that you reached out to her and weren’t able to connect back with her.”
85. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “I said that me and Sladjana have had conversations, but we weren’t exactly able to meet and sit down because she has so many other things going on.”
86. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Has there been any form of formal meeting between any of the Chief or any of the Justices and SGA leadership, i.e. being the President, the Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate or the Student advisor?”
87. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “No. I personally haven’t met with anyone.”
88. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Is that all as well Ashanti and Maximilian?”
89. Justice Ford responds
    1. “I personally have not either.”
90. Justice Jarmula responds
    1. “I agree with the other two.”
91. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
    1. “Are you aware of any pending cases the Supreme Court has to take up on?”
92. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “To my knowledge, there is one case that the Supreme Court has to look over.”
93. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
    1. “Has there been any update to the petitioner for the case?
94. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “No.”
95. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
    1. ‘And this has to go in regards to the timing and scheduling conflicts mentioned before?”
96. Justice Phelps responds
    1. “Yes.”
97. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
    1. “Ok. My understanding is if, from what it sounds like, it seems like it's an issue of scheduling conflicts when everyone here looks like they agree that the Supreme Court has a duty to fill. Yet the actions are not matching what the rhetoric is. So, I just have a hard time understanding and rectifying that disconnect. I’m not sure if you’re able to enlighten upon that.”
98. Justice Phelps responds
    1. Personally, I completely understand what you're saying, and I agree with what you're saying. There is some form of disconnect, but I'm personally passionate about serving my community here in Northern Illinois University. But when you have things where you have to meet quorum, one person can’t make a sole decision.
99. Senator Ivey asks
    1. “If these issues continue =, would you support removal of those individuals who can’t continually meet?”
100. Justice Phelps responds
     1. “I think that it would also depend more so case by case on the person and what they should have been doing. Like if they communicated more or not.”
101. Senator Ivey asks
     1. “My question is, you all have not met the entirety of last semester. You’re telling me, and I’m not trying to get on you, just like you said, the logic and the rhetoric. That’s four months. You’re telling me four or five people could not find one singular time in four months, and you all said you have the availability to meet through teams. That was an option for you. So, in four months that could not happen. That does kind of question the ability to serve in this role. So, my question going forward is if that still is a roadblock for you all to meet, whether it be in person or whether it be on teams, would you support the removal of those who consistently? I understand everybody has issues. All of us are students. I'm a law student. Everybody here has commitments we’re all students first. I work as a graduate, other people have other commitments, so we all make time to do so. I understand but I'm just saying, would you support removal if they can consistently and continually cannot get together?”
102. Justice Jarmula responds
     1. “I personally say that I would agree with that, yes.”
103. Chairperson Crawford states
     1. “In a more positive aspect, I agree, we as a Senate, we senators have to meet just about 3 times a week between our committee and the Senate meeting. And I know like you said, we’re all busy and we find time to do it. So, I just feel like you should take a positive measure and try to get that time. Like, sit down and actually try. You guys were elected for these positions because people thought you could do it. Just don’t prove them wrong. “
104. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “I would also like to point out for the record you guys do meet quorum right now. I got three out of four of you guys to come to our meeting in one week. What is the trouble that you guys cannot meet within four months? It took me one week to get what you guys couldn't have done in four months.”
105. Chairperson Monteleone asks
     1. “Do you guys plan to hold meetings fairly frequently or consistently going forward, or is it more so case by case?”
106. Justice Jarmula responds
     1. “I mean, as I said earlier, I feel like it would be better. Obviously, if we were to meet more. Like I said, building up the foundations of not just one meeting at a time, which is what the precedent was rather building up a schedule, you know, monthly, weekly, whatever that needs to look like in order for us to meet consistently as mentioned.”
107. Justice Ford responds
     1. “I definitely would like to agree. Before with our former Chief Justice. It was a more so meet by case thing and I think that even if we establish, like you said something, if we were to meet at least twice a month, regardless of if there are other cases just so we can keep a routine and be on the same page with things. I think that would start to form better so we can continue to keep them and that way, for example, like I graduate in the spring of it, be able to keep like a rhythm for the next term or like whoever comes in for them to be able to at least start with something rather than what we were doing when we came in, which would be like right before we need to go through a certain case.”
108. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
     1. “Can you guys provide us with your availability just for public information, Monday through Friday your availability?”
109. Justice Ford responds
     1. “I could not only for the fact that my availability is based on a lot of things, for example like my work schedule, I only know my work schedule the Friday before the next week. Also, I am an intern, so some of those things change. The only thing that I would be able to give you is to be firm and stand against my school class schedule.”
110. Justice Phelps responds
     1. “Same, my schedule more so changes like week by week, but it is flexible. So, in the meantime I should be able to put that into my schedule.”
111. Justice Jarmula responds
     1. “My schedule is more along the lines of Cardell’s. It’s more so set on a case-by-case basis or week by week basis on what my availability would look like due to many factors. Whether that is work, especially familial things and school. However, it is flexible, and I believe we would be able to make something out of it.
112. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
     1. “Just thinking back to the time when I mentioned that there was a case, how long has that case been sitting?”
113. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “Would you guys like to answer, or should I?”
114. Justice Ford responds
     1. “Maybe you. I just don’t know the date off the top of my head.”
115. Speaker Corpuz states
     1. “This case has been pending in my office since late October, early November. I have also been in contact with this case and have also seen a lot of information. That being said, I don’t know what information you guys have and I can say that we cannot say this out in public as this case has not been made public at this point. Do you know what the details of the case are right now? “
116. Justice Phelps responds
     1. “Yes”
117. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. OK. So, has there been any movement towards actually sitting down and deciding whether the Supreme Court shall hear the case or not?
118. Justice Phelps responds
     1. I have my opinion on it, but we haven't met as a branch to make that decision.
119. Justice Jarmula responds
     1. To that point, the meetings that have had scheduling conflicts was to go over this case.
120. Senator Ivey states
     1. Just on a positive note, it seems like you all want to be here, so we just ask that you take this consideration seriously. We all take time out of our schedules to do this. We understand, like you said, whatever your work or commitments are, but you know, no one broke your arm to come here. We just ask that you take time to meet, hit those points, and you all go about your business. That's all that we ask. You all seem like you want to be here and this is something that you all are passionate about, so we just ask that you continue with that passion and this commitment. That's all.
121. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
     1. “Do you guys by any chance know if the Supreme Court has a process for transition in case like Ashanti, who's graduating in the spring and for members leaving and coming in?”
122. Justice Phelps responds
     1. “From my knowledge and my experience, there hasn't been a process of transitioning which I think I've spoken on something earlier. This is something I feel like we definitely need to work on that way we don't have this experience for the next people that come in. I think that this was going to happen regardless because of the way that this branch is set up. It’s just unfortunate it happened during us.”
123. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
     1. “That being said, would you like assistance from either the executive branch or office of the Speaker to help with the creation of transition materials for the court?”
124. Justice Ford responds
     1. “I would like to me personally say yes, I do think after we have our first meeting where we can talk amongst each other that that would be something we put on the list and then possibly reach out to Speaker Corpuz in hopes that you all might help us or someone else would be able to help us. Because like I said, we don't want these problems to continue going on. I was also going to make the point that I wasn't aware if there were any transition because. Once I came on, there were like at least three cases. So, we got immediately into it. I had to start reading that weekend and I think the next Monday they were ready. So, there was nothing for me to learn, but I wouldn't want to put anyone else in the same space that I was in when I had to when I became a part of the branch. “
125. Chairperson Rosales states
     1. “Thanks for coming out. I think it’s awesome to have another branch of the student government and government association for Northern Illinois here. My question is we meet quorum as Corpuz said. Are the three of you guys here able to possibly meet after Senate. You guys individually or set a time to figure something out cause 3 can work with that?”
126. Justice Ford asks
     1. “Just want to verify the question, are you asking if we are planning to do something afterwards since the three of us are already here?”
127. Chairperson Rosales states
     1. “Yeah, just like set of communication or figure out something.”
128. Justice Ford responds
     1. “Yes. And for me, of course, I definitely have a little time after this, of course, to be able to set aside if we can all come together and see if they're like a Wednesday or something that we can meet and be on the same page for.”
129. Chairperson Rosales states
     1. “I’d also like to add, Supreme Court Justice Cardell got approved on April 26, 2024 from SR55171. Then the week after on May 3 of 2, one of the Justices got removed. So, let the record know he got removed.
130. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
     1. “Are you guys able to meet after this hearing?”
131. Speaker Corpuz states
     1. As a point of information as well, you guys cannot meet this weekend right after this meeting as it will be a violation of OMA since there was no public knowledge of or public notice of you guys' meeting. So, if you were to meet today, you guys would be in violation of OMA.
132. Chairperson Rosales asks
     1. “Because you said that there is not public knowledge about the case pending can the Senate have the ability to know what is going on?”
133. Speaker Corpuz responds
     1. “I cannot provide that information to you as of right now considering the case could have certain aspects that are not privy to just Senate or to public knowledge. So, as of right now there is nothing I can give you guys on the information of this case.”
134. Chairperson Rosales responds
     1. “Ok thank you.”
135. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “I do have another question as well. According to the Bylaws Article 4, section 1C, the Supreme Court shall review the NIU Student Code of Conduct at least every two calendar years in accordance with the Supreme Court Code of Procedures and make recommendations to exclude or include POLIC. Has the Supreme Court completed reviewing the student code of conduct and what is the status of the Code of procedures that should be provided to the student body and to the Office of the Speaker?
136. Justice Phelps responds
     1. “We haven’t been able to meet to get that done.”
137. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “Has there been any personal research and personal interest and insight into it that you have done yourself. Since each of you representing yourself? Have you looked at the code of procedures that should be available to you guys and have you guys looked at the bylaws, tried to set up the code of procedures before the next Supreme Court meeting?”
138. Justice Phelps responds
     1. “I haven’t and I recently reached out to you about this. I haven't seen the code of procedures and that's why I go back to say that there is a problem when it comes to transitioning into this position. Especially the unfortunate circumstances of removing the chief right after I got this position because there hasn't been a more sole guideline on what to do and how to do it and what we should be doing and that’s why were in this room, in this position.”
139. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are any more questions.
140. There is none.
141. Speaker Corpuz states
     1. “I would like to thank you guys for coming out to this meeting. If you do have any questions, please e-mail myself or the SGA e-mail and I'm more willing to answer any questions, but you may step down at this point. You do not have to stay for the rest of the meeting, but you're more than welcome to. Thank you guys for coming out.”

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Deputy Speaker’s Report
   1. There is none.
2. Historian’s Report
   1. There is none.
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. There is none.
4. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight’s report
   1. There is none.
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
   1. There is none.
6. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report
   1. There is none.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

1. President’s report
   1. There is none.
2. Vice-President’s report
   1. There is none.
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. SB56015: A bill to establish an international representative seat on Senate.
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Senator Samuel states
      1. “In our last meeting, I've emphasized the importance of this bill because the international students here are of good numbers, and they have their unique challenges, and this is a good way of integrating them into the Student Government Association by them having a representative who represent their interest here at the Senate.”
   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, \_0\_\_ abstentions.
2. SB56016: A bill to establish the Finance Operating Manual
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “As mentioned last week, this bill essentially codifies the financial operating manual. This is to exist on the same level as long as with essentially the bylaws. This contains the financial policies regarding supplemental funding, executive allocation and the new system for tiers. This is essentially a way to help streamline the financial procedures and policies for student organizations, and I've worked on this with Treasurer Pesavento throughout the closing months of November and December. So, this is essentially the final touches to those financial forums that Senate had approved during the fall semester.
   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, \_0\_\_ abstentions.
3. SB56017: A bill to unify language from the creation of the Parliamentarian
4. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
5. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
6. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
   1. “All this bill aims to do is amend the Constitution and the SGA bylaws because we passed SB56009, which established the Parliamentarian, which occurred because of the combination of the SGA historian, Director of Community Service and the Legislative Director.00:41:27 Speaker 4
   2. All that this bill does is replace all instances of those three non-existent positions. Now with the Parliamentarian, it is considered the legal successor for those positions now. They have inherited all of those former roles along with the duties and responsibilities that the constitution and the bylaws still have. This is just to clean up the text.
7. Parliamentarian Guerrero states
   1. “I'd like to make a friendly amendment on Section 6 Senate Order Succession. Second line after “temporary Speaker will be chosen from the Senate order”. So, no temporary Speaker of the Senate will be chosen from the Senate order of succession, change it to “will follow the Senate order of Succession.”
8. Speaker Corpuz asks
   1. “Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, do you take that friendly amendment?”
9. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez responds
   1. “I accept the friendly amendment.”
10. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
11. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
12. This vote passes with \_\_12\_ yays, \_0\_\_ nays, \_\_0\_ abstentions.
13. SB56018: A bill to reform the Campus Life and Environmental Affairs Committee
14. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
15. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
16. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
    1. “So, this bill came about some discussions Senator Samuel had proposed to me specifically focusing more on the environmental aspect of helping the NIU campus. What this bill does is implement a more environmental literacy program for committee members. This would occur only once from the bill text once they are added into the committee. This would be the responsibility of either the Director or the Chairperson. It also implements a campus sustainability week, which would occur either before or on Earth week. It is a task and duty that the committee will have to do to support the campus sustainability initiatives on campus as well. This is to make the committee more environmentally conscious and more accessible, but also much more impactful for the NIU community and this bill essentially helps to codify that.”
17. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
18. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
19. This vote passes with \_12\_\_ yays, \_0\_\_ nays, \_0\_\_ abstentions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SR56022: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Candidate Jacob Woodson states
      1. “So today I will be speaking about why I desire to join the student Senate. I will first cover why and then I will go over my qualifications and give a very brief outline of what I want to do. I desire to join because I want to be more involved in the community. I prefer politics, governance, and civic engagement as I’m studying political science and philosophy. I also believe that I’m uniquely qualified because I’ve had the opportunity to mentor and connect with first year students and to intern at the University’s federal Relations Office. So, I understand at least somewhat of what the university may need. For my vision, I’m running under the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. My overall goal is to create more interdisciplinary connections as there are programs that exist, but they are either not as robust or they are not advertised as much. Thank you for your time and consideration.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “What is your major and how many credits are you taking for this semester?”
   5. Candidate Jacob Woodson responds
      1. “ I’m a political science and philosophy major and I'm currently taking 19 credit hours.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “Due to joining a semester in, do you think you'll be able to complete the responsibilities of Senator in a shorter amount of time than the rest of the senators here currently?”
   7. Candidate Jacob Woodson responds
      1. “I believe with the assistance of the Senators and the Speaker I can, yes.”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “What are some initiatives that you are looking forward to working on as a Senator if elected?”
   9. Candidate Jacob Woodson responds
      1. “My biggest initiative is just creating more interconnectedness and interdisciplinary action within social sciences because there are programs that exist, but they aren't as robust.”
   10. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
   11. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   12. This vote passes with \_11\_\_ yays, \_\_0\_ nays, \_1\_\_ abstentions.
2. SR56023: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Candidate Sky Boniecki states
      1. “My name is Sky. I am a third-year environmental justice major and I'm seeking a position as senator at large for the Student Government Association. I'm a progressive, non-binary neurodivergent person that seeks to create positive change in any way possible, which includes thought opposition. One of my passions is social justice, something I've made an effort to genuinely dedicate my life to. I'm always wanting to learn more and grow as a person, helping and working with others in any way I can. On campus, I am a member of PRISM blackmail initiative. Young Democratic Socialists of America and the Speaker's Bureau for the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center. I've advocated for, rallied and donated to groups in need of help and support on and off campus. I want my time as a senator to be out of unconditional support and action for students in need. I will always prioritize and fight to put humanity first no matter what. I will always approach this work with the practices of anti-racism, intersectional holisticity, and decolonization to help ensure that people's voices are being heard and their needs met to the fullest extent. I'm wholly dedicated to the cause of progressive and collective action and community care and I seek to practice it as a member of the Student Government. I run for this position standing firm with the values I hold and the love for the communities around me.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “What is your major and how many credits are you taking for this semester?”
   5. Candidate Sky Boniecki responds
      1. “Yes, my major is environmental Justice, Bachelor of Arts and I am currently taking 12 credits this semester.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “Due to joining a semester in, do you think you will be able to complete the responsibilities of a Senator in a shorter amount of time?”
   7. Candidate Sky Boniecki responds
      1. “Yes”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “What are some initiatives that you are looking forward to working on as a Senator?”
   9. Candidate Sky Boniecki responds
      1. “I want to work on focusing on centering students' voices, marginalized communities on campus, students in need. I want to help advance green initiatives on campus in terms of the environment. I want to work towards putting forth progressive. I want to help advance progressive legislation and work towards the goal of taping social justice here on campus and in the surrounding community.”
   10. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
       1. “As a Senator, your responsibility is to be in two committees and I know it's too early, but do you have any idea of what committees you want to be a part of?”
   11. Candidate Sky Boniecki states
       1. “I would say Campus Life, DEI, and Public Affairs.”
   12. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
   13. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   14. This vote passes with \_11\_\_ yays, \_0\_\_ nays, \_1\_\_ abstentions.
3. SR56024: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Candidate Steve Robinson states
      1. “ Hi, I’m Steve. I am an OMIS major for the College of Business. I am here because I feel like I can contribute to the Senate, and I want to do so in the best way possible. I don't know if any of you read my packet, but my primary goal is to improve communications for new students. I’m a freshman right now and I came and struggled to find a place I could be myself outside of classes. I felt like the communication through Huskie Hub and the other ways of outreach could have been more standardized and more easily accessible to new freshman. I only found out about SGA, for example, through some of my friends, and I feel like it would be a lot easier for more integration of transfer students and new freshman so that we can get their opinions and skills better utilized to improve Northern Illinois University. I’ve held a lot of leadership positions in previous extracurriculars. Right now I'm looking to go into the exec board for the Belgarth Medieval Fighting Society Club that I’m a part of here.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “You touched on this already, but what is your major and how many credits are you taking this semester?”
   5. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
      1. “I'm an OMIS major, which is a business degree. It stands for Operation Management and Informational Systems, and I'm currently taking 17 credits.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “Due to joining a semester in, do you think you will be able to complete the responsibilities of Senator in a shorter amount of time?”
   7. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
      1. “I will be reaching out if I need any assistance and I currently do not have anything scheduled on Fridays except for SGA meetings, so I will be willing to sacrifice any time needed on any Friday to be able to catch up to my fellow senators.”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “And then my last question is, what are some initiatives that you are looking forward to working on as a Senator?”
   9. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
      1. “As mentioned, I want to continue to improve the communications for new students and integration there and anywhere else my skills can be utilized. More than willing to support the best I can.”
   10. Senator Ivey asks
       1. “17 credits is a lot. In addition to that, these Friday meetings, 2 committees, at least some volunteer service and drafting legislation. Are you sure you’re able to take on that with 17 credits as a freshman?”
   11. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
       1. Yeah. So, it does sound a bit bigger than it is commitment wise. Those credits are from the Army ROTC and they are very flexible, especially with important things such as student government and classes. If needed I am able to talk to the leadership, there and reorganize that so that I can make SGA a priority.
   12. Senator Boniecke asks
       1. “May you repeat what organization you’re a part of again?”
   13. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
       1. “It is a physical medieval fighting style society and I'm currently on the exec board to assist them in growing since they only just recently became a club.”
   14. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
       1. “Are there any clubs or organizations you’re a part of that, if you do join SGA, it will affect you in any way?”
   15. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
       1. “No, absolutely not. I would make SGA a priority and I will outreach to the other people inside the club. Belgarth, for example, is very flexible with the leadership and everyone's involvement. I will make sure that this is a priority and that I will stay on top of this.”
   16. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
       1. “Similar to now Senator Skye, any committees you want to be part of?”
   17. Candidate Steve Robinson responds
       1. “Yeah. Primarily, I would like to be a part of organizational oversight as part of my goal to improve communication for new students joining clubs, like our involvement fairs. I'd also be interested in campus life and Greek activities or the DEI or any place that would be beneficial. I’m open to being on any.”
   18. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
   19. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   20. This vote passes with \_\_14\_ yays, \_0\_\_ nays, \_0\_\_ abstentions.
4. SR56025: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Nico Ramirez states
      1. “Hello everyone, my name is Nico. I believe I would be a good fit for this SGA Senate. I’ve worked with a Senator at an internship before. I’ve worked on lots of legislation, lots of bills. I've also helped pass many bills and modified them, so I believe that I will be a great fit for you for SGA Senate. I worked for the 38 district of Illinois and have passed lots of Illinois laws.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “Again, what is your major and how many credit hours are you taking this semester?
   5. Candidate Nico Ramirez responds
      1. “My major is political science, Bachelor of Arts. I’m taking 13 credit hours.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “Due to joining a semester in, do you think you'll be able to complete the responsibilities of Senator in the shorter amount of time?”
   7. Candidate Nico Ramirez responds
      1. “I believe with the correct help I can do that.”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “And then what are some initiatives that you are looking forward to working on as a senator?”
   9. Candidate Nico Ramirez responds
      1. “I was thinking either public affairs or representing more campus life for students.”
   10. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
       1. “Any clubs or organizations you’re a part of?”
   11. Chairperson Rosales asks
       1. “For clarification, was it the 38th State Rep or Senator for the Illinois Assembly? Which one did you work for?”
   12. Candidate Nico Ramirez responds
       1. “38th District of Illinois State Rep.”
   13. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   14. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   15. This vote passes with \_12\_\_ yays, \_\_1\_ nays, \_2\_\_ abstentions.
5. SR56026: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
6. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
7. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
8. Candidate Nathan Meister states
   1. “I am running for Senator for university at large, but I'd like to also run for and help out with Campus life and Greek affairs. Living here for the past year, I have known as personally just stuff that I feel like can be helped with campus life, including dormitories as well as safety initiatives, different things like that so everybody has a comfortable experience here including parents. I am currently residing in Neptune North and there are certain safety things that I have seen that I feel need to be addressed as well. I'm currently a business administration major, so I am pretty free and I'm also part of club baseball, so they are very flexible for Fridays and meetings as well, and this will come first over everything else. Thank you.”
9. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
   1. “Other than Greek Affairs, what other committees do you want to be a part of?”
10. Candidate Nathan Meister responds
    1. “It would be over organizational oversight so kids can get where they need to be in the first week here knowing not where to go, possibly for your classes. It can get kind of chaotic here with all the different buildings. I feel like having people out there helping point out where they’re going might just be a better for kids in a safer environment.”
11. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “What is your major and how many credit hours are you taking this semester?”
12. Candidate Nathan Meister responds
    1. “I am a business administration major taking 13 credit hours.”
13. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “Due to joining a semester in, do you think you'll be able to complete the responsibilities of Senator in a shorter amount of time?”
14. Candidate Nathan Meister responds
    1. “Yes, sir.”
15. Speaker Corpuz asks
    1. “What are some initiatives that you're looking forward to working on as a senator?”
16. Candidate Nathan Meister responds
    1. “For Neptune Halls, I know Neptune East is the only place that has A/C right now. I live in Neptune North like I said as well as Neptune West. I know Neptune north right now does not have heating, A/C or really hot water anymore, and I think that for the winter time a lot of kids in that building are getting sick. I think that if I was able to talk to people higher ups coming from SGA and a student that maybe can be fixed for everybody else and hopefully it makes a more comfortable living experience for the students on campus.”
17. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
    1. “What makes you qualified for a Senator in SGA?”
18. Candidate Nathan Meister responds
    1. “Back home over the summer, I work for my local village, which is their government underneath our village manager. So, I've seen a lot of how their bills are passed, how different things are run as well as their meetings. Seeing how everybody communicates and how they run different things.”
19. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
20. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
21. This vote passes with \_\_14\_ yays, \_\_0\_ nays, \_1\_\_ abstentions.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Deputy Speaker Corpuz states
   1. “Given the uncertainty of the new presidential administration, specifically in regard to potential ice raids on campus, especially as I believe the state of Illinois has recently put a report telling universities to be prepared in case they do see ICE agents on campus. I would just like to inform the Senate for the good of the order that if you do have do know people or people come to you worried about such potential ice raid. You can consult both the undocumented student Resource Center web page form. There's specifically a web page that says if US immigration and custom enforcement comes to campus. This reviews what NIU recommends students to do. In case ICE agents comes to NIU’s campus and begins to interact with them. And it contains the information as well if you forget where that web page is. I'd also would like for you to consult a Northern Star article that they released today that also talks about the same information. And does contain links to this exact same way page as well. So, as I say, in case anyone else is worried about this or someone comes to you regarding this information.”
2. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. I would like to congratulate to the five new senators who have been added. I will be emailing you all regarding details of orientation and any other questions that you may have. Just look out for it on the weekend, maybe Sunday night normally. And then there'll be a lot of information I'll be throwing at you guys within the next or within this weekend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Chairperson Rosales states
   1. I’d like to let you guys know that NIU’s gymnastics has a meet today at 6:00 and it’s Senior night if you guys can make it out to the convocation center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Deputy Speaker so moved.
3. Parliamentarian Guerrero 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 5:20pm.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

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

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on February 1st, 2025

56th Senate on January 24th, 2025