Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

February 7th, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at 4:13 pm in the HSC (Holmes Student Center) Capital 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, Crawford, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Woodson, Samuel, Boniecke, Meister, Ramirez, Robinson, Rosales**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:** Fields, Ivy

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. The speaker is unavailable and will be scheduling another time to speak at a later meeting.

**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, sorry about the whole confusion. I was at a conference all day today and was still under the impression that we were meeting upstairs, so I do apologize. This past week I’ve been working with Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, and we were looking at different bills that we will be putting up later in this semester. We are also looking with other student organizations to see what other events we can plan as committees. I’m also working alongside the Director of Sustainability in a project that they’re planning on releasing to the public in the near future. I will give out more details as I find out more about it.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**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. Chairperson Crawford states
      1. “This week Student Life and Greek Affairs went together with Student Involvement, and we did a Valentine’s Day event, and I heard a lot of good feedback from it. I even saw some things on social media from other people. Basically, what you could do is write a note anonymously or you could give it to someone you wanted. You could leave it somewhere and we provided roses and suckers for them to put with them and put them in a random spot or give them to someone they wanted to.
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 Affair committee discussed coordinating with each of the other committee to figure out times where we could send one of our members to any of your events to take picture to be submitted to our social media page. Please reach out to us. I’ll be reaching out to Chairpersons individually to see if we can send anybody out to your events.”
4. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight’s report
   1. Chairperson Gonzalez states
      1. “Organizational oversight committee met yesterday. The current development that we will be doing is trying to find tabling events or any sort of measures to be taken before March 31st for this fiscal year. We will also be gearing up to set up events and other sort of efforts in order to begin the registration process for student organizations, more details will come as the committee begins to iron those out.”
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
   1. There is none.
6. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report
   1. There is none.
7. Chairperson of Campus Parking report
   1. Chairperson Gonzalez states
      1. “The Campus Parking committee met last week. One piece of information that we discussed during the committee meeting that I would like to bring up is that of commuter student parking. They are planning to increase the amount from $100 to $102. This will be implemented in the next fiscal or basically next year. This increase will affect faculty parking rates as well. The rationale behind this increase is in order to help pay for repairs that is occurring and piling up specifically among the parking garage. If you have not noticed on the second floor of the parking garage, the lights are basically out. Th rationale behind it is because the water pipes are bursting and leaking within the parking garage and those leaking pipes affect the electricity supply, which affects the lighting, and then the structural integrity of the building. Campus Parking funds in order to repair roads and the parking garage only come from parking fee, such as the permits and the parking tickets. They are left no choice but to increase the parking rates. So far, the rate has not been approved just because faculty do not agree with the current hike or other reasons. More details will come soon.”

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

1. President’s report
   1. There is none.
2. Vice-President’s report
   1. There is none.
3. Treasurer’s report
   1. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “Treasurer Pesavento has told me he is not able to appear today, but he would like to note for you all that this week’s annual funding workshops are happening. The next one is today at 6:00 pm. The link is in an email that was sent by the Office of Student Involvement. He just wants to let you all know that the annual funding is open, so please be sure to tell your organizations to apply before the deadline of March 31st.”
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. There is none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SB56019: A bill to update the bylaws to include the requirements for committees
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “This legislation is pretty much just covering the fact that all committees for Senate now will require at least three voting members for a meeting, and that the Chairperson will not count for the quorum but will still count as a member of the committee. It’s just to clarify the rules for chairs and clarify in general what committee attendance is for.”
   4. Chairperson Monteleone asks
      1. “Does the director count to meet quorum?”
   5. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “The director does not count since they are an ex-officio non-voting member of any committee. That goes for any student advisor or even the President himself.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   7. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   8. This bill will be voted on next week.
2. SB56020: A bill to redefine Student Government Association legislation
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “All this bill aims to do is change part of the Constitution that specifically defines what a bill and resolution is. The main reason for this change is because it is not clear on the actual Constitution itself what the definition is. So far, the 56th session has been operating has been underneath the Constitution. But there was just a disagreement earlier in the beginning regarding the amount of time. Like what is 2 weeks before a bill is approved. So, we’ve been operating on the president’s set by the 55th session. Basically, this also helps clarify that way there is no repeat for future sessions and just clarifies definitions.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “Can you just elaborate on the voting procedures for a bill versus a resolution?”
   5. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “Yes, for the record, the way how it would be reflected in the Constitution with this bill is that for resolutions, as soon as they are introduced into the Senate for the first reading, they would be able to be approved afterwards, much like we've been doing under the 56 and 55th. That just makes it clearer from a legal standpoint. For bills, so that's any changes to the bylaws, finance, operating manual or the Constitution itself. It is 2 weeks. One week will be the first reading, then it will either be automatically tabled or sent to the Rules and Procedures committee if it is felt that revisions need to be made. In either case, that second week or the second readding, then it would be able to be approved by the Senate again, much like the 55th and the 56th have been operating under. And then one other change that I just remember looking up there is under section D you can see. It means that it just basically assigns a place on the agenda. So regardless of when it was introduced to Senate, it will always be moved to old business, even if it is being edited by rules and procedure. It just makes more sense that it goes in old business just because it was already introduced, and it is old in way so.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “So that change comes from a precedence that was set back in the 54th session. At least that from what I've seen, that they used to move agenda items from new business to old business during the meeting and Deputy Speaker Gonzalez and I both agreed that it was a quite useless transfer and it could just be done. This is just to simplify all the procedures that we’ve had beforehand.”
   7. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   8. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   9. This bill will be voted on next week.
3. SR56032: A resolution to remove a sitting senator from office
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Senator Boniecke states
      1. “So recently we had I think 5 new senators sworn in to this group and I guess my question is from anyone who has observed what is being mentioned in this legislation created this legislation or has overseen it, would like to provide more context for what is being mentioned here as this may impact how this person may vote.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “Well, I can say from previous experience, Chairperson Rosales, it has been an ongoing struggle to communicate with you and it has been an ongoing struggle to figure out what's going on and how I can help you overall. The lack of communication and the lack of awareness that I had on my hands was, at points, just overwhelming to the fact that I could not get the committee to meet where while I had people asking me a bunch of questions about the committee in general. So, this whole legislation was just based on that. This has been an ongoing occurrence, and I saw that it has gone before rules and procedures in which Chairperson Rosales was able to explain themselves during that meeting, but this has now become repeated. A repeated offence towards SGA and it’s also just been a struggle at this point.”
   5. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “The rationale for this was as Speaker Corpuz mentioned, the lack of communication. We did finally receive a piece of communication but that came this morning. Furthermore, the specific reason why we wanted DEI, as Chairperson Rosales is chair of the DEI committee, is because of the recent executive orders coming from Washington, DC over the questions of the needs of DEI and what Northern University Illinois aims to do. That’s why we’re trying to have DEI meet starting this spring semester so Director Isabella Montoya, the Director of DEI, can begin to have those discussions with the committee. DEI hasn’t met since last semester. So, therefor it is with this rationale of why during Rules and Procedures Committee, it was recommended to move forward with the removal of Chairperson Rosales. It was because of the repeat of what occurred during the fall semester, which in some cases the Office of the Speaker did accept some errors that had happened. However, for other cases it has already been a repeat, and this is already into the spring semester and at least specifically with DEI, especially with the concerns going around, not just the entire campus, but across the United States regarding the current administration. It is something that DEI needs to get to the bottom of and so far, they’re not discussing anything.”
   6. Senator Samuel states
      1. “Will the house allow the chairperson to explain himself on why he has not been living up to the expectations with his responsibilities regarding chairing the department and the committee not responding to your messages? Why?”
   7. Chairperson Rosales responds
      1. “Well, I’m going to say this seems like a barrage that this is up, but. Yeah we’ll say this communication thing has been going on some, which I cannot say to protect my conscious. I mean simply, I don’t think removing a senator is the right perspective for this action. I think some of those “WHEREAS” are incorrect or misinformed. I don’t want to clarify because there has been an e-mail sent out. I do want to continue, I do believe the administration because it could happen. There’s been issues, yeah, with the DEI, I do agree with Chairperson Gonzalez. We might have to rename; we might have to do stuff to do that. I like to meet, like today on Friday’s. I know we had new senators, so I just want to make sure we can meet. But the action of this is not correct. I do believe there should be discipline but just not this action.”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “ I would like to ask just for the record, Chairperson Rosales what would you believe is a fit enough repercussion for all of this instead of removal?”
   9. Chairperson Rosales responds
      1. “For communication and like this. I’m here for the students and all that. I know we all get a stipend. I believe I should get a reduction of stipend for my monetary value, you know, for my time. So that was what I was thinking. I just had a meeting with my advisor but that’s one of the things I think we should do.”
   10. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “The point I want to be bring up is how do I qualify a reduction? I can reduce it as much as I want if I’m just saying it. That’s the thing, there is no quantifiable way for me to say you should be reduced because of your lack communication. I wrote this legislation on the fact that this has been a repeated occurrence with me and that I have not seen any form of change or any show of growth of change from towards you. The R&P Committee can also speak on my behalf, and even last semester’s R&P Committee can speak that we have tried to contact you and we have asked you on numerous time; what’s going on? How can we help? What can we do? So, at this point, I wrote this legislation because I’ve had enough of just attempting to try and communicate with you when all I’m getting is static.”
   11. Chairperson Rosales asks
       1. “Can you clarify static?”
   12. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. Static, as in I’m receiving no form of communication. The communication I received from you was today at 4:05 pm. I am not in office and yet I still try to answer as quick as possible and I have tried on numerous times over the span of the start of the semester to communicate with you.”
   13. Senator Boniecki asks
       1. “If in the event that Chairperson Rosales is removed and this legislation passes, do we have a path forward?
   14. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “Could you clarify what you mean by the path forward?”
   15. Senator Boniecki states
       1. “Essentially, a person who would take their place as chairperson?”
   16. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “Not the current moment since I did not want to start planning ahead for an event that may or may not happen.”
   17. Senator Chigurupati states
       1. “Operationally, behind not deducting any stipend is because the stipend was introduced from last semester. Before that every SGA senator has been working voluntarily and that has been for a long time and reducing the stipend is kind of a bonus. They’re not really working for that and reducing wouldn’t mean anything. We were trying to figure out what kind of repercussions that you might have to face, and we couldn’t come up with anything other than that one. But, if you do suggest something, we are welcome to think about it.”
   18. Senator Samuel states
       1. “I understand the gravity of his actions. Communication is very important in this. A senator should understand the place of communication. But I would like the House, especially the leadership, to still reconsider their position. I am suggesting that he should be sentenced for community service.”
   19. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “He committed no crime that would warrant community service. On my end, I do not have the power to require someone to do extra community service outside of the requirements of their own responsibilities now. So, I can say with a fact right now that I cannot do that.”
   20. Chairperson Crawford states
       1. “Just back to the stipend. I feel as if that's kind of a tricky situation. I'm in the RNP committee and we talked about all of these things and the thing with that is that's kind of more for the senators that are participating but are lacking in certain ways. So, if someone doesn't hold an event, we're supposed to hold 3 events this semester, that will decrease your stipend, but also with not attending. It’s weak 3 or 4. Doing no meetings within that time, I feel like it’s hard because that’s three basically unexcused absences.”
   21. Chairperson Monteleone states
       1. “Yeah. With due respect to Chairperson Rosales, he has been present at these Senate hearings but if his committee hasn't met in the four or five weeks we've been in school maybe that committee should be reorganized or repurposed somehow.”
   22. Chairperson Rosales states
       1. “I’ve done Senate with the monetary stipend and I’ve done it for volunteer work as well. What I’m saying is if I say I don’t want removal and I asked for a deduction, what deduction is there that meets criteria. We need to find a compromise in this situation.
   23. Speaker Corpuz asks
       1. “Could you suggest a compromise? Because this is my compromise, technically.”
   24. Senator Robinson asks
       1. “Would it be possible to do a temporary suspension instead of removing him from office wherein he is required to still attend all of the meetings and committees that he is a part of without voting power? His attendance to these and showing that he is dedicated to it say for a month of suspension from those powers could possibly show that he is still committed and that this previous action could possibly redeem himself.”
   25. Chairperson Crawford states
       1. “I think I see where you’re coming from. The only thing I would say is if he is welcome back, I do with respect think that being a chairperson should be taken away and he should be replaced as that.”
   26. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “So, I can speak of why I selected you as chairperson of DEI. You are the most senior senator on Senate now, that’s even superseding me at this point. I ‘ve been here for three years. I was a chair. I understand how hard it is outside of school and all that work. But here's my point is I put you to this responsibility because I believe you have the power, and you know you understand what I expect on a on a basis of what SGA should be. You and I have talked about this. We have talked on numerous occasions.” Hey, if you need help. If you need guidance, you can reach out to me. Please call me. E-mail me. Half of the time I’m in my office and you could just come visit. I spend most of my week in the office to begin with and everyone here in Senate know that if you just text me most of the time, I will answer within a couple of minutes. I am always trying to help you guys. And the fact that I've tried to communicate with you and I still have heard nothing and we're still at the stage of you not answering me. So, my point of removal was just because I don’t think if you cannot complete the chairperson position, what’s to say that you can complete the senator position? It’s only one extra meeting that you have to run in which, once again, I have given you my templates that I have made in my own time and templates that I’ve designed so that you guys can understand what’s going on. So, at this point I see only removal as the justifiable course of action. “
   27. Senator Samuel states
       1. “I understand your dissatisfaction and hearing from hearing your voice. I also feel disappointed. I understand the level of his actions. I didn’t expect him considering he has been here for a very long time while to exhibit such attitude. But even at that, I would like you to temper justice with mercy. To consider what Senator Robinson has said. We understand what he did was very wrong, but can you just listen to some of us who are actually begging you, pleading that you should compromise at this point in time?”
   28. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “We could and if that is the course the Senate would like to take, I will tell you right now that all you have to do is make a motion to table this to R&P and then there can either be another discussion in another committee or another are. But I am standing on my belief that I want this to either go to a vote today and that’s just my own personal belief. So, if there is someone that’s willing to stand up and support Chairperson Rosales and we can talk about another form of consequences please make a motion now.”
   29. Senator Robinson moves to table this legislation.
   30. Senator Samuel seconded.
   31. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   32. This bill is tabled to the R&P committee.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Chairperson Crawford states
   1. “Did the Supreme Court end up meeting. Did you get to sit in on that?”
2. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. “I was the chair of that meeting just to lead the judges into a form of communication. They did meet and they have selected Maximilian Jarmula as their new Chief Justice and Tyler Murray as their clerk of the Court on the case or on the report of the case. They are looking to take it up at this time. However, I have not heard anything about a meeting or schedule for when the case is going to be heard. I will check back with them in a later time depending on when I can hear from them next but suffice to say they at least now have a point of direction to go.”
3. Chairperson Rosales states
   1. “I just want to let the student body know that Chief Mitchel retired last Friday. I just wanted to say that the student body acknowledges and that we appreciate the long service of Chief Mitchell and what he has done for NIU PD and the community as well.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are any announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Parliamentarian Guerrero 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 4:50 pm.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

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

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on February 11, 2025

56th Senate on February 7, 2025