Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

October 4, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at 4:06 pm in the HSC (Holmes Student Center) Sky Room.
2. We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Voting Members Present: Klister, Lazaric, Fields, Lavallais, Robinson, Chgurupati, Monteleone, Samuel, Udoh, Guerrero, Samsonek, Sawyer, Rosales**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:** Crawford, Vaske, Ivy

**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. SENATOR SAWYER so moved.
3. SENATOR ROSALES 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. SENATOR SAWYER so moved.
3. SENATOR ROSALES seconded.
4. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. DEPUTY SPEAKER GONZALEZ makes a motion to amend the executive branch report.
   1. GONZALEZ states
      1. “Change Vice President to President.”
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. This past week I've been working on going through senator applications that I have received throughout the week. I've also been going over some legislative legislation regarding financing and have been working with the Treasurer to finalize the purchasing guidelines that need updated. In the coming few weeks I am looking to hold one-on-one interviews with each and every one of you. More details to come in an e-mail that will be sent out later. “

**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. 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. CHAIRPERSON GONZALEZ states
      1. “Oversight Committee report 5 organizations were recommended for approval at yesterday's meeting, and they will come to the Senate for next week. OO began brainstorming ideas to help better support our organizations, especially the new ones, and we had fruitful conversations during that committee meeting. Part of the conversations that we had and organizational oversight was involved, which was approved to begin discussions of having a potential many involvement there specifically for newer organizations. So they have an opportunity to make their presence known to the NIU community, collaborate with other newer organizations, and help increase their recruitment efforts. Well, this is an ongoing situation and based on an e-mail I have sent out to the newer organizations that OO has met this year, a majority of them have said yes, that they like this idea and so more details will hopefully be coming soon.”
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. PRESIDENT JONES states
      1. Good afternoon. Senate. First, I would like to say thank you for having me today and I would like to give a recap on everything that has been done since school started. So the first thing I would like to shout out is the Week of Welcome events. So events such as Culture Fest, Block party, the kickoff, Welcome Holmes and the President's Picnic. Those are all things that I've attended and I've seen the impact that student engagement and student involvement had on campus with CAB having record-breaking numbers for these events. So during the first week of September, SGA had a strong presence during the student involvement fair and it was important for students to see us and know that they can get involved in student government. Also in the week of September, me and Speaker Corpuz had our first meeting with President Freeman, where we discussed the importance to promote student government and to raise more awareness of the power that students have to change the campus. We also discussed the success of the annual parade held during homecoming, and she challenged me to reach out to as many student organizations as possible to increase the overall success and turn out of that event. Student involvement also held our student organization conference, which, in my opinion, was extremely beneficial and a wealth of knowledge for student leaders on campus. Skills such as utilizing Husky hub and leadership development proved to be very valuable to these student initiatives that SGA is focusing on now. I'm focusing on filling my cabinet with strong candidates with outstanding leadership qualities. An event that I have in mind is that I want to collaborate with Campus Activity Board to create something that I would like to call Husky Pride nights. This would essentially be two to three events throughout the semester that SGA will highlight and incentivize students for attendance. W would not only like to support CAB events but Athletic outings as well. Another initiative the SGA has been a part of is Huskie’s Vote. SGA has agreed to assist with tabling events to help support voter registration. I myself alone, I'm going to utilize the Huskies Takeover Instagram account the week of the event, which is October 30th, March The polls. I'll use the Huskies takeover to promote voting and to bring more students to raise the awareness of voting. I also have an event plan called SGA Connect presents Resource Fridays. This is not a new event. This event was used last year, but I think that it had more potential, and I would like to bring it back so this would be a biweekly event that shifts its focus to connecting students to different campus initiatives and needs. SGA will provide information on various topics. To equip students with the resources to succeed on campus, previous administration like I stated started this. However, I would like to bring it back. I'm making plans with the directors that I have appointed and intend to appoint to help create and execute their vision and goals. I'll have an update in the future on their projects and impact. Last thing I would like to mention is that homecoming is right around the corner, and I would like to reach out to the Senate to see if you guys would like to come out, show support and get into the Husky spirit. That's all I have today.”
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. SB 56003: A BILL TO UPDATE AND SSIMPLIFY THE OVERSIGHT OF ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.
   1. SENATOR ROSALES so moved.
   2. SENATOR SAWYER seconded.
   3. This bill has been up for two weeks and will be voted on today.
   4. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. There is none.
   6. SPEAKER CORPUZ calls for a vote.
   7. This vote passes with \_\_13\_ yays, \_\_0\_ nays, \_\_1\_ abstentions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SB 5600: A BILL TO UPDATE THE PROCEDURES OF RECOGNIZING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.
   1. SENATOR SAWYER so moved
   2. SENATOR ROSALES seconded.
   3. DEPUTY SPEAKER GONZALEZ states
      1. “This bill aims to simplify the process for how new organizations are approved by student government. So essentially this streamlines the process by essentially forgoing full Senate approval. Instead of organizational oversight committee or OO recommending approval from the committee to the Senate for full approval, O will now be the one that will fully approve the organizations instead. The rationale behind this comes from discussion with a member of student involvement. Just the fact that we need to have a simpler process of having a more streamlined connection because under the current system, after organizations are approved by the Director of Organization of Development which right now is Vice President James Innis. Then it gets sent to me where it s even talked about during OO. Once it gets approved it gets sent to Senate. That whole process, depending how long it takes, no matter what is at least 3 weeks.. This format will cut it down by a solid week and allow many more organizations to be recognized as full-fledged. Student organizations allow them to be approved much more quickly for any sort of funding or allowed to have a more measurable impact on NIU’s community.”
   4. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. SENATOR SAMUEL states
2. “I would like to get clarification. Are you trying to insinuate that the OO committee, the Oversight Committee, will be the one to approve organizations henceforth? In an effort to simplify, let us not make it look like everybody can form a community and it will be approved. I think it is better that every member of the Senate can have a contribution towards whether this committee should be approved or not be approved.”
   1. SPEAKER CORPUZ responds
      1. “We first saw this with the Finance Committee upon approving the supplemental requests. In previous years any requests for supplemental funding were brought to Senate. To streamline the process, it was brought only to the Finance Committee. Since we are all senators that serve on Finance Committee, we want to make the process almost the exact same for organizations to just basically allow senders to approve the organization there because they are the ones that complete the checklist and make sure that the organization covers every single aspect and requirement to be an organization on campus. So, this process of just removing the overall Senate from the whole conversation makes it a little bit easier on everyone else so that the organization can be recognized much quicker than what we are currently doing right now.”
   2. SENATOR SAMEUL states
      1. “I understand. I think I understand what you're trying to do, but it's my recommendation or suggestion that the number of the members of the Oversight Committee should be increased as a result of this development, more than other committees. 3rd majority of the Members of this Senate should be part of this organization committee so that even though it won't come to the Senate Majority of the Senate are aware of what is actually happening in terms of approval of organizations.”
   3. SPEAKER CORPUZ states
      1. “I understand what you mean now. There is no cap for how many senators can sit on a committee. I just have a personal preference that we need to have senators spread out more evenly on all the committees. So having more students' senators on the Organizational Oversight committee is not a bad idea that I will endorse. The size of our Senate right now should be what I have or what I projected to have for the Members. If our Senate becomes bigger later on, we can add more Members to organizational oversight.”
   4. SENATOR ROSLAES states
      1. “So, I notice some of you all on Senate are new. Right now, we are doing OO. I'll give you the original context. So, the six conditions that we’re about to approve for recognition for SGA, the original process was each of these 6 organizations would present through the full Senate representation. Do questions and answers and debates. Sos that’s how OO got created. So, with OO, I do believe it is helpful, it has written the process way faster in that regard. I would say I reflect as whole what the Senate, even the VP, has the power to give temporal like approval. So that would be one thing, but you say in one session there's an organization that was brought on for recognition and there were students here. So, I think having them at these meetings is important. Having that dialogue for each student as well.”
   5. DEPUTY SPEAKER GONZALEZ responds
      1. “My only concern with that is I understand how it used to be done in the past, but the present situation is the matter of fact quite bluntly, enrollment numbers are low and that's just a fact across the entire state to force organizations. Though I understand why the previous sessions used to do. It is unreasonable to do it in the present day, in the present format, because of the fact we wouldn't have enough time to get through all those organizations, that's why OO is there, to kind of help prevent to kind of prevent that under the current or what the current plan. Then with the passage of this bill would to be having them be physically present at OO or somehow present. It would be the final stand, the final chance to make the case to members or representatives of the Senate within the committee. So then there is the idea of having them present something we already have, those student organizations already do. So that component process is still prevalent in OO and basically what this does is it fixes something that as of right now is too inefficient and it is taking too much time from Senate when Senate can be doing other activities.”
   6. SENATOR SAMUEL states
      1. “And other suggestions, since that the numbers of our population strength is quite small, I think what you should, not necessarily now, but I just don't want the House to sell. A precedent that will affect maybe the future policy trajectory. So, my request is that maybe the OO committee should make sure we choose the bylaw in such a way that the OO Committee makes sure there is spread across interest. Meaning every constituency faculty of College of Business, College of Engineering College of Liberal Sciences have representative in that OO committee. With this, I think it can solve that problem.”
   7. SPEAKER CORPUZ states
      1. “On that note, I'm just like to say that I did try to spread you guys out as far as I can and try to diversify each committee to the best of my ability. Also working with everyone's schedules. So, the size of the people that are on your committees are based on trying to keep all the committees balanced and trying to make sure that every committee can act and has the amount of power that they can come and complete stuff within their committee. So if it does come to the point where our Senate becomes a lot larger. We can at least add more people, and then we can try to figure that out. I'm just working off what I have right now, so it is a great idea to start with.”
   8. There is no more discussion or debate.
   9. The bill will be voted on in two weeks.
3. BSR 56007: A resolution to confirm student organizations.
   1. SENATOR SAWYER SO MOVED
   2. SENATOR ROSALES SECONDED
   3. DEPUTY SPEAKER GONZALEZ states
      1. “Chemistry and biochemistry Graduate Student Association essentially acts as service liaison with the students on inside the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. This is to help them organize their professional development, provide social support, and as well as social networking that they have amongst themselves within the department, but as well as within the greater NIU community. Are you golden? Apple is specifically for those who have received the Golden Apple Scholarships or within the Department of Education or prospective applicants of the Golden Apple Scholarships themselves. They are focused on inclusivity accessibility and they're not collecting dues or any of that sort of stuff from their members, in case you were interested in that. The Hispanic Student Nurses Liaison is the volunteer professional nonprofit healthcare student organization that specifically aims to involve or helping to get those who are within healthcare specifically for those in Latin America into the field, into professional development, getting them the opportunities and networking though it is and still open to all NIU students as well. Renaissance dance team is about inclusivity cultivating leadership and allowing students to learn and appreciate through social emotional learning of different types of dances. Punk rock club is just to help facilitate local shows for students and the people of Calvin itself. It doesn't have to be pop rock necessarily. And then the last one, the Iranian and cultural academic and academic association is also focused on creating cultural gaps and links for Iranian students, again open to all. They have had a large number of plans and events. They have scheduled the specifics which I don't have in the top of my head.”
   4. There is no discussion or debate.
   5. SPEAKER CORPUZ move for a vote.
   6. SENATOR SAWYER seconded.
   7. The vote passes with a count of 13 yays, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
   8. The resolution passes.
4. SR 56008: A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A NEW CHIEF OF STAFF
   1. SENATOR ROSALES so moved.
   2. SENATOR SAWYER seconded.
   3. CANDIDATE ASHLEY JOHNSON states
      1. “Good evening, everyone. My name is Ashley Johnson. I'm a fourth year biomedical pre dental student here at Northern Illinois University, majoring in Biological Sciences and minoring in public health. I currently serve as the second Vice President for the National Panhellenic Council, a general member for the National Society of Leadership and Success also the John Henry Clark Honor Society. And I'm also a second-year community advisor in Paterson Hall West. In my years here at the university, I have served as the Secretary for the Association of Black Psychologists, the junior advisor of Lambda Sigma, Sophomore Honor Society, and lastly the past President of Lambda Sigma, Sophomore Honor Society. My potential to contribute to this organization spans a number of areas. Starting with my scholastic ability, maintaining at least a 3.0 Kindle GPA for four years has granted me access to many different resources, and the significance of education, which broadens knowledge. This is shown in my academic graph record. Another viewing of myself as a student leader as a result of being involved on campus, I am motivated and organized, and an organized focused worker, focused on using organizational and time management abilities and diverse settings. My ability to possess transferable abilities that I can use in this organization has been made possible by these leadership roles. I believe that my expertise, enthusiasm, and tenacity may benefit the Student Government Association. I'm looking forward to making this year exciting and optimistic. I want this association to be more than just an organization. We will be one. We will be a family as I will do my best to make sure that everyone's voice is heard. I expect you all to stay dedicated and execute the plan I plan to bring this organization. To bring this organization not only organization, but comfort, as I will hold everyone to a high standard while being there to fall back on every step of the way if elected for this position, I will make it my duty to set deadlines, foster relationships, and lead by example. As this association has a big role on campus and it will be our job to execute many different projects, we all must work together both efficiently and effectively. I thank you all for giving me this opportunity today and I look forward to working with you all in the future.”
   4. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there is any questions for the candidate.
   5. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks, “Do you have a working relationship with President Jones?”
   6. CANDIDATE ASHLEY JOHNSON responds
      1. “Me and President Jones haven't worked together formally. We have reached out to each other from two different organizations. We have never been on the same team, but we have collaborated on things.”
   7. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks
      1. “And then I know you mentioned your major before, but and this is your senior year, but I'm just wondering what is your amount of credit hours for this year? Do you think that you will have the time to meet the minimum or the maximum 10 hours of office hours for this year?”
   8. CANDIDATE ASHLEY JOHNSON responds
      1. “Right now, I'm currently in in road and I believe 14 credit hours. I did receive two extra credit hours for participating in research projects, but those have ended today. I did my last I guess you could say project today. So, I would say that I'm more than open for the 10 hours.”
   9. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   10. There is none.
   11. SPEAKER CORPUZ moves for a vote.
   12. SENATOR ROSALES seconded.
   13. The vote passes with a count of 14 yays, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
   14. The resolution is passed.
5. SR 56009: A resolution to appoint a deputy treasurer.
   1. SENATOR SAWYER so moved.
   2. SENATOR ROSALES seconded.
   3. SENATOR LAZARIC states
      1. “Hello, I'm Nicholas Lazaric. I've been a senator for the past year. I'm a finance student. I'm a junior here at NIU. I'm very involved in finance as well as the College of Business. You might see me around Barsema because I'll often times just be working there, working on homework or being involved in student clubs, specifically the finance clubs. I have a really strong skill set in finance working with Excel, working with other people, working with teams on projects. I'm really excited to work with Ethan Pesavento on funding for student organizations and kind of streamlining that process and seeing what we can do. I'm also excited to work on the budget. I'm really looking forward to just kind of expanding my kind of skill set and being able to kind of put my skills to the test and put them in practice. Thank you very much.”
   4. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there are any questions for the candidate.
   5. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks,
      1. “What is your experience with budgeting and funding requests and/or managing a budget?”
   6. SENATOR LAZARIC responds
      1. “Yeah. So as far as managing a budget, I've worked on projects in the past, just like with my dad working on like maybe building something, let's say, like a raised garden bed managing a budget. With other practices within school, I've managed budgets before as well as with the Finance Committee, which I'm currently in. I've been a part of managing and approving agenda items for the Finance Committee.”
   7. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks,
      1. “What is your working relationship with Treasurer Pesavento currently?”
   8. SENATOR LAZARIC responds “Yeah, so far I've been working with Ethan just within Finance Committee, kind of helping out with minutes, helping out with funding requests and giving my input.”
   9. SENATOR ROSALES asks
      1. “I would say more like not examples but any like feedback you would do within the orgs like I know we have tradition two different tiers. So, I was wondering if any like modifications you would make in that regard.”
   10. SENATOR LAZARIC responds
       1. “So far, I think the funding and tier system is pretty good, especially with kind of like the sub sects within Tier 3. I really like that. If there's anything that I see come up it would be kind of like effective and increased productivity within the Finance Committee. I'll take that into consideration for sure.”
   11. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks
       1. “As a senator, you are not required to do office hours. What is your schedule like for this coming semester as you are now going to be required office hours, a maximum of 10 hours for this coming semester?”
   12. SENATOR LAZARIC responds
       1. “Yeah. So, I'm pretty open Mondays, Wednesdays and especially Fridays. I have no classes on Friday, so it's very open I've been. I'm taking 16 credit hours, but once again Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays I have completely open.”
   13. SPEAKER CORPUZ asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
   14. There is none.
   15. SPEAKER CORPUZ moves for a vote.
   16. SENATOR SAWYER seconded.
   17. The vote passes with a count of 13 yays, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.
   18. The resolution passes.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. SENATOR LAZARIC states
   1. “All right. First off, I just want to say thank you for appointing me as Deputy Treasurer. With that, I will be resigning as senator for the 56th session. Thank you.”
2. There is no more for the good of the order.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. SPEAKER CORPUZ states
   1. “I would like to remind you now that next week our meeting will be moved to the capital room. So, for October 11th, our meeting will just be moved to the Capital room for this coming meeting. I will let you guys know of any more changes to our schedule.”
2. There are no more announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. SPEAKER CORPUZ calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. SENATOR SAWYER so moved.
3. SENATOR ROSALES 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 4:43 PM.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present: Klister, Lazaric, Fields, Lavallias, Robinson, Chgurupati, Monteleone, Samuel, Udoh, Guerrero, Samsonek, Sawyer, Rosales, Ivy.**
2. **Voting Members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused: Crawford, Vaske**
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

SENATOR SAWYER on October 9, 2024

56th Senate on October 4, 2024