Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

[September 27, 2024]

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at [4:06] 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, Lavallias, Robionson, Chgurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Ivy Samuel, Udoh Samsonek, Sawyer, Rosales, Rucker
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:** Field, Crawford, Vaske

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Senator Rosales confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Chris English states “Hello I'm a previous senator here for this body. I was last year and the year before I was deputy speaker and clerk. I'm coming out today because Tempest is tomorrow and I'm going to be part of that and helping Matt go which you guys should tell all your constituents STEM fest is tomorrow. It'll be mostly at the HSC from 3:50 but there's other places around campus. It's a really cool event. Tell people you know about it. The rest of my talk is going to be about like lessons learned as a senator take from it what you will. The first thing is Community connection is very important. Very few people know about SGA and so increasing that awareness will increase what we are able to do and how we're able to help students. So there's been legislation passed that involves like town halls. So that's getting people to go there and hearing their voices. And also there's public comments that they can do. There's also ways to support specific legislation without having to give this one a 5 minute speech and I'm doing right now. If you want to know how to be successful as a, as a senator, one of the biggest piece of advice I will give you is read the bylaws. There's a lot in there that tells you what you can do and how to do it. The next biggest piece of advice for that is work with your committees. Your committees actually can get a lot done outside of the Senate. The Senate is a large body that moves fairly slowly. Those committees can move a lot quicker, and they also have access to some resources that can make events happen that can spotlight certain areas that can spotlight certain problems. So utilize your committees to make things work better and then finally collaborate with other students, collaborate with different organizations here on campus. In doing that, you can increase the reach and increase the connections that you can make, making SGA stronger overall. Some of the biggest regrets I have as a senator is that I didn't speak out when I saw stuff going on that I felt weren't the right way I wanted to send it to go, and that Senate should follow. There were certain times where I saw things that I probably should have looked out for. So, I encourage you if you see something going wrong, you have your speaker, you have your advisor that you can reach out to and talk to. Sometimes that's because there's administrative stuff going on, and sometimes it's because something is going wrong and people should speak out about it. So if you see something, say something, you don't want to talk to Manny, you can talk to the student advisor. But if you see something, you should speak out about it. That's one of my biggest regrets. Another one of them is during meetings. If I voted no, I try to always give a reason why there was a couple of pieces of legislation last year that came up that were on the floor for less than 10 minutes that got voted down that had no one verbally saying why they voted down. This was a thing that had public support. Don't be that Senate who votes down something without saying why. You're fully welcome to vote something down but give a reason so the public and student body that you represent knows why. Because maybe it's an administrative reason. Maybe it's a funding reason they should be able to know why that happens. And the final point is make sure you have competent leadership right now. I did have strong belief in corpus and Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, but get a strong, competent clerk who takes the minutes and does agendas and all of that stuff. That massive boon to the speaker. But it doesn't stop there. You guys can also keep a watch on the executive and judicial branches. You can call them in if you once again see something. Talk 1st through your speaker, because there's stuff that they can do behind the scenes. Same with the advisor, but you guys are chosen for a reason, so make sure you keep an eye on what people are doing and make sure you select people who are confident for the roles that they are filling. Hold each other accountable and build up this this student body better than it was before. Thank you.”

**APROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Corpuz moves to approve last week’s minutes.
2. Senator Rosales so moved.
3. Senator Lazaric seconded.
4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Corpuz moves to add Senator Rucker to the minutes.
7. Senator Rosales seconded.
8. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
9. There is none.
10. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
11. The motion is passed, and Senator Rucker is approved to be added to the minutes.
12. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
13. 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 Lazaric 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. Over the past week I've been working alongside Deputy Speaker Gonzalez on some more bylaws updates that will be coming up in the following weeks. I'll be planning on setting up meetings with you all individually to check on your progress, so please check your emails in the coming week. Almost all of the committees have met this past week with either myself or Deputy Speaker Gonzalez leading the meeting. We were able to establish chairs and those committees will begin meeting on a weekly basis with your respective chairs, leading the meetings from now on. I've also been working alongside President Jones to interview directors that will be working alongside the committees to focus on hosting events for SGA with one potential director that will be coming up later in this meeting. This week I have reached out to several students who are interested in joining SGA and will be reviewing applications for those potential new senators. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining SGA, please send them to either my office G27G in the student center or send them my e-mail so that I can provide the necessary resources for joining Senate.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Deputy Speaker’s Report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “This is very brief. Keep in mind you are required to sponsor at least one legislation. If you author a piece of legislation that also does count as sponsoring. You don't necessarily have to author legislation, so long as you sponsor any other pieces of legislation. You can choose to sponsor it, and that can count. More information about this will be discussed, of course next week. However, this is something to keep in the back of your mind, especially as we will approach to more legislative writing. And as most of the current legislation on our agenda does come from office speaker, it's just something to have in the back of your pocket. Thank you.”
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. As chair of OO, I would like to specifically say that 6 new student organizations have been recommended for approval. They will be come to Senate for next Friday up for approval. I also don't want to make sure and let it be known that all organizations that have any sort of need, need outreach to Senate or any sort of Senate leadership can contact me as I do serve as chair of OO or specifically to speaker corpus as well.
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. Speaker Corpuz states “ I have a repot fom Vice President James Innis, he could not be here today, unfortunately, since he will be still working at his other job. So, so far, 14 organizations have met SGa standards and have been approved by me and passed along to the organizational oversight committee. The goal for this academic year is to have 50 organizations becoming SGA recognized by the end of this year. We fell short at 47 organizations last year and I’m hopeful that the 56th session will reach the goal.I look forward to shifting some of my focus over to updating our Constitution and bylaws once a new director of Organizational Development is appointed. I continue to let other students know about SGA and encourage involvement within the organization. I hope we can be operating at full capacity by the start of the next semester.”
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 Campus Life and Environmental Affairs
   1. There is none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. SB 56001: A bill to update the SGA bylaws to allow organizations to be recognized if restricted by a national organization.
   1. Senator Rosales so moved.
   2. Senator Monteleone seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. Legislation 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 11yays, 0 nays, 2 abstentions.
2. SB 56002: A bill to reorganize and update the Senate line of succession as temporary speaker of the senate.
   1. Senator Sawyer so moved
   2. Senator Lazaric seconded
   3. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   4. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
      1. “ So I was looking at the wording and currently it seems to imply that the permanent replacement for the speaker would be at any member on that line. Is this correct?”
   5. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “That is correct in the case that the speaker myself is not is unable to complete his job. The line of succession is used to select the new speaker of the Senate”
   6. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. ” But the same again, I'm referring to the fact that it's by the way how it's worded as of right now since it's says “In the case that the speaker is removed from the position or chooses to step down indefinitely, the temporary speaker of the Senate will be chosen from the Senate Order of succession will serve until the end of the term, etcetera, etcetera.” Based on that sentence alone, it doesn't say in order of line of succession, to me that implies that if there is a sergeant at arms then the Sergeant at arms could assume the position of Speaker of the Senate, even if we do have a deputy speaker based on the current wording of the document.
   7. Speaker Corpuz asks,
      1. “Thank you. Would you like to make a motion to amend it?
   8. Deputy speaker Gonzalez responds
      1. ” Yes. Yes, I would like to make a friendly amendment to include the wording “in order from the Senate line of succession” after the indefinitely”
   9. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debates on the topic
   10. Senator Ivy states
       1. “ In referral to it, doesn’t it say in the first sentence that the temporary speaker will be chosen from the Senate order of succession? Its already listed in order, so it seems redundant.”
   11. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez responds
       1. “ So, specifically it says, and that’s in regards for the temporary one, so what the friendly amendment does is for when its permanently elected from the Senate line of succession. That’s assuming if the speaker is unable to perform their duties.
   12. Senator Ivy asks
       1. “you’re referring to the second sentence?
   13. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez responds
       1. “Right after, it says indefinitely, so that’s what I was. The specific point I was referring to is when the speakers, it when the temporary speaker is made permanent. That’s when its ambiguity of the wording.”
   14. Senator Ivy states
       1. “So in the case that the speaker has moved from their position or choose to step down. Before we add your amendment, the temporary speaker will be chosen from the Senate order of succession. Where are you referring to? Because I’m still confused. Saying that and it says temporary twice. So which sentence?”
   15. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
       1. “Right after it says indefinitely. That’s still false.”
   16. Senator Ivy states
       1. “ so if the Speaker is removed from their position or choose to step down indefinitely, the temporary speaker that said it will be chosen from the Senate Order of succession. Does that? Is that not redundant. You’re adding ‘ is in order of descending order of succession, saying order, it just hasn’t done it. To me it sounds silly, but it’s just redundant, but yeah.”
   17. Deputy speaker Gonzalez states
       1. “ I understand where you're coming from, but that first specific section so where it says the first part that's highlighted about the temporary speaker, it's regarding specifically to when they're temp only when they're temporary under the old phrasing, before the friendly amendment, it basically said that in the case of when temporary speaker becomes permanent. Then it can be from any of those people in that line, not in order. So I do get what you're saying about it seems redundant, but in terms of the phrasing on how it was originally, it made it seem that those two different ideas were disconnected. This is just to make sure that there is no ambiguity that would eventually suck up future Senate time, or would have to go to the Supreme Court if that situation were. To ever arise.”
   18. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate
   19. There is none.
   20. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   21. The vote passes with 9 yays, 2 nays, and 3 abstentions
3. SB56003: A bill to update and simplify the oversight of organizational funding requirements
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez so moved.
   2. Senator Lazaric seconded.
   3. This legislation just cuts out the list that we have to put in the bylaws and makes it so that any changes later on regarding funding can be made with the purchasing guidelines that are provided.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Senator Ivy asks “ There is no confusion for these organizations going forward, right ? Like this is the list?”
   6. Speaker Corpuz responds “ Yes. So the list that you see is crossed out in this legislation. That list exists with the purchasing guidelines that are provided to each organization on request for funding. The problem is if there's a change of any sort to that list. We would have to change the bylaws for every single time.
   7. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate
   8. There is none.
   9. SB56003 will be voted on next week, October 4,2024.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SR:56005: A resolution to confirm a director
   1. Senator Sawyer so moved
   2. Senator Monteleone seconded
   3. Candidate Xavier Phillips states
      1. “Thank you. Hello everyone. My name is Xavier Phillips. I'm currently a junior here at NYU studying marketing with the minor. In the studies I currently work for the OFSL office, so I do a lot of the marketing. I also lead over our ambassador program that we have for Greek students here on campus. And I like this position for me overall. I just want to help the community. In general, everybody at NIU.
   4. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
      1. “ Is there any plans you have to better the community for NIU?”
   5. Candidate Phillips responds
      1. “Yeah. So actually I have a lot, a lot of plans actually on my plate. So overall, just wise for event wise, I just want more like marketing wise between everything that and are you already provides us. I feel like we need to reach out to students more in general. And I like I said, any provides us with so much, but I want to personally work with every like whether it be an org or you know any like workshop that's going on. I personally want to work with whoever is hosting it so that I can help them even market it even more so that we do have more of students coming in. And then also as well with things like service hours, I feel like a lot of people do. They're not as engaged as they can be. I feel like a service hours is a great way for just students on campus to get involved, get to meet new people, or like the opportunities of knowing that Huskie Hub lets you put your service hours in and all the opportunities that we can give through Huskie hub.”
   6. Senator Robinson asks
      1. “With the director position, how do you plan on managing your schedule? Are you in or outside organizations or like what's the plan with that?
   7. Candidate Phillips responds
      1. “Yeah. So I am a part of my own Greek organization here at NIU. What I am doing to is like split my time is have a set schedule of what time I'm going to do for the director position. And I have a set time of what I'm going to do for my FSL position. Things like well one, I would have my office hours of course, of when I'm going to do this or just set times and dates. I'm very organized so yeah.”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “You've touched on your scheduling for this semester. Do you believe that there's going to be conflict between working with the FSL and working with SGA? And do you believe that you can fulfill the job of being a director and complete the amount of hours that you need to complete this job?
   9. Candidate Phillips responds
      1. “Absolutely. So for my FSL position, it honestly does not take that much hours like in general for me marketing is something that is very simple for me in general. Mainly my focus is on SGA I want to create an environment for everybody here on campus because that's overall the mission and the goal. We want students to show up to events, whether it's our orgs, Greek orgs. Anything we want students to feel like they have somewhere to be get to know people so they're not just stuck in their rooms all day so, yeah”

10. There is no more discussion or debate.

11. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.

12. Vote passes with 11 yays, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions

1. SR56006: A resolution to confirm a senator.
   1. Speaker Corpuz so moved
   2. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez seconded
   3. Candidate Eddie Guerrero states
      1. “ Yeah, yeah. My name, is Eddie Guerrero. I think some of you might remember me from last year during election season. I'm doing candidate meetings. I'm just here again to take a confirmation to be a new Senator for the 56th session. Last year, I had the opportunity to become Center of College of Liberal Arts and Science. However, due to me being part of the secondary education licensure here at NIU for history, I didn’t feel like I could commit to SGA, because they told me my schedule is going to be stressful and overwhelming. Luckily I got Wednesdays and Fridays off, due to my classes being in person, some in person , some online. So I got the availability to be here. Every single day. If confirmed as a new senator , I feel my goal is to make SGA a bit more public to the student body. For example, tabling events at Barsema ,Engineering building, Holmes Student Center, Dusable you name it anywhere students are at just to, you know, let students know what SGA does for them, such as funding. Also, making sure SGA use their social media apps like Instagram and Facebook, to you know, share things that students may not know that’s going on in this year. And yeah, that’s pretty much it. I’ll take any questions.”
   4. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
      1. “ Will you make sure you have time for us in the spring?”
   5. Candidate Guererro responds
      1. “ Yes, I like I said, if I was not sure about that, I would not have been up here today.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “ Would you please go on about anything that you have completed in the past year as senator and why does that qualify you to come back as a senator this year?
   7. Candidate Guererro responds
      1. “ We made that a little bit clear for organizations. We did a lot of tabling events, you know, we helped Vice President James Innis reach 47 organizations confirmed. I got the experience being here. I know how things work, I know who to go to and who to talk to if the question comes up.”
   8. Senator Monteleone asks
      1. “ How long had you said you had been in Senate?”
   9. Candidate Guererro responds
      1. “ Last year, so the 56th session.”
   10. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate
   11. Senator Rosales states “ Yes, I’d like to, you know , my full support for this candidate. So I’ll be voting the affirmative.”
   12. There is no more discussion or debate
   13. Speaker Corpuz moves to vote.
   14. Vote passes with 12 yays, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.
   15. Senator Guererro is sworn in as a Senator for University at Large for the 56th session of the SGA Senate.
2. SR56007: A resolution to confirm student organizations.
   1. Senator Rosales so moved.
   2. Senator Monteleone seconded
   3. Deputy Speaker Gonzales states
      1. “ So all of these organizations came through US and OO. Many of these offers safe places for each of these different organizations. For instance, the English teaching Licensure Club is specifically designed for those students who are interested in becoming a secondary education teacher, or even have the interest of being in one and this is a place for them to get in touch with like minded individuals and help to learn the process. Or even museum club just essentially have a place for them to go and visit different museums within the state of Illinois and hopefully beyond. Once they're eligible for annual funding or even in some of these collegiate chapters or like college program. Again, safe places for these organizations to have places to go to, for its constituents, and they have the committee members support and they should have Senate support as well.
   4. Senator Ivy asks
      1. “ Senator Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, can you say what NMDP stand for?”
   5. Senator Samuel asks
      1. “ I would like you to clarify the 2nd and the 5th organizations and what their objective is and how the objective will amplify and protect the interests of the students.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. While I look that up, I have found NIU SAE chapter purpose that’s listed. It is the purpose of this organization to provide its members opportunities to gain broader insight into the engineering profession by sponsoring meetings, which will then bring practicing engineers to the campus, arranging field trips to research and engineering establishments sponsoring student. Projects of engineering interest and participating in local SAE section activities shall also be the purpose of this organization to encourage good fellowship among engineering students and their teachers.
   7. Deputy Speaker Gonzales states
      1. “In regards to the NMP, sorry, NTDP it stands for national Marrow Donor program. So specifically those within the donor program would be involved with this organization.”
   8. Deputy Speaker responds “Yes, NMDP stood for national marrow donor program, so it's in accordance with the nationally implemented campus initiative.”
   9. Senator Sawyer states
      1. “ I’d like to make a point on the fifth one, You said that its sponsoring for in public citizen being engineering. That’s the point of the organizations?”
   10. Deputy Speaker Gonzales responds
       1. “ Yes “
   11. Speaker Corpuz states
       1. “ And I have the purpose of the order of Omega. It's to recognize those students who have attained a high standard of leadership in inner Greek activities to encourage them to continue along this line and to inspire others to strive for similar conspicuous attainment. And secondly, to bring together the most representative Trinity and sorority members of to create an organization which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate affairs.”
   12. Senator Sawyer asks
       1. “ One more thin and correct me if I’m wrong but don’t we have engineering clubs on campus already?”
   13. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. “We have multiple engineering clubs. This is just another chapter. I’ve talked with the president of this organization. It’s a national organization but for this chapter that they are trying to open up, they are not connected to the national chapter.”
   14. Senator Rosales asks
       1. “ In regards for the number 2, Omegas, that is mostly Greek, that organization correct?”
   15. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. “Yes”
   16. There is no further discussion or debate
   17. Speaker Corpuz moves for a vote.
   18. Vote passes with 12 yays, 0 nays, two abstentions.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Senator Rosales states
   1. “Like that Chris English said, there is STEM fest tomorrow from 10 AM to 3PM”
2. Chairperson Rucker states
   1. “Next week there's an event from posted by BMI and ADPsy in the Duke Ellington ballroom called votes of legacy please attend as it is business passport credit and it's also getting people registered to vote it is at 5:00 PM in the Duke Ellington Ballroom **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
3. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are any announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Senator Lazaric 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 4:52PM

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present**: Klister, Lazaric, Lavallias, Robionson, Chgurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Ivy Samuel, Udoh, Guerrero Samsonek, Sawyer, Rosales, Rucker
2. **Voting members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused:** Field, Crawford, Vaske
4. **Candidate Members Present: Vincent Bratcher**

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Senator Sawyer on 10/2/24

56th Senate on September 27th, 2024