Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

September 13th, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at 4:02 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, Field, Lavallias, Robinson, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Vaske, Ivy, Udoh, Samsonek, Sawyer, Rosales
5. **Voting members Absent:**  Kehely, Rucker
6. **Voting members Excused:** Crawford, Samuel

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Senator Rosales confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. There is none.

**APROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. There are no minutes to approve.

**APROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Speaker Corpuz moves to approve the agenda.
2. Senator Rosales so moved.
3. Senator Robinson seconded.
4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote to approve the agenda.
7. The motion is passed, and the agenda is approved.

**SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. Welcome! I am glad to be working with you all for this coming school year. From the end of last semester, I have been focusing on preparing just for this upcoming session. I have been focused on writing the Senate Operating Manual, a new senator orientation slideshow, and a new format of how we hold committees and writing legislation for these first few agendas. This past week was mainly focused on getting ready for this meeting, as I was extremely focused on participating in the various student involvement events that were held last week. I will be interviewing next week for the other office of the speaker positions, mainly clerk and Sergeant-At-Arms.

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER 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.
6. Student Trustee report
   1. Student Trustee Aidan O’Brien states
      1. Good afternoon. It’s great to be here and great to see some new faces in this organization. My name is Aidan O’Brien, and I am serving as this year’s student trustee. Pretty much what that role entails, I remember sitting in your shoes as a senator, not knowing what the trustee does, but what does the trustee does is, the Board of Trustees is the highest governing body of the university. There are seven appointed trustees appointed by the governor of the state and one student trustee gets a say in all decisions in those meetings. I am proud to be elected and serving the student body as your guys’ student trustee. You can expect to see me here about once a month. I will be giving monthly reports after each board of trustees meeting to relay any information from those board meetings so that you can pass it on to your constituents. There was a financial update first of all. There is a pretty large budget deficit however we are on target with about a 1% variance and so we're expecting a balanced budget by full year 2027. Just yesterday we got the 10 day mark of university enrollment so I don't know if you have all seen yet but all of it stayed pretty steady compared to last year. We saw a decrease in freshmen. I don't have the exact numbers we saw a decrease due to the complications of FASFA this year as this was a big problem all across the nation. All universities struggled with it. They switched to a different form and we are just adapting and being creative with ways to support our students and filling out FASFA so that next year we don't have to see the decrease in practical numbers. We have seen a surge in our transfer students with our decrease in freshman students and overall enrollment has stayed steady since last year so that's once again very good news for university looking forward. Kind of last thoughts, take advantage of this opportunity I remember kind of being in your shoes sitting in Senate and it is what you make of it. You could be a senator that shows up to every meeting, kind of votes on whatever bills get passed up, and kind of skate by or you could realize the position you're in realize that the students of NIU have put you in this position to advocate for them and truly do some great work on campus. It's a challenging time in our country coming up, a very contested time on this campus college is a place for students to express their voices. Please stay still with each other and really try to make a difference on campus. Thank you.

**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. SR56001: A resolution to approve all meeting times, locations, and dates for the upcoming semester
   1. Senator Rosales so moved.
   2. Senator Robinson seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   4. There is none.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. This vote passes with 14 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.
2. SR56002: A resolution to approve the 56th Senate Operating Manual
   1. Senator Rosales so moved.
   2. Senator Robinson seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states this is a rewritten Senate Operating Manual for this upcoming session.
   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 12 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstentions.
3. SB56001: 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 Robinson seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. This is written on the recommendation by the SGA advisor for an organization that is looking to be recognized and cannot be recognized due to the fact they cannot write their own constitution and cannot add NIU’s non-discrimination clause to a national constitution.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. There is none.
   6. It is tabled for next week’s meeting.
4. SB56002: A resolution to reorganize and update the Senate Line of Succession as Temporary Speaker of the Senate
   1. Senator Rosales so moved.
   2. Senator Robinson seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. Since we added new committees to this organization, I saw to update the Bylaws to update any old committees and to update the Bylaws to further reflect the current committees.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. There is none.
   6. It is tabled for next week’s meeting.
5. SR56003: A resolution to approve a Deputy Speaker
   1. Senator Rosales so moved.
   2. Senator Robinson seconded.
   3. Senator Gonzalez is invited up and states
      1. I am in front of the Senate seeking for confirmation to be deputy speaker of NIU's SGA Senate. I stand before you fully confident in my ability to faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities they have required for this position. For you see, I am a transfer student I have transferred into NIU or just some ages ago and I am part of that same population that the student trustee before us had recognized and still an integral part of the population that makes up our student body. What I feel more confident about is a record that I come before you the recognition and care and due diligence I have towards helping all students with all walks of life. For in my previous institution at William Rainey Harper college, I served as vice president of their student government organization. When the president was unable to fulfill his duties in the opening stages of his term because of his ailing brother who's stuck in the ICU, I help to take charge until he was ready to come back. When the student trustee of Harper was unable to fulfill their duties as representative to the Illinois Community College board as SAC representative, it was me who helped them out and went to those meetings representing our colleagues to the state of Illinois. When it came to disputes arising from the executive board it was up to me to coordinate scholarship drive to push the information that there was money that available for students at Harper to the rest. It was me along with conjunction with other members to help get that message spread out I have time and time again helps students and to me it does not matter from what institution because at the end of the day you are students and there is a desperate need to help you in any way or another. Even though I'm in a different place, I know because of the actions I've done in the past and the actions I do now that I will be able to faithfully execute the position of deputy speaker for NIU Senate and will continue to help all students especially the ones here at NIU whether it be the freshmans or the transfers to the graduates or anywhere else I will be there. Thank you.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks for any questions for the candidate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. What is your schedule like as of this coming semester and do you think that it will affect your job or affect your way of fulfilling your role as deputy speaker
   6. Senator Gonzalez states
      1. I have made sure and made all efforts to make sure that my work life balance was scheduled I've made sure that all any work hours are specifically held in the beginning of the week towards the evenings which will not interfere with any sort of potential obligations for the student body in of itself.
   7. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. What goals do you have as being deputy speaker for this coming session?
   8. Senator Gonzalez states
      1. Goals I have for this upcoming session is more collaboration but I mean collaboration I'm not just talking about collaboration between different departments and different organizations around campus but I'm specifically talking about is cooperation that we have with universities and organizations outside of the scope of DeKalb and Sycamore towards other places of higher education institutions to share information on what other places are doing not only to enrich ourselves to the diverse cultures that other governments student governments or even institutions here in this state but maybe even elsewhere might have because this by exchanging information we can learn much more and by learning much more we can have an implement strategies that will help our students at
   9. Senator Rosales states
      1. Thank you very much for coming out the question would be how did you hear about us here how did you get involved here and how was your experience over there at Harper College?
   10. Senator Gonzalez states
       1. Yes so I learned about student government in my capacity as vice president of Harper College student government because those same goals I had as vice president I share with you today I had while I was vice president. So I was actually researching NIU even before I even decided to come to Northern Illinois University as a student. The first collaboration and student service has always been ingrained within me so that's how I learned about it and when I decided to go into SGA
       2. So my experiences there were of course in the fall semester what administration doesn't have the differences whether it be in regards to other people or even in terms of policy commitments and direction however anytime there was disputes, I was there to act as mediator and we were able to always able to find a compromise and because of those compromises that we had helped set up in the beginning stages I allow us to do so much more great things and that's why I consider my views on student government at Harvard very positive because it was able to reach to the point where we were able to organize a charity formal events which was essentially a dance but we were able to raise over $3000 for money for local mental health institution so we're not only do we give students a good time but it was also for a good cause and that's what we did at Harper wasn't really necessarily as different as we do here at NIU.
       3. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are anymore questions for the candidate.
       4. Speaker Corpuz asks Senator Gonzalez to step down and opens the floor for discussion or debate.
       5. There is none.
       6. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
       7. The resolution passes with a vote count of 12 yays, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
       8. Senator Gonzalez is now Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Senator Rosales states
   1. Last week NIU beat Notre Dame, so congratulations to the football team. Go Huskies.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are any announcements.
2. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. Committees will start next week. It will be up to each committee to decide where you want to meet and I will be sending the times as well as deciding who will be elected as Chairperson for each committee. CODE training will be coming out soon in late October. I will let you guys know the details when I finalize them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
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 calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present:** Klister, Lazaric, Field, Lavallias, Robinson, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Vaske, Ivy, Samuel, Udoh, Samsonek, Sawyer, Rosales
2. **Voting members Absent:**  Kehely, Rucker
3. **Voting members Excused:** Crawford,
4. **Candidate Members Present:** Eddie Guerrero

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Interim Clerk Corpuz on 9/18/24

56th Senate Meeting on 9/13/24