Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

November 22nd, 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, Field, Robinson, Crawford, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Sameul, Geurerro, Samsonek, Rosales**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:** Lavallias Udoh, Ivy,

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Clerk Sawyer confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. There is none.

**APROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Corpuz moves to approve last week’s minutes.
2. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
3. Senator 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. Clerk 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. 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. This past week I've been working on writing the legislation for this agenda. As you will see later, the stipend rubric that I originally wrote for this year was too strict. I'll go over the changes later, but for the most part the stipend is a reward for the work that Senate does. If you would like to discuss your amount, please e-mail me or stop by my office. During this week, I've also been focused on preparing for next semester. I've discussed with a couple of you about potential legislation that you have written or started writing, regardless of the state that it is in. Please send me a copy of your legislation by next Monday. It's next Monday the 25th. Since this is the last meeting, I want to give everyone an idea of what to expect for next semester. I will look forward to having more accountability for each senator. I'm looking into holding interviews with you individually and on a routine basis. I will e-mail you about the details in the future as soon as I have an idea of how to schedule. Another initiative I'm looking forward to running with Senators is that committees will all have a required number of events held throughout the next semester. SGA elections will also be held next semester. The dates for everything will be decided when the board of election meets. Next semester will be hectic, but my requirements for you will not change regardless of if you are returning to Senate, part of the Board of Elections or have any more commitments outside of SGA in the spring. I understand that your main priority at NIU should be your academics, but this is a reminder that you voluntarily signed up to be a representative of the student body. As such, you have responsibility here to actively participate, to serve the student body. Your requirements are not merely a guideline, but the foundation for your contributions to SGA. In other news, welcome back Senator Robinson to the Senate. Senator Robinson appealed his attendance to the Rules and Procedure Committee and was reinstated as a senator.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Deputy Speaker’s Report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “These past 2 weeks, since I was not able to be here last week, there have been some initiatives that I have been working on. These include finalizing conversations with Treasurer Pesavento on reviewing funding for student organizations. The final pieces of our months long conversation will culminate in some legislation at the start of the Spring semester. Some initiatives that I began, ranging from public health and community service are beginning to take shape. My hope is that I can reveal the full extent of them to the Seante and by extension, the student body. Senator Guerrero and I, representing Campus Parking Committee will be exploring ways to make parking more affordable for students while allowing parking to receive the necessary funds to maintain and improve the current spaces. Senator Guerrero will provide more information based on the overall discussion had in the committee. I have also been preparing for the future in mind. Several legislative pieces are being discussed and drafted with Speaker Corpuz and various figures around the University to better understand some issues at hand and how to resolve them. Some of these pieces also include some changes to procedures of how Senate functions to improve efficiency and cooperation. There will be an increased emphasis on meeting with chairs next semester and expecting a weekly report from Chairs on their committee activities. Those two pieces are stated in the Bylaws and at the urgence of Speaker Corpuz I have been more relaxed on this requirement. I want us to do more, so we can do more for the students.
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. “Although we had no meeting yesterday, we did host the first ever Discover Your Pack Fair. The fair was designed for new student organizations that SGA approved this semester. To me, it was a success because we were able to expand the profile for these new organizations. I want to thank the Commitee members for helping to plan and later managing the event. Those are Senator Udoh, Senator Guerrero, Senator Lavallias, Senator Klister, and Senator Samsonek. Organizational Oversight continues to explore ways to support student organizations, new or established. As such, there will be an increased number of events and potential initiatives that I will present to the committee once we reconvene in the Spring. In addition, there shall be another Discover Your Pack event for the late Spring semester.  “
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
   1. Chairperson Rosales states
      1. So, DEI has been meeting, and we are planning to have a tabling event this coming Monday, November 25th at 12:00 to 1:30 PM in the Oasis.
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. James Innis states
      1. All right, perfect. Good afternoon. Just to give you guys a quick update, organizations that have been approved so far by myself and the new Director of Regional Development, Rivera have been 25. My goal for the academic year was actually 50. So SGA is right on track to hit that mark. Thank you to the organizational oversight committee and Deputy Speaker Gonzalez for all their hard work this semester, streamlining that process. So far, all bylaw changes have been made up until this point. I am waiting on a few more to be printed off and signed by the President, and I'm hoping to complete those before we go into Thanksgiving break. Also, my staff reports are complete and up to date except for this week, obviously. And then as far as future goals go, continue working with director of original Development Rivera to keep this organizational approval process smooth. And I also want to begin working on transition materials for the next Vice President as we're gearing up for elections. As far as announcements go, please continue to encourage students to create new organizations as students have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to send to my office. Also, continue to promote SGA in person at events and also on social media and keep an eye out for any MSA events going on after Thanksgiving break and heading into finals week.
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. There is none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SR56015: A resolution to confirm the new senator stipend rubric for the Spring 2025 semester.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Senator Rosales seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. As I've stated before, the original stipend that I have sent out to you is possible or is in the operating manual. It had seemed a little too harsh. I made it clearly on the assumption of what I can do personally in SGA. This also needs to be said that I get paid to be here, so I am constantly helping us or trying to help SGA, you guys, this is your only form of payment for SGA. So, the changes are highlighted in yellow.
   4. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. Is there a way we can amend this to include an appendix section to specifically outline like what is public relations and outreach?
   5. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. More clear that can also be added to the operating manual in another piece of legislation, but for now this is what this legislation is just for saying that these are the changes to the rubric that I have proposed.
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   7. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   8. This vote passes with \_\_13\_ yays, \_\_0\_ nays, \_1\_\_ abstentions.
2. SR56016: A resolution to add the Senate Stipend Rubric to the 56th Operating Manual
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Senator Rosales seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. So, this piece was dependent on the fact that the last piece passed, but basically this is just adding the change formally to the operating manual.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. This vote passes with \_13\_\_ yays, \_0\_\_ nays, \_1\_\_ abstentions.
3. SR56017: A resolution to appoint the Election Commissioner for the Spring 2024 Elections.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Senator Rosales seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. President Jacoby Jones has made an appointment for this position. If he did not make a position, our appointment at this time, we would be selecting from the Board of Elections.
   4. Zach Althoff states
      1. Good evening, everyone. My name is Zach Althoff and I am a senior marketing major expected to graduate in December of 2025. I'm honored to stand before you all today as a candidate for the election Commissioner position, I want to give a huge shout out to President Jones for entrusting me with the responsibilities of this position. Not too long ago, I proudly served as a member of the Senate. During my time, I used my voice to ensure that the interests of the student body were being heard by serving on Senate, I became familiar with the student government Constitution and bylaws, as well as voted on and form legislation pieces beyond SGA. I currently serve as the IFC president with my term wrapping up here in the coming weeks. As President, I work to promote fair representation and foster collaboration among different organizations. I ensured equity across the Greek community, balancing the needs of Members and the standards of governance. Recently, I led the IFC Executive Board election process. Full transparency and fairness were very important to me during this election, and I ensured that the integrity of the IFC elections was up. If selected as election Commissioner, I plan to execute this year's student government elections in a similar manner. Overall, I'm excited for the opportunity to oversee and enhance the electoral processes of the elections and I assure you I will work tirelessly to ensure that our elections reflect the integrity and excellence of our student body. Thank you for. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.
   5. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   6. Senator Robinson asks
      1. As election Commissioner, how do you know that you will have enough time to fulfill the duties of the position?
   7. Zach Althoff responds
      1. Well, I'm taking 15 credit hours. My time will be dedicated outside of that, to the election Commissioner position. I plan to speak with President Jones as much as I can to ensure that I'm doing the best job possible for the position.
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. What is your working relationship with President Jones? Have you worked with him before, and do you have enough time? Do you believe you have enough time to complete the 10 required hours as a paid position in SGA?
   9. Zach Althoff responds
      1. So, I'll answer that second question first. So again, taking 15 credit hours. So I will have plenty of time to dedicate. I will spend the rest of my time in the office. This ensures that the election process goes smoothly. President Jones? Yes, I've had multiple discussions with him as a member of the Greek community as well as outside of that. When. Yeah, I mean, that's pretty much it. Yeah, I've got a great connection with them.
   10. Senator Samsonek asks
       1. Do you have any specific plans to improve the election process?
   11. Zach Althoff responds
       1. Yes. So, I would love to work with local businesses as well as small businesses to give out discounts for students that vote so kind of work together. So, any student that votes, you know, maybe it's Chipotle, right? Maybe they can go in there and get a half price bowl, something along those lines, work with the local community just to promote and get students out there and voting.
   12. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez asks
       1. What work will you do to promote cohesion amongst the current selected board of election members to help improve efficiency for the upcoming elections?
   13. Zach Althoff responds
       1. I think the biggest thing is just communication. So, getting to know them personally and ensuring that they show up to meetings on time. And yeah, just walking. They're working through the process, making sure that members that already serve on, like the Executive Board or the legislative side, I ask any questions that I need help with. And yeah, just getting advice from, you know, people that have already seen the election process, right? One of those would be like Sladjana. She's been here for years. I think she can help out and ensure that the process goes smoothly.
   14. Senator Robinson asks
       1. Are you in any other organizations that might affect the election Commissioner, like with bias? Like, are there any organizations that you might be a part of that would contribute to a bias within the election Commissioner position?
   15. Zach Althoff responds
       1. I wouldn't say there's any positions or any organizations I'm in that would lead me to being biased in any way, shape or form.
   16. Chairperson Monteleone asks
       1. What experiences do you have that directly qualify you for this position?
   17. Zach Althoff responds
       1. So, I kind of mentioned in my speech, IFC president was the big one. SGA Senator, I think with IFC specifically being able to manage the election process, ensure that all 10 fraternities voices were heard. I think that was a big one. Serving on Senate again is just being able to see, during the time the Constitution and bylaws writing up legislation just be becoming familiar with SGA, I think that helps me out a lot now when I'm going for this position.
   18. Senator Robinson asks
       1. How many years has it been since you've served on the Senate?
   19. Zach Althoff responds
       1. So, I was a sophomore and I'm now a senior, so approximately 2 years since I served in Senate.
   20. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   21. This vote passes with \_9\_\_ yays, \_3\_\_ nays, \_3\_\_ abstentions.
4. SR56018: A resolution to appoint another alternative member of the Board of Elections
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. This up for us. Yes, the resolution simply ends fellow Senator Udoh to as an alternative member to the Board of Elections. This is just based on this question that previously had with the office of the Speaker of being interested and so although Senator Udo wasn't present at last Friday's meeting, this is just a way for them to be appointed for to the board during this meeting.
   2. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   3. Speaker Corpuz moves to table this resolution
   4. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   5. Senator Guererro seconded.
   6. The resolution is tabled for the next Senate meeting.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
   1. I would just like to inform the body that State of SGA is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th at noon, and the Carl Sandberg Auditorium. It is highly recommended for every senator to be there and to help support the fellow branches of student government and what report we have to say to the student body in and of itself. This announcement is for the NIU community as well as the Senate. That announcement is as a reminder as we approach the holiday season, the Husky Line service will decrease in frequency in terms of services both weekday and weekend. As the number of students and other drivers will decrease because of the holiday break. Therefore, it's important for everyone to be mindful of anyone who is still calling DeKalb and Sycamore home over this holiday break to be mindful of the reduced service for Husky Line. That being said, please consult the city of DeKalb website as well as Husky line service for updated information on. The service line and frequency of buses.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Corpuz asks if there are any announcements.
2. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. Just as deputy Speaker Gonzalez said, State of SGA will be happening on December 4th. Please attend. I'm speaking at that too, so it's good to know what's going on in SGA as a senator.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
3. Senator Guererro 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 4:27 pm.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present: Klister, Field, Lavallias, Robinson, Crawford, Chigurupati, Gonzalez, Monteleone, Ivy, Smauel, Udoh, Guererro, Samsonek, Rosales.**
2. **Voting Members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused:** Lavallias Udoh, Ivy,
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on November 27, 2024

56th Senate on November 22, 2024