Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

February 21st, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Corpuz at 4:05 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, Fields, Crawford, Chigurupati, Monteleone, Ivy, Samuel, Guerrero, Meister, Ramirez, Robinson, Sawyer,**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused: Lavallais, Gonzalez, Woodson Udoh**

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Clerk Sawyer confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Daniel Vantilburg states
   1. Hello, if you haven't seen me running around in a tantrum then I'm sorry you missed out on all the monkey show I've been trying to come speak in front of student government for the past three weeks. Through errors of my own and some miscommunications this talk has been long delayed. Thank you for having me even though I’ve been a hassle. Anyway, here's my elevator pitch that Manny has been so desperate for. Higher education is at a great juncture under this current federal administration. I personally hold a great fear that the federal level will make it even harder to keep NIU funded. The federal government spent roughly 150 billion in 2020 on all universities in the U.S. If they walk away from their commitments of all higher education, we’ll be in trouble. Since 2020, NIU has had trouble stabilizing the budget. We're currently at a deficit, as you’re probably well aware. NIU is doing its best to cut costs. We’ve slowed down hiring to replace support staff and started a 0-cost based budget plan to look for places to save. There isn’t much as students that we can do to help this endeavor, at least on the cost side of things. Fortunately, we live in a state that values its education. Pritzker and State Congress have been working hard to clear up the gaps in funding while keeping a balanced budget. They've been working with the universities and community colleges, developing new plans to defend our education in all aspects. This part of the conversation is something we can be a part of. Bills in the Senate and the House right now aim to give two-year institutions the ability to grant baccalaureate degrees. That in itself could change the landscape of where students go to school and could make it even more difficult for institutions like ours to determine how to distribute funds, what to specialize in. We should be paying attention and be ready to give our input. The most important bill to me at the moment is the Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act. This effectively distributes state funds based on need of the institution. There is language in the bill to create an even playing field for all academics seeking a place to grow their learning. We should be ready and able for it if the time comes necessary. I had a huge chip on my shoulder when I walked out on advocacy day yesterday, thinking that we should be allowed to talk about bills like these next week. But after communicating with NIU’s Director of State Relations, I understand why we should stay on message with this event, but that doesn’t mean that the student body should go down there uninformed about what’s at stake. Is there any way the Student Government can help me and NIU protect itself in the coming storm? Do you have it in you for a big challenge? Can we create a coalition of students across the state ready to protect higher education as a whole? I need help. I’m sorry to ask and I’m sorry if I’ve come off as rude. I just see the world changing so fast around me that it feels urgent. If the student government needs help finding a purpose this semester, I believe this is it. Thank you.

**APROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Corpuz moves to approve last week’s minutes.
2. Clerk Sawyer 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. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
3. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Senator Samuel states
   1. “What about Item D. You said in relation to confirm a resolution to finalize the stipend amount for next semester’s session. I think that content is actually misleading because that is board of election, not next semester's stipends.”
6. Senator Samuel motions to make the amendment.
7. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
8. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
9. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
10. Vote passes with and business is moved.
11. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote to approve the agenda.
12. The motion is passed, and the agenda is approved.

**SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. “Hello, over this past week I have been working on meeting with two new potential candidates who are being put up today for Senate. Earlier this week, I have been working alongside Treasurer Pesavento and Deputy Speaker Lazaric on Annual Funding. In addition, I have been working with Director Rivera and the Organizational Oversight Committee to organize what student organizations can receive annual for next year as well as simplifying the process of checking student organizations constitutions and funding requests in general. President Jones, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, and Director Rucker also are attending the NIU Advocacy Day next Wednesday in which we will be traveling to Springfield to help advocate for NIU and share our experience in government with legislators in the state capital. Next Monday, Deputy Speaker and I will be hosting our Second Intercollegiate Panel with various Student Government Representatives from other Illinois Universities. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez will provide an update of any news, information, and recommendations that were discussed at the next Senate Meeting.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Deputy Speaker’s Report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “Greetings! I apologize for not being present as I am currently representing Northern Illinois University at the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association, or I.I.F.A, State Tournament for this Friday and next Friday. But I have a lot to say, even if I am not physically present at Senate. It was just a matter of unfortunate timing. A If it helps, I can send a copy of my reports via email to all senators after the meeting. Beginning next Monday an email will be sent to all Chairpersons, Directors, and Senators. It will contain information on how I would like to collect the required reports on committee activities that the Deputy Speaker receives from Chairpersons. Senators this same form can be used to submit reports detailing actions in any committee that's not one of the Standing Senate Committees. The form will be on Huskie Hub and more details will be provided in that email. President Jones, Speaker Corpuz, Director of Public Affairs Rucker, and I will be going to Springfield on Wednesday to help advocate for the voices of NIU and share our experiences with legislators in the capital. One last thing to note. Speaker Corpuz and I will be attending the Second Intercollegiate Panel with various student government representatives of other Illinois universities this upcoming Monday. I will provide an update of any news, information, or recommendations discussed at the next Senate meeting.”
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. Chairperson Monteleone states
        1. “The Public Affairs committee will be hosting a tabling event this Tuesday from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, so the Public Affairs Committee will be there with some talking points for student government recruitment. So please try to stop by. Thank you.”
4. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight’s report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “No meeting was held yesterday due to training for NIU Advocacy Day. However, I wanted to provide two points to the Senate. Frist, again, we will be focusing soon on getting the message out to Student Organizations on the deadline to ask for supplemental funding for this fiscal year which is March 31st. Last, I would like to apologize to the Senate and to the SGA body for not providing an update on what organizations have been approved. I will recognize the most recent organizations approved and will backtrack to organizations approved in November, in addition to any new organizations, next Senate meeting. The most recent organizations approved are Writer's Den, National Association of Black Accountants NIU Develop Burman Interest Student Association Girls Who Code, Running Club, Son Jarocho, NIU Project Managment Institute Student Chapter. For information on specific organizations, I can provide them in an email to those who email me, or if there is significant interest on specific organizations, give more information for the next Senate's report. Moving forward I will provide these reports with this information as OO approves them and encourage Senators to ensure that I give these reports if I fail to do so. I will introduce legislation next week that makes it mandatory for the Chair of OO, to tell Senators in their report which organizations were granted full recognition. “
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
   1. There is none.
6. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report
   1. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “This week, the Board of Elections have been holding their candidate meetings this past week. The first two meetings were on Tuesday and Thursday respectively, and there is another meeting scheduled for tonight at 5:30 pm in the OASIS Conference Room. For all senators who are not graduating this semester and wish to still be a part of SGA, you need to attend a candidate meeting so that you can run in the Elections. There are two more meetings next, otherwise please email Election Commissioner Althoff if you need another meeting time.”

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

1. President’s report
   1. President Jones states
      1. “Good afternoon, Senate. Thank you all for having me today and allow me the opportunity to provide an update on the progress we have made. Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of advocating for all students and their diverse experiences as representatives of the Student Government organization. It is our duty to ensure that student voices are heard and that we are actively working to enhance their university experience. Speaking of advocacy, for representatives will be attending, annual Advocacy Day is in Springfield, February 26th. Our primary focus will be advocating for equitable funding for our university insurance, ensuring that students receive the resources they need to succeed. Advocacy Day provides a valuable opportunity to engage with the legislators and discuss the potential future of our institution. It is our responsibility to stay informed and proactive regarding potential state level changes that can impact university funding. To advocate effectively for students, we must first understand the challenges they face in the coming weeks. We'll be launching a survey to collect data on the issues affecting students on campus. This survey will be promoted through our SGA, social media platforms and will be hosting a table event to increase participation. Additionally, QR codes will be linked to the survey and will be posted across campus to maximize responses. The data we collect will play a key role in shaping our upcoming event, similar to a town hall, this event will provide students with a platform to voice their concerns, and we will use this survey results to help structure the discussion around the most pressing issues facing our community. In March, we plan to host our undergrad, our undergraduate Gateway event in collaboration with the graduate Program Law program and Career Services. While still in the planning stages, this event will focus on equipping students with the tools necessary for after college, it will be structured as a social event to foster a sense of community while providing resources and networking opportunities for students exploring career paths and further education options. As we approach the upcoming Student government Association elections, we encourage all students to participate in elect in the electoral process. As SGA. We play a crucial role in representing the student body and shaping campus policies, and strong leadership is essential to ensure continued progress. Candidate meetings have started taking place and we urge interested students to consider running for office. Our engagement in this process is essential to ensuring that SDA remains a strong and effective advocate for students. Needs in closing the Student Government Association remains committed to enhancing student experiences and advocating for necessary changes. Due to our participation in advocacy day our data collection efforts and our upcoming events. We are working to ensure that student voices are amplified and that their concerns are addressed. I would like to share my deep appreciation for the Senate as well. Thank you.”
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’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**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SB56020: A bill to introduce executive orders to the Student Government Association.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “This is from Deputy Speaker Gonzalez. Let me preface this by saying that the timing for this legislation, recognizing recent events in D.C is unfortunate. This was an idea I initially had in the Fall semester but didn't advance far due to my financial discussion with Treasurer Pesavento. I did talk with President Jones and ask for his input on this matter. The President lacks any binding way to provide them with a direction and focus based on objectives that the President deems to be in the best interest of the student body. The President also is unable to discipline members of his staff except for outright removal. Unlike the Legislative Branch where we have the Rules and Procedures Committee, the Executive Branch lacks anything similar. Therefore, this was created as a tool for the President. **Any** orders signed by the President **Only Affect The Executive Branch.** They do not affect the Senate nor the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court and members of the President's cabinet, along with the Parliamentarian as they work across all branches can petition to overturn such rulings if they view it as unconstitutional or an overreach of authority. All orders are only in effect for the Presidential administration they were ordered in. Example, if the President is removed, so are the orders they made. This legislation would go into effect at the start of the 57th Session, NOT this session. *I, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, am more than happy to discuss this one-on-one with interested members and to table this bill until I am able to. “*
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Senator Samuel asks
      1. “I have some concern about this bill. This is a means to actually give the President more power. So, in doing this, we need to actually find a way to actually checkmate this power so that the President would not have an excess power in case he ever uses this power. How can we actually check him as the legislator or within this, even though it doesn't affect us, can we also check him when he or she tries to abuse the power that comes with this bill?”
   6. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “We do have the power to check any member of SGA. That is the power of the legislative branch, and it is also the judicial branch's power to overturn any ruling that they see as unconstitutional or as a violation of any terms of power. So, we do have some checks into this, and I've talked to Deputy Speaker Gonzalez about when he wrote this, that to make sure that we're not just giving the President power, but we also have the power to overturn anything that could be a problem later down the line. I don't see this being a problem with President Jones. If this were to be instituted in this session. Since I see President Jones as a quite respectable man, and he will not over exaggerate his powers for the Senate. So that's what I was going off of. But in the case that someone else was going to into the Presidency and they were not the same, they did not have the same ethics or respectability that President Jones has there would be automatic check of power at that point. So, if you would like to discuss this with Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, he can fill you in on more details of how he wrote this bill.”
   7. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   8. The bill has been tabled and will be voted on next week.
2. SB56021: A resolution to establish an Ad Hoc committee focused on transportation
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “This is also in the words of Deputy Speaker Gonzalez. Transportation, whether through buses or even personal scooters and such is a talking point on campus. Something that I have done in the background is investigate the transportation space and what can be done. What I found was that there is stuff being done to help NIU Students and both NIU and city officials hear you. But sometimes the news doesn't reach the student body and information, like how and when to report an issue on the Huskie Line for instance, is a bit murky. Therefore, based on the information I have found, I urge for the Senate to establish an ad hoc committee that will last until the end of the 57th Session and can be renewed. Other committees we have are focused on other tasks, but this committee's sole focus is transportation and will explore ways to improve but also ways to educate the NIU public of upcoming projects, updates, or how to report an issue. There are preliminary ideas with members on the Executive and Legislative side of SGA having an interest in doing more work on this. Senators, you are also invited to participate in these discussions as well. If you have questions, you are welcome to table the resolution until I return so we can have a proper discussion. Otherwise, you can vote on the matter if the sentiments align with your thoughts and heard from the NIU Community.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Senator Samuel states
      1. “This is a very important bill that I really like, but I'm wondering how can the committee be very, very effective considering the fact that the Transportation Affairs is no more like school affair? So how can we be so in case we have concern? Do we communicate in order to address those concern regarding transportation on campus and off campus.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “Yes, for the record and for everyone else's knowledge. SGA used to have a lot of say in the bus lines at NIU. It was moved over to the Department of Transportation in DeKalb since it helps to benefit all DeKalb residents as well now. That being said, SGA still has some voice and power to speak at these meetings that have at the Department of Transportation, so that what this committee is focused on is to better point the direction of what the NIU student population want to see with the buses? We can have a member be able to sit in on the meetings and voice their opinions. We want to be sure that this is what we want, all the voices to be heard about this transfer, about transportation. So, we want everyone to be able to voice to their representatives and this committee will help focus that into one singular person. In order to reach the Caliphate of transportation, if that makes any sense.”
   7. Chairperson Monteleone asks
      1. “Is this regulated to just the busing systems, or does it extend to like parking lots in a school zone?”
   8. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “So, this is for the buses only, because that's the city of DeKalb. The parking lot is another area of the university in which we do have members of SGA as representatives serving on those committees and being able to voice any concerns regarding parking lots in the university. But this resolution is just focused on the Department of Transportation and in the City of DeKalb. I would just like to add, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez did offer up the opportunity for this to be tabled if that's an interest for you guys, so you can hear more from him, but from what he's explained to me and the conversations we've had about this committee, I am also pushing for a vote. So, if there is anyone that is wanting to table this just so that we can hear more, speak now.”
   9. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   10. The vote passes with a count of \_\_12\_\_yays,\_\_0\_\_nays,\_1\_\_abstentions.
3. SB56022: A bill to update the responsibilities and duties of the Speaker.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “This legislation was created in order to clarify the responsibilities of my position. The changes that were made reflect the responsibilities I took up this semester and should be made so that the next session’s Speaker will understand responsibilities that were passed down to me verbally when I first got appointed. These changes also clarify my voting ability, which is limited to the Speaker only being able to vote in the event of a tie. So, one of the responsibilities I had to take up for this session was rewriting the whole Senate operating manual. I did that over the summer and that was not clearly stated in any other documents. So, moving forward, I would like that to just be a constant responsibility that is given to me, given to the Speaker. The other changes are being able to remove any sender from a committee with adequate reasoning just so that the committee can fulfill their responsibilities effectively and also being able to sit on any committee.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. There is none.
   6. This bill will be voted on next week.
4. SR56033: A resolution to finalize the Board of Elections stipends.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “The Board of Elections receives a stipend after the election season. Commissioner Althoff has given me the amount proposed of $1650, and this is up for discussion amongst the Senate because we have to approve it.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
      1. “What did he take into consideration to get the $1650 stipend?”
   6. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “Commissioner Althoff has stated that with the process of everything that happened with last session's elections and the trouble that they went through as a previous member of the Board of Elections, you understand completely that it is quite a hassle for elections and any other meetings that happen with the Board of Elections. So therefore, he decided to raise the amount to 1650 just to further incentivize the work that was being put out by the Board of Elections.”
   7. Parliamentarian Guerrero asks
      1. “You now being a member of Board of Elections, will you ensure the Board of Elections will do the same amount of work as the 55th Session Board of Elections?”
   8. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “I believe the amount of work cannot be quantified. But the quality of the work will be the same if not better than the work that was done by the previous session. Obviously, I know you want to say that you did a lot of work, and I would like to say that I can do all the same work. That’s between you and me though. I just wanted to say that the Board of Elections is an important part of the spring elections of SGA and it's very important that we have the incentive to at least complete the work that is required. So, I will say the quality of the work will remain around the same, if not better.”
   9. Senator Boniecki asks
      1. “Just a quick question, just to clarify, where's the money for this stipend coming from?”
   10. Speaker Corpuz responds
       1. “I believe it's coming from the student activities budget that we have.”
   11. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   12. The vote passes with a count of \_8\_\_\_yays,\_\_0\_\_nays,\_5\_\_abstentions.
5. SR56034: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Candidate Nicholas Obabco states
      1. “Good afternoon, student Senate, Mr. Speaker, members of the Senate. My name is Nicholas Obabco and I’m currently a senior political science major here at NIU with minors in history and global studies and a certificate in criminology. I transferred from McHenry County and County College a year ago in January 2024 for the Spring Semester with a certificate in paralegal studies and an associate in applied sciences. I’m running for student government because my goal is to improve the connection between student life and the Senate. I’ve always been driven by getting involved and I want to make things better, make sure students get the best out of their experience in university and the university, in turn, is improving student life and meeting the expectations of the student body and the community. During my time at community college, I was part of club council and later in student government for my Community College. As mentioned before, McHenry County College during said time, I was instrumental in planning for the Halloween party that we had in the fall 2023 semester, which the purpose was to open up the community and our student organizations in our community. The idea was to attract our community and show the students what MCC was all about and what were all our student values and what we take pride in. I'm proud to say that that community fair for the Halloween party was a success. We got to introduce our clubs and soon organizations and the attendance rate amongst our community was higher than we expected for a Community College. That I pride with success. It is with that success that I come here to student government. I want to repeat what I’ve done in Community College on a larger scale. I want to help student life improve in our university. I want our students to get the worth of their time. So that is why I'd be incredibly honored to be part of student Senate as we make decisions and policies that affect the student life on campus every day. This will also be beneficial for my future as I plan to become an attorney eventually by understanding policies that affect student government and student life is just a step of the way in the future to understanding what local government, state government, and even federal and how it affects our everyday life and what are the consequences or the successes should the policy pass or should it fail. So that is why I'm here today. I hope very much to be a part of student government this involvements, especially the involvement of students, is very much important to me and it's something that I take pride at, making sure that whenever I'm organizing events, be it at my Community College during club council and later in student government, when club council got incorporated into it to make sure that everybody leaves overall satisfied during my time in Community College, I represented 2 clubs and student government, the student paralegals association and the writer's block. I was their representative for a while, mainly because we couldn't find anyone else to do it. Our clubs were small, but the fact is, representing both clubs really humbled me in a way so, so to speak, that I was there. These organizations entrusted me into speaking for their voice. So that is the same trust that I hope to bring here, but only this time instead of two student organizations. I hope to be the voice for other students who may have been just like me, trying to go to class and it's like, ”Oh, well, this doesn't affect me. Just want to finish class and move on with my life.” No, I want student experience to improve, and I want students to be overall happy and satisfied that they weren't here and that is what drives me and that is what I believe I can help contribute here to student Senate.”
   4. Senator Robinson asks
      1. “Have you put any consideration into what 2 committees you're going to be serving on should you be elected?”
   5. Candidate Nicholas Obabco responds
      1. “I currently live in Patterson residence hall. I’m not sure if I’ll be that for this. I’m not coming back to Patterson next year, but should it be necessary, I would be against serving on residence hall committees. I'm fine with serving in any community. I'm currently a student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences because I’m studying political science and want to be a lawyer. That’s another committee that I wouldn’t mind. The committee I want to serve on is one that represents my values and ideals.”
   6. Chairperson Monteleone asks
      1. “Sorry, maybe I didn't catch this, but what year are you again and do you expect to serve full term?”
   7. Candidate Nicholas Obabco responds
      1. “I'm currently a senior, but because I transferred, I had to spend an extra semester at MCC. My graduation date right now is set for December of 2024, if all goes well, knock on wood. But yes, I expect to fully serve this semester if accepted and next year until December.”
   8. Clerk Sawyer
      1. “Can you repeat you graduation year?”
   9. Candidate Nicholas Obabco responds
      1. “If all goes well, I'm set to graduate in December 2025.”
   10. Speaker Corpuz asks
       1. “I have a couple questions. You will be serving half the amount of time as senators currently serving. For each senator, it is from fall to spring, and you’ll be serving as a senator in the spring, obviously. Do you think you will be able to complete all the responsibilities that are required from senators within a shorter time frame?”
   11. Candidate Nicholas Obabco responds
       1. “To the best of my ability, I believe so. I pride myself in doing the best work I possibly can. This value was instilled in me by my father. Whenever I went to high school, he would always say,” there better not be anything lower than a B on your transcript”. If it was, I was just not putting in my best efforts.”
   12. Speaker Corpuz asks
       1. “Second thing, how many hours are you taking for this semester as there is a time commitment in SGA that’s given to every single Senator?”
   13. Candidate Nicholas Obabco responds
       1. I’m currently doing 15 credit hours for in person classes and one online class. My schedule this semester is actually pretty easy compared to other semesters on Monday through Thursday. I have class from 12:30 to 1:45 and then from 3:30 to 4:45 and my online class is asynchronous. I usually do that work in between my class breaks or on Friday evenings and weekends when I have to finish it up.
   14. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   15. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   16. The vote passes with a count of \_9\_\_\_yays,\_\_3\_\_nays,\_\_1\_abstentions.
6. SR56035: A resolution to confirm a Senator for the 56th Session
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Candidate Eric Zimmer states
      1. “Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Eric Zimmer and I'm a junior electrical engineering major with a 3.7 cumulative GPA here at NIU. I'm very excited to be applying for this position as SGA Senator because I'm passionate about student collaboration, engagement and advocacy. If elected, I want to work closely with student organizations to understand their needs and to help them secure the resources and support they need to be successful. Additionally, I want to focus on student attendance at NIU Athletic events. I want to explore ways to excite the student body and increase support for our Huskies. A strong sense of school spirit and engagement enhances the university experience for all students, and I believe that we can find creative solutions to bring more students together in support of NIU Athletics. By joining the SGA Senate, I hope to actively contribute to campus involvement. Connect with like-minded peers and get a deeper insight into how student government can help NIU and its student body. I want to thank you for your time, and I would be honored to serve and make a meaningful impact for NIU and its student body. If you have any questions, feel free to ask.”
   4. Senator Robinson asks
      1. “Same as last time. Have you considered what 2 committees you'll be serving on?”
   5. Candidate Eric Zimmer responds
      1. “Yes, I would plan to serve on the organizational oversight committee and then possibly the rules and Procedures Committee.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “One you will be serving in half the amount of time that senators normally serve as you are being elected in the spring. Do you think you will be able to complete the responsibilities of a senator in half the amount of time that everyone else has?”
   7. Candidate Eric Zimmer responds
      1. “Absolutely. I'm willing to dedicate as much time as I need to make sure I get everything done.”
   8. Speaker Corpuz asks
      1. “And then how many credit hours are you taking for this semester as there is a responsibility of certain committee meetings during this session?”
   9. Candidate Eric Zimmer responds
      1. “I’m currently taking 15 credit hours, but there won’t be a problem. My schedule is pretty easy this semester. I have no classes on Tuesdays and only one on Thursday as well as a lab that’s every other Friday. I have quite a bit of time to spend on whatever I need outside of class.”
   10. Senator Boniecki asks
       1. “You described the general idea of what you would like to achieve here through SGA. Can you name a few specifics on some ideas you have that you might be able to apply to those goals?”
   11. Candidate Eric Zimmer responds
       1. “Yes. So, for Niu athletics, I think the biggest thing is obviously marketing because currently we have some measures put in place. We have giveaways, we have scholarships and things like that for going to games and reasons for students to come, but I think not a lot of students know about them, so I think marketing that and getting it out to people so they understand what they can possibly get when they come into events like that. And, I mean, who doesn't like free food? Maybe we could throw some like tailgates or something like that at some of the events. Something cheap, maybe hot dogs and burgers or something like that. Get some more people involved.”
   12. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   13. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   14. The vote passes with a count of \_\_10\_\_yays,\_\_2\_\_nays,\_\_1\_abstentions

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Chairperson Crawford states
   1. “Tomorrow, we have Cram the Convo for men and women’s basketball games. And speaking as to support athletics. I think that starts in this room and I'll be dancing. If you guys want to come support. I know it’s also a Greek day so if you’re in a sorority or fraternity, bring your brother and sisters and come support. Also, I’m a part of a club called Music and Memory. We volunteer at nursing homes in the area and I'm going to have Speaker corpse send out something to all of the Senate, but if you guys are ever interested in volunteering, just let me know. I'd really appreciate it.”
2. Parliamentarian Guerrero states
   1. “This is a reminder for all chairpersons and their directors. Send me your agendas going now until the end of the semester. I'll be responsible for uploading them to Huskie Hub for you, so please do that as soon as possible. Thank you.”
3. Senator Ivy states
   1. “For those who don't know, I am the graduate assistant in the College of Law at NIU. We are hosting an open house March 15th, so if you do have an interest or desire, just want to see what it's like to attend NIU law please come by. Just hit me up, register, send me an email. We'd love to have undergraduate Huskies.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   * 1. “I do have a couple announcements. The Presidential Student Service Leadership Awards honors students who have made a significant contribution to our NIU community. We recognize the students in a variety of categories, including class standing and the Steven AGEE, the second award are multiple student organization awards, and our Presidential Student Service and Leadership Award. Students interested in applying for any of these awards should visit the awards page on the student involvement website to review the different awards as well as complete the application process. Applications and nominations are due no later than 11:59 on March 9th. In addition to that, the next candidate meetings for the SGA Elections will be tonight in the OASIS Conference Room at 5:30. Next week, the last two meetings will be on Monday and Tuesday, at 4:30 PM in the Agee Conference Room. Please attend if you wish to be part of next year's session of SGA. It is a requirement so that you can be part of this year's Election ballot.”

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Corpuz calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Clerk Sawyer 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 4:57 pm.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present: Klister, Fields, Crawford, Chigurupati, Monteleone, Obabco, Ivy, Samuel, Boniecki, Guerrero, Meister, Ramirez, Robinson, Zimmer**
2. **Voting Members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused:**  **Lavallais, Udoh, Woodson, Gonzalez**
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on February 25th, 2025

56th Senate on February 21st, 2025