Transcripts of the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

February 28th, 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: Crawford, Chigurupati, Monteleone, Obabco, Ivy, Samuel, Boniecki, Guerrero, Meister, Ramirez, Zimmer**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused: Klister, Fields, Lavallais, Gonzalez, Woodson, Udoh, Robinson,**

**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. 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. 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. “President Jones, myself, Director of Public Affairs Rucker, Student Trustee O'Brien, and Deputy Speaker Gonzalez all went to Springfield on Wednesday to help advocate for the voices of NIU and share our experiences with the legislators in the capital for NIU Advocacy Day. We help to share our desire for increased funding for higher education, but also to improve the infrastructures here on campus. Based on the conversations that Deputy Speaker Gonzalez and I have heard and were part of that day, it was an overall success for the NIU community. I would also like to say Deputy Speaker Gonzalez and I hosted the second Intercollegiate Panel on Monday. Coupled with the results from advocacy, it further highlights that we are on the right track. The suggestions that we took will be revealed in the next week when Deputy Speaker Gonzalez is here to present it. I'd like to thank Deputy Speaker Gonzalez for hosting and setting up all of the intercollegiate panel. It is a panel that we started in our previous semester between 8 colleges now. From the NIU advocacy day, we are hoping to raise it up to a sizable of 10 colleges up in Illinois. If you’d like further information, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez can fill you in on it. Otherwise, you’d have to wait until the next panel.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. There is none.

**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Deputy Speaker’s Report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “Greetings! Once more I apologize for my absence, this is the last weekend of the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association, or I.I.F.A, State Tournament. As this is read, I am actively in a round in DuSable. Quick notes, President Jones, Speaker Corpuz, Director of Public Affairs Rucker, and I went to Springfield on Wednesday to help advocate for the voices of NIU and share our experiences with legislators in the capital. We helped to share our desire for increased funding for higher education but also to improve the infrastructure here on campus. Based on the conversations I’ve heard and were a part of the day was a success. Speaker Corpuz and I attend the second intercollegiate panel on Monday and coupled with the results from advocacy further highlights that we are on the right track. The suggestions we took will be revealed next week when I’m physically present in Senate. A charge for the Ad Hoc Transportation committee is being established. The committee will be focusing on creating a connection between SGA and transportation officials to review and suggest changes. Specific changes and improvements to NIU's transportation itself will arise from the committee work talking with the City of Dekalb, student complaints, and other factors over the course of their work. Members will be assembled shortly, and I ask all interested Senators to email the Office of the Speaker for potential appointment. A complaint or suggestion box has been created for members of the NIU community to use to raise issues to SGA or offer ways to improve our efforts. That will go live Monday.”
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 tabling event across from the Qdoba has been postponed to Tuesday, March 4th. If any other senators have any interest in showing up to that, please come support, thanks.”
4. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight’s report
   1. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states
      1. “No meeting was held yesterday due to the agenda not being sent. However, as stated last week, I will share on organizations that have been previously approved by OO. Unfortunately, due to state I was unable to provide which organizations were approved and will share next week. Hope you can forgive me. “
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
   1. Parliamentarian Guerrero states
      1. “The DEI Committee met today at 2:00 PM and I feel like we had a very productive meeting. We discussed various upcoming events, including some tabling after spring break. Director Montoya asked me to share details about the Quinceanera event, which is being held on Friday, March 21st in the evening at Barsema Alumni Visitor Center. If you would like to assist with decorating, set up will begin at 8:00 am. Additionally, we are encouraged to attend and to represent SGA at that event. If you would like to volunteer, I think I will beat her at 8:00 am. I’ll meet with Speaker Corpuz, and we can work together to make that one of your volunteer hours for SGA. Another event we're playing for the semester is a sporty event aimed at fostering awareness and unity among different colleges across campus. We hope to have senators serve as either managers or volunteers for the event. Please start reaching out to your constituents to gauge their interest in participating. Additionally, the DEI Committee members will be meeting with the resource centers inside the campus of Life building on March 21st at 12:00 PM. If you're interested in joining us, please let me know. Lastly, I would like to thank all committee members for their patience and engagement to today's meeting. It looks like we'll have a good semester this upcoming semester.”
6. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report
   1. Chairperson Althoff states
      1. “We have finished our last candidate meetings for anyone who is still interested in running or has attended a candidate meeting and received packets. Remember to fill those out by the deadline of March 3rd at 6:00 pm. Those packets need to be turned into the office before 6:15 pm on March 3rd, which is next Monday.”
7. Chairperson of Rules and Procedures’ report
   1. Chairperson Corpuz states
      1. “Thank you, guys, for meeting earlier in the week due to advocacy day. I know it was kind of a long stretch, less informed and last minute, but I do thank you guys for putting in the time to go through the motions of R&P.”

**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’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. SB56020: A bill to introduce executive orders to the Student Government Association.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Senator Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “Once more, this bill will provide the President a binding way to discipline members of his staff but as well as create instructions for the direction and mission of their administration. The President lacks any binding way to discipline his staff without outright removal nor establish clear guidelines for the objective the administration wants to accomplish for the student body. Unlike the Legislative Branch where we have the Rules and Procedures Committee, the Executive Branch lacks anything similar. 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 appear if the Senate deems it appropriate.”
   4. Senator Obabco asks
      1. “Are there any safeguards for any potential abuse of power?”
   5. Speaker Corpuz responds
      1. “The safeguard would be the Parliamentarian and the Supreme Court. Just like how our national government has checks and balances on each other's branch, we have checks and balances to each branch with this executive order. It's only affecting the Executive Branch. An executive order would not affect any other branch besides its own. That's the major check and balance that we have for this.”
   6. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   7. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   8. The vote passes with a count of \_\_13\_\_yays, \_0\_ nays, and \_\_0\_\_abstentions.
2. SB56021: 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. “So, as I stated before, a lot of my responsibilities I have just taken up, I have taken them up this session due to the fact that they were passed down to me by word of mouth. This just solidifies and codifies that the Speaker has these responsibilities. This is also to make sure that the Operating Manual is correct and is updated as well as having the power to move people from committees. These were just responsibilities passed on to me and I just wanted to make sure that these responsibilities are passed on without having to worry about a gap in-between administrations.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. The vote passes with a count of \_\_\_12\_yays,\_\_0\_\_nays,\_\_1\_abstentions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. SB56022: A bill to update the bylaws to prevent removed senators from being appointed as a senator for the next session.
   1. Clerk Sawyer or so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “This idea was brought to me by multiple senators and even members of the Office of the Speaker. This legislation is just to remove a section about how senators can reapply for the next session. As it stands right now, the bylaws state that a senator who has been removed from office for any other reasons besides resignation, military service or medical emergency shall be eligible to apply for Senate in the next following session. Also, they are not allowed to reapply in the same session. Personally, I think this is a very important piece of legislation due to the fact that if a senator was removed for reasons other than outside influence or resignation, there is a reasoning and a purpose to why they were removed. I believe that any person that is removed from SGA, there must be a valid reason. You must go between the Rules and Procedures Committee and the Senate to be removed from office. There are multiple checks to this and that this is not just a breach of power. This is a way of saying we want to remain a functioning body and we do not want parts of SGA to come back later on if the elections happen again. So, in addition to this, I have also put in another check and balance with the judicial branch. It basically states that a senator may overturn the decision to be removed, but they cannot apply again until the next session. This allows anybody who feels that they’ve been removed unfairly to still have a chance to be back on SGA. So, I’m not completely cutting people off, but I am saying there has to be more checks. And at the bottom 17. A is just about how meetings are to be held, and it’s purely just objective reasoning of if a meeting is cut short because of quorum that the meeting should end right then and there.
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. This bill will be voted on next week.
2. SR56037: A resolution to call upon the Chief Justice to speak at the next scheduled Senate meeting.
   1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
   2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
   3. Speaker Corpuz states
      1. “For those of you who don’t know, a Chief Justice was selected. Chief Justice Maximillian Jarmula has been selected by the Supreme Court to lead them. I have not heard anything from the Supreme Court and when they came up last time, we were in talks of a pending Supreme Court case. I would just want to call up the Chief Justice to be able to explain what's going on with the Supreme Court as of right now, as I've not heard anything from this from them at this point.”
   4. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
   5. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
   6. The vote passes with a count of \_13\_\_\_yays,\_\_0\_\_nays,\_\_0\_abstentions.

C. SR56038: A resolution to confirm a Director for Athletics.

* 1. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
  2. Parliamentarian Guerrero seconded.
  3. Candidate Damien Hepburn states
     1. “My name is Damien. I am a sophomore sports management major with a minor in sports journalism. South Side Jamaica, Queens. NIU, to me, is fostering a community on campus throughout athletics. College is one thing, we’re going to classes, but the extracurriculars is what makes college what it is now. So, fostering a sense of community and unity on campus throughout athletics is my biggest goal. I worked with the basketball program here for the past two years. Last year, I was with the women’s team. This year, I’m with the men’s team. We’ve had rough seasons, but again making sure to foster a community around people is the biggest thing. Coming to college, people don’t play at the Division One level. A lot of people who are coming in from regular schools aren’t coming to college to play. So, for the people who are coming to watch, you want to create the best ideas possible for them to feel incentivized to actually want to show up and support. The biggest thing is being seen if you’re seeing more, it’s like you said we want to have a big event, right? We have the basketball team coming in or whatever athletic sport is coming in and you actually get a chance where you can meet them and humanize them in a sense. That's what I want to do. I want to be that person to bridge that gap between the athletics department and the community.”
  4. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “Have you worked with President Jones before, and if so, what's your working relationship with President Jones at this point?”
  5. Candidate Damien Hepburn responds
     1. “President Jones was my Director of Orientation for Black Males Initiative, and also he’s one of the members of the organization that I’m the President of, the Association of Collegiate Men.”
  6. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “Outside of any organizations, how many credit hours are you taking for this semester, and do you believe that you have enough time to fulfill the 10 hour requirements of hours that you needed for SGA as a paid position?”
  7. Candidate Damien Hepburn responds
     1. “Yeah, take 15 credit hours and I only have two in person classes. Yes, I will have the availability to do it.”
  8. Speaker Corpuz asks
     1. “And then the last question is, what are some initiatives that you want to see started on campus right now while in this position as Director of Athletics?”
  9. Candidate Damien Hepburn responds
     1. “My biggest thing is a HomeAway game, but that means we’re actually incentivizing these students to actually travel to a road game and actually have a student section at an away crowd. The biggest thing is as we travel to these other schools, you might see about four or five people wearing NIU shirts and a crowd full of the opposing team. So, actually fostering students to incentivize them to come here, wear this NIU shirt, we’re going to be at like DePaul game. We're getting in the season around November time or even like last game of the season where we have Central Michigan certifies that we have like a HomeAway game.”
  10. Speaker Corpuz asks if there is any discussion or debate.
  11. Speaker Corpuz calls for a vote.
  12. The vote passes with a count of \_12\_\_\_yays,\_\_1\_\_nays,\_\_0\_abstentions.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Speaker Corpuz states
   1. “Once again, for those who are trying to rerun in next year's Senate, please fill out your paperwork. It is due by Monday night.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Senator Ivy states
   1. “To correct my announcement last week, tomorrow is Meet a Law student day for the Law school, but April 5th is open House for the law school. Any undergrads or anyone that's interested in learning more about NIU law, please reach out to me.”

**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 4:32 pm.

**CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

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

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on March 5th, 2025

56th Senate on February 28th, 2025