

Transcripts of the  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Gonzalez at 4:37 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: Senator Robinson, Senator Zimmer, Senator Salerno, Senator Obabko(late), Deputy Speaker Guerrero, Senator Moskal, Senator Asante, Senator Owosu, Senator Kushimo, Senator Lynch, Senator Boniecki**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:**

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Clerk Sawyer confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. There is none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to approve last week's minutes.
2. Clerk Sawyer so moved.
3. Deputy Speaker Guerrero seconded.
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Senator Boniecki states,

- a. “I was looking through the minutes, and there seemed to be some significant typographical errors throughout that made it hard to understand what I was reading at times.”
6. Senator Boniecki motions to send the minutes to R&P.
7. Senator Zimmer seconded.
8. The motion is passed, and the minutes are sent to R&P for review.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **SPEAKER REPORT**

### **A. Speaker Gonzalez states**

1. Welcome to the second week of the 57<sup>th</sup> session. Although this is our second meeting, we will not be meeting next week, as I have a conference related to my graduate assistant position. That being said, the Senate’s work isn’t over. Beginning next week, I believe the Deputy Speaker Guerrero will be holding the first Organizational Oversight committee meeting, as well as SGA Treasurer Lazarick will be holding the first finance committee meeting based on the current funding request that we have. Despite not having a Senate meeting, I urge every Senator to still submit to me suggestions, or at the very least, begin to set up a quick check-in with Deputy Speaker Guerrero to go over and see what your current thoughts and feelings are as the current political situation continues to change on a day-by-day basis. I urge and encourage everyone to focus on impacting us here at NIU and get ahead in your academics as academics come first here.”

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

- A. There is none.

## **OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

- A. Deputy Speaker's Report
  - a. There is none.
- A. Parliamentarian's Report
  - a. There is none.
- A. Clerk's Report
  - a. There is none

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

- A. Chairperson of Student Life and Greek Affairs' report
  - a. There is none.
- B. Chairperson of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs' report
  - a. There is none.
- C. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report
  - a. There is none.
- D. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight's report
  - a. There is none.
- E. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion's report
  - a. There is none.
- F. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report
  - a. There is none.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

- A. President's report
  - a. There is none.
- B. Vice-President's report
  - a. There is none.
- C. Treasurer's report
  - a. There is none.
- D. Deputy Treasurer's report

- a. There is none.
- E. Chief of Staff's report
  - a. There is none.
- F. Student Trustee's Report
  - a. There is none.

## **CABINET REPORT**

- A. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion
  - a. There is none.
- B. Director of Organizational Development
  - a. There is none.
- C. Director of Athletics
  - a. There is none.
- D. Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs
  - a. There is none.
- E. Director of Public Affairs
  - a. There is none.
- F. Director of Academic Affairs
  - a. There is none.
- G. Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs
  - a. There is none.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. SB57001: A bill to revise public comments pursuant to Open Meetings Act
  - 1. Senator Obabko so moved.
  - 2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero seconded.
  - 3. Speaker Gonzalez states
    - a. "This is the second reading on SB57001, and this will be the meeting where we will either be approving or rejecting today's proposed legislation. Quick reminder, this all codifies what we already have in terms of public comments into our bylaws and making sure everyone is on the same page when it comes

to speaking to us in a public setting. They can also fill out the intent to speak form on Huskie Hub or by emailing the Director.”

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of 11 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

B. SB57002: A bill to add language for new fraternity and sorority student organization recognition process.

1. Senator Salerno so moved.
2. Senator Boniecki seconded.
3. Speaker Gonzalez states
  - a. “This adds a new language for the process for Greek Organizations and new chapters instead of having to go through the process of FSL and getting recognition from SGA. They will essentially be going through the FSL department and once FSL gives them the OK, they will be notifying SGA directly through either the chairperson of OO or the SGA Vice President upon receiving e-mail. They will automatically be given recognition. FSL has assured me, and we’ve talked about this prior.”
  - b. Senator Obabko asks
    - i. “Is there any way to guarantee that they’ll actually follow through?”
  - c. Speaker Gonzalez responds
    - i. “There are FSL’s within our own unit of SGA so they are a walk down the hall from us. There would be plenty of ways to check up on that.”

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of 11 yays, 1 nays, 0 abstentions.

C. SB57003: A bill to extend the mediation procedures for the Organization Oversight Committee.

1. Senator Robinson so moved.
2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero seconded.
3. Deputy Speaker Gonzalez states

- i. “If a student organization decides to go through OO for any sort of mediation procedure, OO has already been granted this power in our state bylaws, but there was no procedure for it. They would be at the whim of whoever the chairperson was, and there would be no room of contest because there was no recognized official procedures. This creates an official procedure that has the chance to go directly to SGA Supreme Court or university officials if they choose to do so as well.
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of \_\_\_11\_\_\_yays,\_\_\_0\_\_\_nays,\_\_\_0\_\_\_abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SB57004: A bill to modernize and revise the Finance Policy**

1. Senator Obabko so moved.
2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero seconded.
3. Speaker Gonzalez states
  - i. “Currently, the finance policy is outdated. Quite frankly, a lot of the provisions found within it is still when the Finance Committee heard physical presentations for funding requests. We don't do this anymore because everything is now handled calmly through Husky Hub in itself. These changes make it so that it reflects what we are currently doing, but also addresses some lingering things that no longer makes sense and is confusing for students and student organizations alike.”
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. This bill will be voted on in 2 weeks.

### **B. SB57005: A bill to modernize and revise the Annual Funding Process.**

1. Senator Zimmer so moved.
2. Senator Robinson seconded.
3. Speaker Gonzalez states
  - i. “So likewise with the just the normal finance Financial Policy, this one is specifically revising in terms of annual funding. So this is specifically only looking at annual funding and again a lot of these changes is to update it to the modern age. This is when Finance Committee was still hearing fiscal

presentations. All annual funding is basically heard through the forms that a student organization fills out and submits directly to finance committee and makes those changes as well as update the terms of some of the eligibility on this cleaning up language specifically.”

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. This bill will be voted on in 2 weeks.

C. SR57007: A resolution to enforce mandatory budget attendance.

1. Senator Obabko so moved.
2. Senator Boniecki seconded.
3. Speaker Gonzalez states
  - a. If you're reading through the legislation, it is already a requirement for student organizations to attend budget presentations set out by the SGA Treasurer. For these past several years of no fault to past treasurers they do not attend the presentations. They do not receive funding. This specifically applies for normal student organizations, does not apply to chapters as they're funded by their governing councils. Again, these provisions have not been upheld recent. We are essentially going to be upholding you. This is not retroactive. We're holding so organizations that didn't attend budget presentations from last year, we're not going to enforce the provisions on them because it's simply too late.”
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of \_\_11\_\_yays, \_\_0\_\_nays, \_\_0\_\_abstentions.

D. SR57008: A resolution to approve a Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Deputy Speaker Guerrero so moved.
2. Senator Boniecki seconded.
3. Leilani Rodriguez states
  - i. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Alani Rodriguez. I am currently a junior here at NIU. I'm studying business management with an emphasis in human resources, and I am honored to stand before you all today as a candidate for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director position. I currently work in NIU's Office of Academic Diversity Inclusion by supporting programs centered on

social justice prevention, education and student outreach. In that role, I've helped to organize campus wide initiatives like Walk a mile as well as Denim Thing. I assisted in revising training presentations on cultural awareness and identity and collaborated with our resource centers to make sure programs collect the voices and needs of students from all backgrounds. These experiences have shown me how impactful the work can be. It goes beyond conversation and creates real change beyond campus. Beyond my work at a NIU, I do serve as public relations chair and African Student Association, as well as community service chair on Liberated Minds student organization. These leadership roles have strengthened my ability to plan events, build partnerships, and amplify student voices across campus. They've also taught me the importance of collaboration and representation in everything we do. If I'm elected for this position, my vision is simple. I want to make sure SGA is a space where all students, regardless of their background, identity or lived experiences, feel welcome, supported, but most of all heard. I want to work with each of you to build initiatives and celebrate cultural diversity, address equity concerns and strengthen our campus community. Lastly, I believe that my combination of professional experience through a DEI as well as my campus involvement and passion for advocacy makes me well prepared to serve in this role. Together, we can ensure NIU continues to move together towards a more inclusive and empowering future for all students. I would like to thank you all for your time today and I'm honored to be considered next. Thank you all.

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
  5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
  6. The vote passes with a count of \_10\_yays,\_0\_nays,\_1\_abstentions.
- E. SR57009: A resolution to approve a Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs
1. Senator Obabko so moved.
  2. Senator Boniecki seconded.
  3. Shawn Ninan states
    - i. Thank you. My name is Sean Ninan. I am a sophomore in Biological Sciences. I've been on both sides of campus life working at Holmes Student Center at the front desk where I've learned how to solve any problems quickly. I've also led the IT panel for TEDx back in my hometown. As an individual with an



international background I've had a chance to work with a diverse group of people. So I would like to make campus lives more engaging, more sustainable and a whole lot more fun. Thank you.

ii. Senator Obabko asks

1. "How do you plan to implement your changes?"

iii. Candidate Shawn Ninan responds

1. So like I said, my main change would be to inform people better. we do have seats. We do have library giving out seeds to plant, but I'm sure most of you wouldn't know that they do give out free seeds and they do tell you how to grow them. There is a QR code right beside the seed dispensary and they will tell you how to grow the plant, but not a lot of people know that. So I'd like to make it more informed by social media like Instagram."

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.

5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.

6. The vote passes with a count of 7 yays, 3 nays, 1 abstentions.

F. SR57010: A resolution to confirm a Senator.

1. Deputy Speaker Guerrero so moved.

2. Senator Robinson seconded.

3. Erin Uhrine states

i. "My name is Erin Uhrine and I'm excited to be here asking for your support to become your next senator for the college of education. One of the things I've learned at NIU is that leadership is about listening supporting and making people feel seen. That's been my focus in every role I've taken on as the President of the student academic equity committee, I worked with students, faculty and administrators to make our campus a more inclusive and welcoming place. As the College of Education representative on the undergraduate pro host committee, I've shared students' perspectives and important academic conversations, making sure our voices don't get lost. And as a community advisor for Patterson Hall East, I've had the privilege of supporting students 1 on 1, whether it's with them struggling with academics or celebrating their successes. If elected, I want to bring the same energy here, I believe in collaboration working with all of you to strengthen the work we do across colleges. I believe in

advocacy, making sure that unique needs of college event. Students are represented, especially when it comes to academics, field experience and resources, and I believe in commitments showing up and being reliable and always putting students first. The college of education is preparing teachers and leaders, and it's also a community I want to bring that sense of community into the senate working alongside you to make NIU the best it can be for all students. I'd be honored to have your support and I respectfully ask for your vote to serve as your next senator for the College of Education.”

ii. Senator Owusu asks

1. “Thank you, Erin, for stepping forward to SGA. My question is, as soon as this position was vacant, I'm more likely to know what circumstances were preventing you from contesting during the election, and then what has actually motivated you?”

iii. Candidate Erin Uhrine responds

1. “I noticed that there isn't a huge female initiative on the Senate and I want to take part in that and also more resources for colleges, students around testing, because we have to do a test to become licensed teachers. And there's only a certain amount of money that NIU does for resources on that, for our content test, and also I want more advocacy for clinicals. It's been a really rough process for some students, and I want to make sure that their voices are heard when it comes to that. Especially because it can be a stressful event when you're trying to graduate on time. But you're not in a placement that you feel secure in.”

iv. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks

1. “What’s your schedule for this semester?”

v. Candidate Aaron Ryan responds

1. “So on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I'm in a kindergarten classroom from 8 AM to 4 PM, but I also have meetings for my CA meeting on Wednesday at 9:15 and I have 3 classes on Monday in my asynchronous classes. So I'm available on Thursdays and Fridays and all the weekend.”

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of \_11\_yays,\_0\_nays,\_0\_abstentions.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- A. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is anything for the good of the order.
  - a. There is none.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there are any announcements.
  - a. There is none.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Senator Salerno so moved.
3. Senator Boniecki seconded.
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting is adjourned at 5:18 pm.

## **CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present: Senator Robinson, Senator Zimmer, Senator Salerno, Senator Obabko(late), Deputy Speaker Guerrero, Senator Moskal, Senator Asante, Senator Owosu, Senator Kushimo, Senator Lynch, Senator Boniecki**
2. **Voting members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused:**
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

## **MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on September 26, 2025

57<sup>th</sup> Senate on September 12, 2025