

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: Robinson, Zimmer, Obabko, Guerrero, Asante, Owosu, Boniecki**
5. **Voting members Absent: Salerno, Moskal, Kushimo, Lynch**
6. **Voting members Excused:**

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Deputy Speaker Guerrero confirms quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. There is none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to approve last week's minutes.
2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero so moved.
3. Senator Zimmer 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 minutes are approved.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda.
2. Senator Obabko so moved.
3. Senator Zimmer 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. *“Greetings and thank you for joining me for today on September the 26th of 2025. Even though today agenda is quite light by modern standards there is still several pieces of legislation within the pipeline that will return to us seeking about 7-8 pieces of legislation for next week's meeting. Those are based on conversations I've had with my SGA Treasurer Lazaric last week, but as well as with Deputy Speaker Guerrero. As we are looking to improve and streamline our processes for both actually Finance committees and for Organization Oversight committee as well there's also something other things that we have within the pipeline, as well that would be excited to share with you in the coming weeks as those details gets to be noted. However, the most important thing I want to share with everyone is that after having a quick conversation and discussion within our Rules and Procedure committee this past Wednesday, it was decided that for next week Wednesday, R&P will be adopting a new framework. In this framework, a new type of Senate agenda will included and called titled open discussion. Historically, SGA Senate has met to discuss and vote upon new pieces of legislation, such as rules, bills and petition, when they reach the Senate floor. However, I want to introduce to the 57th session is these open discussions which asserts to be unintrusive topic which is introduced either by senators themselves prior to rules of procedure committee or on topics of my own accord. Which you will have the opportunity as entitled to say as to discuss debate and make suggestions on that topic including potentially drafting pieces of legislation*

*in order to direct several of SG standing committees in order to take off on the topics of suggestions. Looking through the history records, this would be something that the SGA Senate has not done here at NIU. I want to introduce this piece to kind of allow ourselves to communicate but also collaborate board in an open discussion format especially considering Senate is truly the really the only time we all have a chance to discuss freely and for senators themselves I would I ask you to hear your constituents to see what is currently on their minds and to message me or to e-mail that they speak clearly so once Rules and Procedure adopts this report and that information was built during the next in the Senate. We're going to have and engage in these conversations and meaningful and productive more details will be revealed soon once I have and then if you have any questions or comments or concerns on their please I ask you to hold onto those and tell them joining the good of the order portion of yesterday's section otherwise with the rest of the executives leadership staff continues at work towards improving and streamlining communications just organizations and connected with different student organizations.*

1. *There is some legislation for both finance, and there are also some things that I'm excited to share with everyone for conversation. It's titled Different Culture: Storing the Estate Senate and is open to a vote upon legislation. Something that I want to introduce to the 57<sup>th</sup> session, is to introduce to the Procedure Committee that the Senate is to discuss objections to topics. For example, payrolls during the presentations, such as student organizations, or different student organizations or people on campus."*

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

- A. There is none.

## **OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

- A. Deputy Speaker's Report

1. Deputy Speaker Guerrero states
  - a. *"Hello, over the past two weeks, I've been working closely with Speaker Gonzalez to ensure we have a successful semester in SGA, while also settling into my new role as your Deputy Speaker. As part of this transition, I've*

*reached out to all senators to schedule one-on-one meetings to discuss your goals and any questions you may have for the semester. Thank you to those who have already scheduled a meeting with me, I truly believe these conversations will help set you up for success in SGA this year. If you haven't scheduled a meeting yet, I encourage you to do so. These meetings are a great opportunity for me to get to know you better and support you in your role. My office hours are Tuesday from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm, and Friday after Senate till 6:30 pm. "*

A. Historian's Report

1. There is none.

A. Clerk's Report

- 1, 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

1. Chairperson Guerrero states

- a. *"Organizational Oversight Committee had their first meeting this week. We approved four organizations. These orgs are as follows: **C3lestial Covers** - Mission is to uphold the vibrant reputation of their team both on and off campus through passion, performance, and pride. They aim to bring the energy of dance to life by participating in covers, showcasing their talents at schoolwide and off-campus events, and most importantly having fun together as a community of dancers and fans! **Sports and Exercise Psychology Club:** Purpose is to foster a supportive community for students interested in the psychosocial aspects of sport, exercise, and performance. The club aims to:*

*Promote awareness and understanding of sport and exercise psychology, provide opportunities for professional development, encourage student engagement in research, and create a collaborative environment where students can share ideas, explore career pathways, and contribute to the growth of sport and exercise psychology at the university and beyond.*

***Campus Live Network:*** *Purpose is to provide the students at NIU with the entertainment through podcast, live videos, hosting events, and collaborating with organizations to bring personalities to their events. ”*

E. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report

1. There is none.

F. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report

1. There is none.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

A. President’s report

1. There is none.

B. Vice-President’s report

1. There is none.

C. Treasurer’s report

1. There is none.

D. Deputy Treasurer’s report

1. There is none.

E. Chief of Staff’s report

1. There is none.

F. Student Trustee’s Report

1. There is none.

**CABINET REPORT**

A. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion

1. There is none.

B. Director of Organizational Development

1. There is none.
- C. Director of Athletics
  1. There is none.
- D. Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs
  1. There is none.
- E. Director of Public Affairs
  1. There is none.
- F. Director of Academic Affairs
  1. There is none.
- G. Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs
  1. There is none.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. SB57004: A bill to modernize and revise the Financial Policy
  1. Senator Zimmer so moved.
  2. Senator Owusu seconded.
  3. Speaker Gonzalez states
    - a. “We are going on financial tiers, and TOT is competitive organization competitions.
  4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
    - a. Senator Boniecki asks
      - i. *“I’d like to ask a student had approached me and informed me that to their tier 2 organization had received \$1,250 in total funding and only had \$400 to spend on event supplies. I would like to know what of that aspect is connected to these pieces of legislation if they are. In terms of power control, we have turned it terms of expenditures.”*
    - b. Speaker Gonzalez responds
      - i. *“ So in terms of expenditures, it really truly depends on what the student organizations is doing. So for instance, if it's something that is already using the established budget form that's something that they would just work directly with the accountant within Student*

*Involvement to purchase whatever supplies they are directly using their funding.*

- ii. *If it's something that they're trying to use, what is called supplemental funding, so that's additional funding that they could request from us through submitting applications that get sent to the Finance Committee and get reviewed by the committee. The purchasing guidelines that I mentioned are set by the administration and that's something that even us, SGA, we have really oversight over as that is directly from top down. So, in those guidelines they have set a cap for decorations which I believe are 100 dollars, which I am referring to. That is a hard stop, that's something that's again set by the University. So really there's not much we can really do. While we do plan to attend to release a press release on that or wording on that with the purchase guidelines that have been reviewed and approved by all of the leadership. We are planning to release that the original attempt was for today morning, but will be pushed back for Monday morning, but that is great that you mentioned is that something that you do need it attempts to communicate with student organization.”*

- 5. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
- 6. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- 7. The vote passes with a count of   7   yays,   1   nays,   0   abstentions.

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

- 1. Senator Obabko so moved.
- 2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero seconded.
- 3. Speaker Gonzalez states
  - a. *“SB57005 this specific build system that aims to target and we tighten the language specifically in regard to the annual funding process so again as mentioned in the last Senate meeting. But there is also instances where it says that student organizations have to come either physically to either Senate Finance committee. This was back when almost fallen Annual funding presentations had to brought up to the Senate and/or Finance committee*

*because, these provisions would no longer are needed and now sent to Huskie Hub through a form that the SGA Finance committee reviews and approve off, there is no reason to have this.*

- b. Allows for clarify the procedures for student organization, but as well to further increase comprehension. As you want to see it remove late budgets because there is no way to propose late budgets, as mentioned beforehand as soon as the SGA approves the budget for the next fiscal year that information is set and added to the greater university budget that gets approved by the board of trustees and once approves there's nothing that we can do it that way. In either case, by the time the board of trustees approves it is in the middle of the summer well after the SGA session has ended.*

- 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 \_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_ yays, \_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_ abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. There is none.

## **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 states
  - a. *“It is the beginning of Homecoming week. Homecoming officially begins essentially today with the kickoff of the widow painting that you may see covered in the Holmes Student Center. Please engage not only with SGA members amongst yourselves but also with all of their student organizations here on campus here and the greater Dekalb community as we celebrate NIU Homecoming for the rest of next week. Please enjoy the festivities not only to connect with constituents, but with other students. As well to promote what it is that we do here at NIU as Huskie.”*

## **ADJOURNMENT**



1. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Senator Obabko so moved.
3. Senator Zimmer 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 4:57 pm.

#### **CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present: Robinson, Zimmer, Obabko, Guerrero, Asante, Owosu, Kushimo(Late), Boniecki**
2. **Voting members Absent: Salerno, Moskal, Lynch,**
3. **Voting members Excused:**
4. **Candidate Members Present: Joshua Tinajero, Daitrell Sanders, Taoheed Adeoye, Jonathan Chaparro-Quintana**

#### **MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Sawyer on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

57<sup>th</sup> Senate on September 26, 2025