

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 4:39 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, Uhrine, , Zimmer, Salerno, Obabko, Guerrero, Moskal, Asante, Owosu, Kushimo, Lynch, Boniecki,**
5. **Voting members Absent:**
6. **Voting members Excused:**

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

1. Senator Zimmer confirms quorum is met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. There is none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to table last week's minutes.
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 minutes are approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda.
2. Senator Zimmer so moved.
3. Senator Tanalor 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, 57th Session Senators. I deeply wish I was here in the Senate chamber with you today, but I am currently in Watson Hall assisting in the annual M. Jack Parker debate tournament that is held at NIU's campus. That does not mean I have not been thinking nor doing things related to SGA. Committees have officially started with just some adjustments needed for timing. By the end of the month, I will be anticipating reports from all committees. Additionally, I and the rest of the SGA leadership are aware of what is happening around the country. I've been working with the SGA President Priyanshu Bahadur of DePaul University's Student Government Association to discuss and brainstorm ideas that could be applied to NIU. Since their structure, though different and their proximity to the city, have been invaluable and I value the collaboration we've had. If there are questions you have for me regarding some of the bills that are to be voted on, I urge you to table the bill until I am able to return so I can answer them unless you feel that you have the information to vote on them.”

SPECIAL REPORT

A. There is none.

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT

A. Deputy Speaker's Report

1. Deputy Speaker Guerrero states

- a. “Since our last meeting, I have been working with Speaker Gonzalez to improve SGA communication regarding various matters, from students seeking to form new organizations on campus to those requesting funding for their respective orgs. As part of these efforts, we are introducing SB57009 and SB570010 in today’s meeting. Further information will be provided later in the session. I have also been collaborating with Vice President Rivera to recognize new student organizations on campus. Since our last meeting, the Office of Organizations has approved six new orgs that will bring fresh ideas and help foster stronger community engagement among students. More details about these organizations will be shared in the committee report. Outside of the office, I have been volunteering around campus. Yesterday, Senator Urine and I volunteered through Student Involvement at Tyler Elementary School, where we read books to students from kindergarten through fifth grade. More volunteer opportunities are available through Student Involvement. As a reminder, Edible Campus will host a garden event outside Anderson Hall on November 13th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Tools and gloves will be provided. Barb Food Mart is seeking volunteers on December 4th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM to sort, pack, load wagons, and deliver food to over 200 families. These are excellent opportunities to give back to the community and complete your service hours requirement as senators. Lastly, please schedule your one-on-one meetings to discuss your goals and any questions you may have for the semester. These meetings are a valuable opportunity for me to get to know you better and support you in your role.”

A. Historian’s Report

1. There is none.

A. Clerk’s Report

1. Clerk Sawyer states

- a. “Concerning the minutes from 9-26 and last meeting minutes, I must submit the minutes in the order the meetings happen. Since there are video difficulties for the September 26 senate meeting, I am unable to complete the minutes currently. I have the other minutes, post 9-26, complete and ready to be put

out as well as today's meeting, but I am currently unable to do so until we figure this out."

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. The following orgs have received full recognition: MEDLIFE, which aims to support and extend MEDLIFE's mission and all MEDLIFE's divisions within the University. They are focused on providing healthcare, education, and safe housing to low-income families throughout the world through collaboration and volunteering. Tai Chi Club, which aims to allow students to get involved with the art of Tai Chi and Taoism. They are looking forward to allowing the opportunity to participate and learn about Tai Chi and be able to perform the physical practice. NIU Film Club, which aims to provide a safe space for all cinema lovers and build an all-inclusive community, where they aim to discuss film and celebrate underappreciated movies and create a positive vibe for everyone. TOFU, which aims to bring more engagement and unity around campus for all students of all majors. Creating a sense of belonging and inclusivity across the entire campus. Northern Illinois University American Society of Safety Professionals Student Section. Their mission is to create a supportive community for students who aspire to protect people, property, and the environment in their future careers. We aim to connect Engineering Technology students and anyone interested in safety with opportunities to learn, collaborate, and grow in the fields of occupational and environmental health and safety. Adobe Club, which aims to empower students to develop their creative skills, build professional portfolios, and connect with a community of like-minded peers. Through workshops, collaborative projects, and

industry insights, we aim to prepare members for careers and opportunities in design, marketing, and digital media.

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

1. Chairperson Boniecki states

- a. "The DEI committee met today and it was a really good meeting. And I look forward to working with this group this session."

F. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report

1. There is none.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. President's report

1. President Jones states

- a. Over the past few weeks I have been working closely alongside my current directors to ensure our initiatives remaining active. In addition to collaborating my team I have also been in the process of filling new directors into the vacant positions. This effort is demonstrating our leadership structure and ensuring that every branch gets their support. In addition to collaborating with my team, I have been in the process of adding new directors. We will continue to show every branch our continued support by continuously attending our committee meetings and having our needs and voicing our concerns brought to my attention. These discussions are to help maintain our presence on campus. That is why we are making these decisions to further have our vision on all huskies. Additionally, our executive team are currently brainstorming new and innovative ways to increase awareness and engagement around campus-wide sustainability. We want to ensure that our efforts not only reflect the university's commitments and environmental responsibility but also encourage students to take part and create a more sustainable campus. SGA also has a strong presence through our own community, assisting with events, supporting student involvement, and engaging with students, alumni and community members. Our participation showcased the unity and spirit of our organization while reinforcing our commitments to campus pride and student engagement. Furthermore, alongside Speaker Gonzalez, his allies, and my Chief of Staff Johnson and myself, are reworking the leadership responsibilities with the

current director. Both those that are filled and those that are still open to ensure alignment with our goals and relevance to the evolving needs of this new body, this restructuring will clarify expectations, increase accountability in modern art the way we operate so that the impact we need on campus remains meaningful and sustainable. SGA will also have a strong presence assisting the Office of Student Involvement in their family weekend, ensuring that students and their families will feel supported and welcomed to the university. In addition, we will be hosting our annual Meet the Greeks event, which brings together all three of our councils in a collaborative effort to give back to the community. As always, I appreciate the Senate's continued support and collaboration as we work to enhance our organization's effectiveness. Thank you.

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. SB57006: A bill to revise the tier funding caps.

1. Senator Obabko so moved.
2. Senator Asante seconded.
3. Deputy Speaker Guerrero states
 - a. "As mentioned at the last meeting, this bill fixes the issue of tier funding levels to match reality. The issue wasn't seen during the passing of SB57004, which is of no issue. "
4. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Deputy Speaker Guerrero calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of __10__yays, __0__nays, __0__ abstentions.

B. A bill to codify finance budget presentations attendance

1. Senator Obabko so moved.
2. Senator Owusu seconded.
3. Deputy Speaker Guerrero states
 - a. "For SB57007, to reiterate, it codifies a way to track student organizations' attendance for budget presentations. It merges it with the re-registration process to allow for easier access to SGA personnel compared to the summer and matches the precedent set by other SGAs in the State of Illinois. It also allows Finance Committee to propose a resolution to adjust the attendance tracker and keep their own if they need to allow flexibility."
4. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Deputy Speaker Guerrero calls for a vote.
6. The vote passes with a count of __9__yays, __0__nays, __1__ abstentions.

C. A bill to implement Event Support Fund

1. Senator Obabko so moved.
2. Senator Zimmer seconded.
3. Deputy Speaker Guerrero states
 - i. “This bill replaced the campus security fund to match the current policy.
Unlike the old one, the provisions are more straightforward and clearer.”
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 __9__yays,__0__nays,__1__abstentions.

D. SR57011: A resolution to appoint a Director of Organizational Development

7. Senator Obabko so moved.
8. Senator Zimmer seconded.
9. Candidate Aaron Shaffer states
 - i. Hello, I’m here today to join SGA as the Organizational Development Director. I’m a big family man and first-generation college student. I’m also in the ROTC. I just commissioned this year to go to the army when I graduate college. My major is business administration and one of my biggest traits is that I’m very goal-oriented. I always believe that leadership isn’t just about being in charge, it’s about helping everyone around you. Being in ROTC taught me about teamwork, discipline, and about something bigger than myself. President Jones helped me come out of my shell and really be more involved on campus. He showed me how much SGA can do for student life and not just by planning events but by connecting with people, organizations. As an orientation and development Director, I worked in both for helping students organizations reach their full potential, whether that's involved, including communication, help them with planning, or making sure that everyone has what they need.”
10. Senator Obabko asks
 - i. “What are some programs and ideas that you have in mind should you be appointed as Director of Organizational Development.
11. Candidate Shaffer responds

- i. “I was thinking we do a pumpkin patch or something, just doing the little things”
- 12. Senator Uhrine asks
 - i. “Are you thinking about partnering with different organizations as well, and which ones if so?”
- 13. Candidate Shaffer responds
 - i. “Yes and No.
- 14. Senator Owusu asks
 - i. “You made a mention of increasing transparency between the SGA and student body, how do you plan to do that?”
- 15. Candidate Shaffer responds
 - i. “Making sure we talk to all organizations and make sure they know what the policies are and make sure they are up to date.
- 16. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks
 - i. “What does your schedule look like and are you able to attend the Organizational Oversight committee meetings on Wednesdays at 2:00pm? Also, you are required to complete at least 10 hours of office hours. Are you able to complete that as well?”
- 17. Candidate Shaffer responds
 - i. “I should be able to make that”
- 18. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate
- 19. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- 20. The vote passes with a count of 9 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. SB57009: A bill to clarify communication between Finance Committee and student organizations.
 - 1. Senator Owusu so moved.
 - 2. Senator Zimmer seconded.
 - 3. Speaker Gonzalez states

- i. “SB57009 expands a provision in the SGA Bylaws about communication between student organizations and SGA members about the Finance Committee. If student organizations keep repeatedly emailing or showing up consistently without appointments or engaging in practices that are non-conducive to get information, clarify a decision, or any other decision made by committee members, SGA personnel, or student involvement staff, the organization could be suspended temporarily. The Speaker, SGA Treasurer or committee itself would have the ability to do so. The committee can overturn the suspension if the decision is appealed. Especially to cover instances if the Speaker or Treasurer decided to suspend them on their own belief without actual merit to still accountability. This ensures that communication between student organizations and the SGA Finance Committee and its members remains professional, civil, but also respect our boundaries. Student Involvement staff have other duties outside SGA and we as SGA members are students at the end of the day. This is not due to a specific event that occurred but a preventive measure. There is already precedent as these provisions are found within the Supplemental Funding section. This provision expands that communication to encompass all operations and decisions of the SGA Finance Committee.”

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. This bill will be voted on in next week’s meeting.

B. SB57010: A bill to review communications regarding student organizations.

1. Senator Obabko so moved.
2. Senator Zimmer seconded.
3. Speaker Gonzalez states
 - i. “This bill aims to establish clear guidelines for new student organizations regarding communication with SGA leadership throughout their development process. Speaker Gonzalez, SGA Advisor Sladjana Grbic, and I have noticed a recent increase in

student organizations seeking recognition. As a result, several unrecognized organizations have attempted to move forward without first meeting with the Organizational Oversight (OO) Committee, which is responsible for granting full recognition. SGA leadership has received some pushback from these organizations when trying to guide them appropriately through the process. We want to emphasize that SGA is composed of student representatives who must balance their academic and personal responsibilities in addition to their SGA duties. Additionally, this bill seeks to set a time limit for how long a student organization may remain on the OO agenda. Student organizations will have three months from the date they are introduced to OO to attend a meeting. Speaker Gonzalez and I believe that three months provides sufficient time for organizations to attend a committee meeting and complete the necessary steps. If the Office of the Speaker does not receive a response from the organization within that timeframe, the organization will be removed from the agenda and required to reapply for full recognition.”

4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
6. The bill will be voted on in next week’s meeting.

C. SR57015: A resolution to implement Discussion Senate Agenda Item Guidelines

1. Senator so moved.
2. Senator seconded.
3. Deputy Speaker Guerrero states
 - a. “The point of this part of the agenda issues heavy discussion with all senators about possible ways we can collaborate, brainstorm and create new legislation within SGA.”
4. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks if there is any more discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Deputy Speaker Guerrero calls for a vote.

7. The vote passes with a count of __8__ yays, __1__ nays, __1__ abstentions.

D. SR57016: A resolution to appoint a senator.

1. Senator Obabko so moved.

2. Senator Owusu seconded.

3. Candidate Luke Galloway states

a. “I prepared a statement that I want to give tonight as approval. Science approvals are very important to me. The Speaker of the Senate before me that I got close to 100 signatures verifying that, but I think that sports stars is a testament to the device, while for students who support their vision for positive change particularly. The public policy class, the College of Political Science, the students working together, our future units and anyone else who went through this. The students helped astronomers’ boys on the scandals and every college campus, and I know that our Senators agree because you would never run for SGSN and I want to request in the social world which is essential to understanding suicidality among young people. When I was at my previous institution, under my leadership, our student governments on the highest active participation rate of the post pandemic era. So, trust me when I say I’m the only talking about with regards to getting students involved. And I’ve got something in some of the ways that we can, across social Wellness support, creating special partitioning areas, promoting socializing in large events where people know what contention to meet new people, which I feel would have helped people. What I heard from several people that started socializing and working on the people responded well to it secure based instruction. This work creating speed, branding events essentially lowers their speed dating as well incentivize people from social a lot of Sports and Social media to create more social environment on campus. Educating people how to be more social. Thank you.

4. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks if there is any discussion or debate.

5. Senator Owusu asks

a. “Since this seat was vacant, what hindered you to wait so long to run for the senate?”

6. Candidate Luke Galloway responds

a. “I’m a third-year transfer student. This is my first semester here.

7. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks
 - a. “Will you have the time to complete all the necessary requirements for a senator?”
8. Candidate Luke Galloway responds
 - a. “Yes I will have the time.”
9. Deputy Speaker Guerrero asks if there is any more discussion or debate
10. Deputy Speaker Guerrero calls for a vote.
11. The vote passes with a count of __8__ yays, __0__ nays, __2__ abstentions.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is anything for the good of the order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there are any announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2. Senator Obabko so moved.
3. Senator Salerno 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 5:22 pm.

CLOSING ATTENDANCE

1. **Voting Members Present: Robinson, Zimmer, Salerno, Obabko, Guerrero, Moskal, Asante, Owosu, Kushimo, Lynch, Boniecki, Galloway**
2. **Voting members Absent:**
3. **Voting members Excused:**
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Clerk Sawyer on October 31st, 2025

57th Senate on October 17th, 2025