

Minutes of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

April 14th, 2023

Please note the microphones were not recording for a large portion of this meeting and therefore the minutes are quite loose. Anywhere text is between [] that means that it is from Clerk English's memory of what was said based on the little the mics did pick up and their notes from the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Douglass at 2:05pm 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. **Voting Members Present:** O'Brien, Gibbons, Hensley, English, Colvin, Woodward, Allen, Olson, Kolawole, Althoff, Musgraves, Martin, Corpuz, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos, Rogers
4. **Voting members Absent:** Ashton, Perez-Hernandez
5. **Voting members Excused:** Jovanovich

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

1. Quorum is met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Speaker Douglass asks Sid Kincaid to the stand.
2. Sid Kincaid states
 - a. "Good afternoon.
 - b. My name is Sid Kincaid. I am an alum and former SA senator.

- c. I'm here today because I saw a Northern Star article this week which stated that another alum, Jacob Burg, had given public comment to this Senate criticizing what he saw as a lack of transparency and hasty decision making during meetings... citing meeting minutes being uploaded late and failures to pass legislation that he claims would have held senators accountable.
- d. In 2015 I brought this Senate to court after the Speaker and Deputy Speaker told the Northern Star that they do not need to comply with the open meetings act because they are not a public body. This case was eventually settled, but not before the Senate was forced to answer the complaint in which they admitted that they are a public body. I then spent a couple years after that filing numerous FOIA requests for all of the meeting minutes, legislation, director reports, and even emails. While the reason for my actions were to ensure compliance with transparency law, my motivation was due to the utter failure of the student association to accurately represent the interests of the student body. This culminated in a letter I sent to university council detailing the dominance that a handful of greek houses held in both the executive and legislative branches. When the pandemic hit, I made the decision to divert my attention away from these efforts as both myself and everyone else had to invest their time in other ways for the sake of safety and protecting livelihoods. Since the world has now returned to normal, and seeing this evidence of possible non-compliance returning to the SGA's practices, I now have to ask myself whether I need to act again.
- e. So, today I want to reiterate to you the importance of compliance with the state's transparency laws, the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.
- f. #1. It is the law.
- g. Many citizens and government officials take these laws very seriously. During the period in which I was collecting records from this student government, I was also sending FOIA requests to other universities and had to file another lawsuit against CSU's student government. They ignored my FOIA request, ignored service of summons, and ignored the courts orders when default judgement was awarded, which then led the judge to issue a warrant for arrest. A police officer had to be

sent out with cuffs ready before the student government realized the gravity of the situation and finally complied.

- h. #2. For the sake of your own education.
- i. What ultimately persuaded me in favor of filing my suit was the realization that the Open Meetings Act requires training for all who are subject to it. This would not only prepare senators for their role as decision makers, but also as citizens when they graduate and go into their field. Knowledge of these laws is an important tool to be informed regarding the affairs of government and policies of those who represent them as public officials. So that, yes, with a little bit of knowledge you too can sue your government.
- j. #3 For your own history. To ensure trust with constituents and the community.
- k. Production and maintenance of accurate records and meeting minutes is necessary to ensure that the decisions made by the Senate will be implemented and understood by future sessions.
- l. -member of the public, a dj, bringing issue about student center staff
- m. -failure to update governing documents with legislation in the past”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Speaker Douglass moves to approve last week’s minutes.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to table until next week.
7. So moved.
8. Seconded.
9. Senator Martin is recognized.
10. Senator Martin states
 - a. What does that mean?
11. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. We are delaying approving them until next week.

12. This passes 2:14pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Speaker Douglass moves to approve the agenda.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
6. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. Vice-President Lee sent a written report.
7. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. This was last week to ensure we read it.
8. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to add directors of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs and Organizational Development written reports.
9. So moved.
10. Seconded.
11. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to move new business to old business.
12. So moved.
13. Seconded.
14. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
15. There is none.
16. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
17. Vote passes business is moved.
18. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote to approve the agenda.
19. The motion is passed, and the agenda are approved. 2:16pm.

SPEAKER REPORT

1. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. There are none.

SPECIAL REPORT

1. There are none.

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT

A. Deputy Speaker's Report

1. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker Allen States
 - a. Please put in service you need 5 hours a semester with at least one being an SGA (Student Government Association) event.
 - b. Legislation deadline is coming up and if you do not extend, I will be giving verbal warnings.
 - c. Please make sure you all are doing what you need for your awards.
 - d. I am working on a lot of legislation with organizations specifically for the Convocation center and finance.
 - e. I have been working as Environmental Affairs with Courtney Gallaher and Earth week is looking great.
 - f. I am getting connected for next year with Zach Birch, which is my constituent's person you should do the same.

B. Historian's Report 1

1. Historian Babcock is recognized.
2. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Transition materials next week there are templates they are important to the future of the SGA (Student Government Association)

C. Clerk's Report

1. Clerk English is recognized.
2. Clerk English states
 - a. Based on Jacob Burg's Comments I cleaned up the Minutes on Huskie Hub. Also for the record the minutes are not made public until they are approved by the Senate which is why you cannot see them until a week after. If this is something you think should be changed, I encourage you to write legislation, but I would caution against that as before the Senate approves the minutes they can often be in rough shape.
 - b. Faculty Senate report
 - i. The effects of Chat GPT was discussed.

- ii. Nominations for Faculty Senate president were opened, and Ben Creed of the College of Education was nominated.
 - iii. The following faculty were selected for the student grievance panel.
 - a. Larissa Garcia, University Libraries Tenure
 - b. Peter Chomentowski, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education Tenure
 - c. Sheila Barrett, School of Health Studies Tenure
 - d. Marcia Berke, School of Health Studies
 - e. Jason Akst, Department of Communication
 - f. Ed Miguel, Department of Electrical Engineering
 - iv. The faculty Senate is launching a task force on community engagement.
- c. University Council report
- i. 6 MAC Conference student-athletes of the week winners so far in 2022-23 AY
 - ii. NIU (Northern Illinois University) is the only institution in the nation to be a two-time winner (2016 and 2022) of the NCAA/MOAA Award for Diversity and Inclusion.
 - iii. Governor's Proposed Budget (Feb 15, 2023) – \$80.5M (7%) increase for public universities (7% to NIU (Northern Illinois University)) – \$100M increase for MAP – Continuation of AIM HIGH with funding maintained at \$35M.
 - iv. The 2023 innovation initiative was launched in the form of a new Curricular Innovation Grant Program. Award letters will come out mid-April.

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report

- 1. Chairperson of Board of Elections Olson is recognized.
- 2. Chairperson Olson states
 - a. A last make up meeting will occur.

b. A special election will happen next week on Wednesday.

B. Chairperson of Environmental Affairs' report

1. Vice Chairperson of Environmental Affairs Allen is recognized.

2. Deputy Speaker Allen states

a. Environmental Affairs did not meet as they are waiting on finances and prepping for earth week.

b. If you or your organizations are interested in getting service hours, please contact us through Chairperson Jovanovich or Deputy Speaker Allen

C. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight's report

1. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Hensley is recognized.

2. Chairperson Hensley states

a. Organizational Oversight is having three orgs coming up but with tabling there will be six next week.

b. The goal of the Ballet Folklórico group is to provide students with the opportunity to explore the beauty of Mexican heritage and culture through dance. This group is dedicated to delivering high-quality and professional folkloric entertainment to the NIU (Northern Illinois University) community and aims to educate students and other audience members about the history of Mexico.

c. The purposes of the Anthropology Graduate Student Council shall include the following four items: To represent the graduate students on all matters pertaining to their general welfare as graduate students. To provide for and promote graduate student extracurricular activities. To provide for the welcoming and orientation of new graduate students. To provide a formal means of communication among graduate students.

d. The Pleiades Chapter of Mortar Board Inc. is a senior honor society utilized to acknowledge seniors with distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service. Its purpose is to facilitate cooperation among these recognized seniors to contribute to the self-awareness of its members, to promote equal opportunities among all peoples, to emphasize the advancement of the status of all persons, to support the ideals of the

university, to advance a spirit of scholarship, to recognize and encourage leadership, to provide service, and to establish the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas as individuals and as a group.

D. Chairperson of Campus Life and Greek Affairs' report

1. There are none.

E. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report

1. There are none.

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

1. There are none.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Chief of Staff's report

1. Chief of Staff Innis is recognized.
2. Chief of Staff Innis states
 - a. "I Completed one on one meetings with all the directors to keep them focused and up to date before the school year ends.
 - b. Reminded all the directors about their transition materials and provided the prompt to them, so those should be completed for them by Historian Babcock's deadline next Friday. I will also remind them during the middle of this week to ensure they are staying on top of them.
 - c. This last month we:
 - i. Appointed 2 Supreme Court Justices:
 - a. Tyler Murray
 - b. Maximilian Jarmula
 - ii. Appointed a new director of governmental affairs:
 - a. Montez Soliz
 - d. Transition materials for the next chief of staff are complete, plus I will be around to help the process run more smoothly in the fall.
 - e. Please keep track of your hours if you are in a paid position in SGA (Student Government Association), as well as clocking in and out. "

B. President's report

1. There are none.
- C. Vice-President's report
1. There are none.
- D. Treasurer's report
1. There are none.
- E. Deputy Treasurer's report
1. There are none.

CABINET REPORT

A. Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs

1. Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs Crawford has submitted a written report to be read by the Speaker.
2. Speaker Douglass reads,
 - a. "To the members of Senate,
 - b. As an update for everything I have been working on, I am currently preparing transition materials for the next Director in my position. This includes event ideas I have been working on, updates about the environmental affairs committee, and so on.
 - c. As mentioned in one of the Executive Branch's meetings, the winner of the Black Student Union Pageant is hosting a garden plot near the Center for Black Studies and has requested the SGA (Student Government Association) Environmental Affairs Committee's help with supplies, and volunteers. That is all for now, thank you!
 - d. Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs
 - e. Paris Crawford"

B. Director of Organizational Development

1. Director of Organizational Development Blalock has submitted a written report to be read by the Speaker.
2. Speaker Douglass reads,
 - a. "For my position, I have been working with Vice President Lee and the entirety of the Organizational Oversight Committee to swiftly, and accurately

approve all organizations. In the past, we worked on a large mission of updating all organizations on campus and ensuring that their Constitutions / Bylaws meet the standards of NIU (Northern Illinois University) and Student Government. This consisted of all 250+ organizations that we have listed in HuskieHub.

- b. Since then, I have been diligently working through HuskieHub and Workflow to ensure that all new submissions for organizations on campus are attended to. I check HuskieHub every single day and send out emails as often as I possibly can based on the response time of those that I am in contact with.
- c. To this date, I have submitted a quite substantial number of organizations to Cole Hensley and the OOC committee with the help of Vice President Lee. My goal is to continue to push organizations that fully meet the requirements up to the OOC and help everyone that I possibly can obtain full recognition / approval here on campus.
- d. FUTURE ENDEVOURS
- e. In the near future, my goal is to continue to create a positive presence on campus for SGA by attending as many events within the calendar as possible. Pushing our presence and support to the student body is a big priority of mine. This positive relationship between SGA and all student organizations will allow us to offer more support for those who know that they can reach out to us and utilize all of our support / services.
- f. Along with this, I am working on putting together a very comprehensive list of Transition Materials for the following school year. This will include a copy of all documents / materials that I have used, enabling me to do my job swiftly and accurately.”

C. Director of Diversity, Equity and, Inclusion

- 1. There are none.

D. Director of Athletics

- 1. There are none.

E. Director of Student Life

- 1. There are none.

F. Director of Public Affairs

1. There are none.

G. Director of Academic Affairs

1. There are none.

OLD BUISNESS

A. SR54037

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item A. A resolution to reference the Bylaws in the Constitution so that updates to the number of Senate seats no longer require two (2) pieces of legislation.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English introduces the bill.
 - a. Do you remember the bylaws that we voted on last week then the constitution amendment last week that made changes to where it points to seats that is this.
6. Senator Martin is recognized.
7. Senator Martin states
 - a. Please explain.
8. Clerk English is recognized.
9. Clerk English states
 - a. Right so my bad I should actually explain what this bill does is it changes two locations within the constitution instead of stating a specific number in this case 35 it points to a place in the bylaws where the election policy is laid out.
10. Historian Babcock motions to table to next week
11. So moved.
12. Seconded

B. SR54038

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item B. A resolution for an amendment that fixes general issues with the SGA (Student Government Association) Constitution

2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English introduces the bill.
 - a. As the title suggests this resolution mostly fixes general issues within the SGA (Student Government Association) constitution specifically it fixes an issue where currently based on the language of the constitution the president if requested by either the vice president for the treasurer to have to help them in any matter this restricts that to be any manner connected to the SGA (Student Government Association) it also fixes some formatting things which is why you see all of the duties it also sets the time to be central Standard Time which is the time that we're in it also does a couple of other things that should be readily apparent.
6. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
7. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. Does the current language of the constitution say that the Speaker is responsible for minutes?
8. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. Right now the constitution does state that the Speaker is responsible for minutes.
9. Clerk English is recognized.
10. Clerk English states
 - a. Yep that's correct what this resolution would change is that it changes it from the Speaker needing to prepare and publish the minutes to it is the Speakers responsibility for the minutes to be prepared and published which means it can be delegated to someone within the Speaker's office such as the Clerk this is what is currently done within the Senate so this just aligns the constitution with what the Senate currently does.
11. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
12. Senator Kolawole states

- a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
13. Clerk English is recognized.
14. Clerk English states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
15. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
16. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. [Do we know why the constitution was originally written this way and does not negate what the Clerk has to do]
17. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. [it does not negate what the Speaker currently does nor the need for minutes.
 - b. This language within the constitution was probably written before there was a Clerk, I can look back through older copies of the constitution to see if this is the case]
18. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
19. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. [Why is it relating to the SGA (Student Government Association)]
20. Clerk English is recognized.
21. Clerk English states
 - a. the language of it is relating to the USA because currently right now the vice president or treasurer could ask the president to with the random box and if the president refused technically the vice president and treasurer could take this up to the Supreme Court ultimately get the president impeached this is not how the president is meant to function what this language is just does make sure that any boxes that is requested to affected by the vice president or treasurer of the president do you have to be related to the SGA (Student Government Association) so that the president cannot be asked to do stuff that is outside of the purview of SGA (Student Government Association).
22. Sargent at Arms Corpuz is recognized.
23. Sargent at Arms Corpuz states

- a. [A friendly amendment was made mikes cut out, so this is not able to be recorded]
- 24. Clerk English is recognized.
- 25. Clerk English states
 - a. Friendly amendment accepted.
- 26. Sargent at Arms Corpuz is recognized.
- 27. Sargent at Arms Corpuz states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
- 28. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. Just to clarify the rules and procedures committee does not approve prove or deny most absence requests what I do is for any absence request that comes in I click a little box that says accept or reject and most of them I accept.
 - b. However if there was an extreme case or the senator felt that I was doing unfairly it would then go to rules and procedures where they would vote on it this is only happened in the case of multiple absences and that the ultimate removal from Senate which was decided on by the rules and procedures committee.
- 29. Senator Martin is recognized.
- 30. Senator Martin states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
- 31. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
- 32. Clerk English is recognized.
- 33. Clerk English states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
- 34. Speaker Douglass states

- a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
35. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
36. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. This package changes it from the committee instead of the Speaker.
37. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. Yes
38. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
39. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. Is this what has been done?
 - b. Is that not giving one person too much power?
40. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. [I do understand your concern as the Speaker does chair the rules and procedure committee however if the case were to come up where there would be a conflict of interest, or a senator believed that the Speaker was taking up too much power they could go to the Supreme Court]
41. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
42. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
43. Clerk English is recognized.
44. Clerk English states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
45. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]
46. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
47. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. Motion to table until next week
48. Second

C. SR54039

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item C. A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Chairperson Hensley is recognized.
5. Chairperson Hensley introduces the bill.
 - a. These orgs came up to Organizational Oversight Committee
 - b. The goal of the Ballet Folklórico group is to provide students with the opportunity to explore the beauty of Mexican heritage and culture through dance. This group is dedicated to delivering high-quality and professional folkloric entertainment to the NIU community and aims to educate students and other audience members about the history of Mexico.
 - c. The purposes of the Anthropology Graduate Student Council shall include the following four items: To represent the graduate students on all matters pertaining to their general welfare as graduate students. To provide for and promote graduate student extracurricular activities. To provide for the welcoming and orientation of new graduate students. To provide a formal means of communication among graduate students.
 - d. The Pleiades Chapter of Mortar Board Inc. is a senior honor society utilized to acknowledge seniors with distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service. Its purpose is to facilitate cooperation among these recognized seniors to contribute to the self-awareness of its members, to promote equal opportunities among all peoples, to emphasize the advancement of the status of all persons, to support the ideals of the university, to advance a spirit of scholarship, to recognize and encourage leadership, to provide service, and to establish the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas as individuals and as a group.
6. Historian Babcock is recognized.
7. Historian Babcock states

- a. I know the president of AGSC (Anthropology Graduate Student Council) they have been working very hard to make it work and its cool to see them make it real.
8. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
9. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. Motions to table until next week
10. Seconded
11. Senator Martin is recognized.
12. Senator Martin states
 - a. Since table do we need to all be here next week
13. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. No because they are here this week.

D. SR54040

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item D. A resolution to confirm members of the 55th Session Cabinet.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Senator O'Brien is asked to the stand.
5. Senator O'Brien states.
 - a. Thanks
 - b. I am a sophomore expected to transfer.
 - c. I have been doing everything I can to be more involved.
 - d. I have been head of CAB (Campus Activities Board marketing
 - e. I wanted to make CAB (Campus Activities Board a place of fun for students
 - f. As Director of Public Affairs I would transfer CAB (Campus Activities Board ideas into SGA (Student Government Association)
 - g. Instagram, Flyers, push marketing for SGA (Student Government Association)
 - h. This large should be able to fill seats for Senate.
 - i. All start with marketing what imp assonate about
 - j. Help set up debates and org fairs I have experience with event planning.

- k. All over campus not just HSC (Holmes Student Center) brand SGA (Student Government Association) so even freshman know what it is.
 - l. Working relationship with Northern Star
 - m. Director of Public Affairs stepped down so no relationship.
 - n. We want to increase transparency.
6. Senator Martin is recognized.
7. Senator Martin states
 - a. You said you want to control the northern star narrative.
 - b. Northern star is true.
 - c. Students do not trust us.
 - d. How would you want to control the narrative without lying?
 - e. What is your opinion about that?
8. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
9. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. Northern Star requests comments we could have a connection to increase the transparency.
10. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
11. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. Do you think you will be able to submit all reports in a timely manner?
12. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
13. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. I currently have to report to advisors.
 - b. And I do not see a problem.
14. Historian Babcock is recognized.
15. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Biggest thing in growing Instagram in CAB (Campus Activities Board
16. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
17. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. How do we set the right image
18. [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]

19. Senator Musgraves is recognized.
20. Senator Musgraves states
 - a. Have you attended any of the meet the senators' events?
21. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
22. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. I attended one.
 - b. I have heard attendance has been low.
 - c. There is no point if there are only two candidates to spend money on.
23. Senator Musgraves is recognized.
24. Senator Musgraves states
 - a. How would you draw students to those and senators as well?
25. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
26. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. Recruiting I am good at you have to tell them why.
 - b. I am good at it you have to look at it from their perspective.
27. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
28. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. If you receive this role, will you continue CAB (Campus Activities Board
29. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
30. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. No I would not.
31. Senator Martin is recognized.
32. Senator Martin states
 - a. What would you do to fix our leadership and what have you been doing, your events are good have you advertised at those events?
33. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
34. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. My sole purpose as senator was not to advertise SGA (Student Government Association)
 - b. I did focus for CAB (Campus Activities Board
35. Clerk English is recognized.

36. Clerk English states
 - a. Largest challenge
37. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
38. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. To get the ball rolling I faced the same thing with CAB (Campus Activities Board I expected it will be harder and that I might not get it to where I want it. You do it by showing students the purpose.
39. Chairperson Rogers is recognized.
40. Chairperson Rogers states
 - a. Attendance how do you value that and how do you intend to care about that.
41. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
42. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. For meetings it is about buying so if meetings are better attendance will be better
 - b. In regards to events there has been a mix-up for planning events since CAB (Campus Activities Board is supposed to be the planning the events not SGA (Student Government Association)
 - c. SGA (Student Government Association) should not put on their own events they should highlight them instead.
43. Senator Martin is recognized.
44. Senator Martin states
 - a. We need to show that we do events so that we can hear what students need.
 - b. That is how you get them to join.
45. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. Was there a question in there?
46. Senator Martin is recognized.
47. Senator Martin states
 - a. We have to put on one Director of Public Affairs event.
48. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
49. Senator O'Brien states

- a. I meant more like events that the CAB (Campus Activities Board should put on there is a different on hosting versus attending events
50. Senator O'Brien leaves the stand.
51. Historian Babcock is recognized.
52. Historian Babcock states
- a. I am in favor of this candidate.
 - b. Over summer
 - c. Tabling
 - d. This will function as a learning point.
53. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
54. Deputy Speaker Allen states
- a. Candidate is highly qualified CAB (Campus Activities Board page is good
 - b. I want to see similar for SGA (Student Government Association) in future.
55. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
56. Senator Kolawole states
- a. This candidate is a no brainer.
 - b. They can see lapses.
 - c. I like that he can advocate.
 - d. He has good qualities.
57. Senator Musgraves is recognized.
58. Senator Musgraves states
- a. I am in favor CAB (Campus Activities Board) has hosted great events.
 - b. He has the right mind set and I think he will do good, look what he has done for CAB (Campus Activities Board
59. Sargent at Arms Corpuz is recognized.
60. Sargent at Arms Corpuz states
- a. I am in full support especially as he will step down as CAB (Campus Activities Board
 - b. Table until next week 3:11pm.
61. Historian Babcock motion for recess
62. So moved.

63. Seconded
64. Senator Martin is recognized.
65. Senator Martin states
 - a. Why now
66. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. I do not know.
67. Senator Musgraves, Senator Martin, and Chairperson Rogers are not back yet.
68. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. Motion to add [The mics were not picking up sound at this time in the recording, so this question was not able to be recorded in the minutes]

NEW BUSINESS

A. SB54037

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item A. A bill to update the Bylaws to update seat reassignment process to clarify the procedure for updating the number of seats.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English introduces the bill.
 - a. What this bill does is it creates a way to automatically update the constituency seats there is a minimum and a maximum the maximum is 75 that was chosen because at one point there was roughly double the amount of students going to US there are now and that is roughly double the amount of seats are currently here this one is the one that I'm most of them change as 75 is quite high the minimum was chosen so that each college would always have one seat as well as housing and at large would have one seed as well as each underserved student center having one seat it also requires when the Board of Elections meets for the first time that they would have to update the number of seats this shouldn't be too hard because they already have to meet anyway.
6. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

7. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. What is the benefit of this bill? Why are we changing everything?
8. Clerk English is recognized.
9. Clerk English states
 - a. Right now it is really touchy feely of what we want seats to be. There is no such method, there is not based off of anything. When Historian Babcock updated it they noticed that there was a lack for graduate students and it didn't reflect the 5000 graduate students as they were only represented by two seats this gives a way to update it automatically because as of now every time you update it you would need to do legislation and in this legislation we've had I believe two pieces that have changed the number of seats what this does is that it makes it so that this is done automatically every year when the Board of Elections meets when planning the election so it shouldn't add too much extra work for them I also as long as I'm able to and would be appointed to it I promise to be and be contactable if not fully on the Board of Elections 100% so I will be able to walk them through it because the first time it will probably be a little bit confusing but it is beneficial as it is repeatable way that automatically does it instead of having to change it every year as the student body increases or decreases.
10. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
11. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. I am just thinking is that not the duty of the Senate and Democrats sees themselves.
 - b. In my opinion this should be something that has done every year
 - c. in my opinion every session has their opinions every year and that should be reflective in the SGA (Student Government Association), and I do not think it necessarily should be automatic for example I could see there is a struggle of this with a specific number of minimum and maximum.
12. Clerk English is recognized.
13. Clerk English states

- a. to your point these are by law changes so if the next Senate decides that these are all stupid and Chris stone making change it
- b. you mention a good point send it does bring in different ideas and they could want different kinds of representation however I think this bill allows those changes but when those changes are not needed it can get updated automatically to reflect the student body.

14. Speaker Douglass states

- a. I do want to add on that point if the question is whether the seats should be calculated on a year-on-year basis this resolution does allow for that also this has been emailed to everyone.

15. Senator Martin is recognized.

16. Senator Martin states

- a. for a quick clarification this bill will make it so there's if there's a student at large there's only a certain of seats that's more to reflect the population of the students and each section right so therefore you guys will have enough to have to fit all of the schools or grad schools as well as the rest of the seats to make it more fair is that what this is doing

17. Clerk English is recognized.

18. Clerk English states

- a. yes and no it is providing the guidelines for number of seats however it does allow for university at large because some students might find themselves more connected with the university at large rather than a specific major especially undecided students or freshmen just coming in as they might not be sure on their major and might be changing it soon so the at large category will still be there because I recognize some students don't fully connect with their college that still gives them that option it does not fully do away with the university at large constituency.

19. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

20. Senator Kolawole states

- a. I need your opinion on this in your opinion is this a bill an important one or is it just nice to have.

21. Clerk English is recognized.

22. Clerk English states

- a. it is. In my personal opinion it is both it is a nice to have bill because it makes processes easier, and it is also important to have because this way it'll update the number of seats and kind of seats in step with the student population and the student wants to be a representative body this is a way to do that. Is it as important or is this the most important bill it could be no, but I do think it is important to have Senate be automatically be representative of the student body?

23. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

24. Senator Kolawole states

- a. Are the numbers stated in this bill based on our current student population?

25. Speaker Douglass states

- a. the numbers would be based by these Senate based on spring numbers is that right.

26. Clerk English is recognized.

27. Clerk English states

- a. the numbers will be based on predicted incoming student levels it lined up nicely with our current number of seeds I did not do that fully intentionally I did check it against our current number of seats because I think our current number of seats are laid out well but that was not fully intentional it is set to be reflective of the student body it's not like you know we have two engineering majors and when the student body doubles we don't necessarily assume that all 2000 of those go into engineering it will be reflective of where those students are going into.

28. Sargent at Arms Corpuz is recognized.

29. Sargent at Arms Corpuz states

- a. To clarify Clark English you said that the incoming freshman are taken into account for percentages calculations.

30. Clerk English is recognized.

31. Clerk English states

- a. So what the Board of Elections would do is that they would reach out to the enrollment management office and marketing communications since those are under the same office and they would get the predicted student enrollment numbers for the next year and that includes hospital freshmen. Because incoming freshmen could be like OK I don't really like NIU (Northern Illinois University) or I got accepted to MIT and I wanted to go there they'll be reasons that it won't be 100% accurate especially since the our predictions of the future and there will be about six months up however it is the most accurate data that they would have access to

32. Sargent at Arms Corpuz is recognized.

33. Sargent at Arms Corpuz states

- a. that I believe that there are students who change their majors right when they come to college so there could be students who say I want to be engineering majors but then want to go into another area how would we fix that.

34. Clerk English is recognized.

35. Clerk English states

- a. well what this does is that whenever the BOE meets they will look at enrollment numbers and they say hey all these engineers switched over to business and it would reflect that in the number of enrolled students so it would not immediately be apparent in the seats, but it would be updated to reflect that. I could not think of a way to do it in real time and that could have issues of itself if it is so changeable. This should not skew the data so much that it would not be fixable in the next session.

36. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

37. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. enrollment management and marketing communications do factor in those numbers when making those predictions in the year I would like too also.
- b. make a motion to table this until next week.
- c. Seconded 3:38pm.

B. SB54037

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item B. A resolution to modify the constitution to limit the ability of the president and Senate to a point justice of the same organization.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English introduces the bill.
 - a. Hello everyone. Based off of our appointments of two Supreme Court justices who are both in mock trial there is on currently the Supreme Court right now another Supreme Court Justice who is also in mock trial which means there are three justices all in the same word that org can never unless the Supreme Court size is increased go to the Supreme Court. What this resolution does is it requires the Chief Justice to communicate to the Speaker and the president the various organizations that justices are in and it would prevent the president and Speaker from appointing and approving those appointments of members who are in the same org as a majority of the justices on it this would prevent times in the future based on appointments where these Supreme Court justices could not meet due to the fact that a majority of them are on that arc that's what this does I also talked with Chief Justice Jarvis about this and they have looked over it and approved of all of it except for the way that the Chief Justice determines the types of organizations we did talk about this idea just not the specific wording. So I am waiting on is part C which we did talk about we did not have time to approve it.
6. Historian Babcock is recognized.
7. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Tabled to next week.
 - b. So moved seconded.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. Sargent at Arms Corpuz is recognized.
2. Sargent at Arms Corpuz states

- a. in new business you have SB54037 instead of SB54041 it is also an old business that is why I am looking at it
3. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. we fixed it and thank you for bringing it up.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English states
 - a. I numbered it wrong, that is why it is wrong, it should be labeled as SB54037.
6. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. The bill we introduced is SB 54037 and the resolution is SR54041.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. April 22nd from 11am-3pm Holi festival from ISA they have shirts
3. Senator Musgraves is recognized.
4. Senator Musgraves states
 - a. April 15th BSU (Black Student Union) is hosting Rep Your Org doors open at 6pm
 - b. Good Girls is hosting Pie the Good Girls location is TBD please support but do not pie me.
5. Historian Babcock is recognized.
6. Historian Babcock states
 - a. The ceramic scale is coming up for ceramics club it is not next week but the following week so if anyone wants to buy my stuff it is coming up.
7. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
8. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. May 5th is Engineering Senior Design Day from 12-4pm
 - b. A bunch of Engineering people presented their products.
9. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
10. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. For edible campus project three sister garden projects Stevens building over summer It needs watering which will count for service hours.
11. Clerk English is recognized.
12. Clerk English states
 - a. Please send me all your stuff from announcements
 - b. Take back the night at the Egyptian Theater 6:00pm April 17th.
 - c. Chem Demo later tonight at 6:30 in Faraday 143
13. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
14. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. CAB (Campus Activities Board is hosting slime making event on 4/20 in oasis pit of the HSC (Holmes Student Center)
15. Speaker Douglass is recognized.
16. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. "Effective at 11:59 pm next Wednesday, April 19th, I will be resigning from my position as Speaker of the Senate. This means that Deputy Speaker Allen will become Speaker. I will be remaining in the Senate as a Senator for Underserved Student Communities, and on the Board of Elections, until the conclusion of the 54th Session. I will spend next week helping incoming Speaker Allen adjust to her new role and updating the transition materials that I was given when I took office in 2021.
 - b. Several months ago, I began to consider stepping down in mid-April to turn my attention to graduation and my coursework, since my academics are my top priority. After almost four years of service to the Student Government Association, I feel I have made mistakes, but also a lot of progress towards making SGA (Student Government Association) accessible, equitable, and functional. I thank you all for your time and dedication to SGA (Student Government Association), and I wish you all luck in your future endeavors here at NIU and beyond."

ADJOURNMENT

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

CLOSING ATTENDANCE

1. **Voting Members Present:** O'Brien, Gibbons, Hensley, English, Colvin, , Woodward, Allen, Olson, , Kolawole, Althoff, Musgraves, Martin, Corpuz, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos, Rosales, Rogers
2. **Voting Members Absent:** Ashton, Perez-Hernandez
3. **Voting members Excused:** Jovanovich
4. **Candidate Members Present:**

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Clerk English on April DAY, 2023

Senate Approved on April 21st 2023