

Minutes of the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

April 7th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Douglass at 2:06pm 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, Colvin, Woodward, Allen, Olson, Perez-Hernandez, Kolawole, Jovanovich, Althoff, Musgraves, Corpuz, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos
4. **Voting members Absent:** Hensley, Ashton, Rogers
5. **Voting members Excused:** English, Martin

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

1. Quorum is met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. There was a request for public comment using a written report that was not sent.

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 vote.
7. The motion is passed, and the minutes are approved.

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. There is none.
6. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to add part E-G to new business.
7. So moved.
8. Seconded.
9. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
10. There is none.
11. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
12. Vote passes business is added.
13. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to move agenda items A-E to old business.
14. So moved.

15. Seconded.
16. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.
17. There is none.
18. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote.
19. Vote passes business is moved.
20. Historian Babcock is recognized.
21. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Did you receive the written report from Vice President Lee
22. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. Oh, right I forgot do you want to make a motion to add that.
23. Historian Babcock is recognized.
24. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Yep, I make a motion to add the report from Vice President Lee
25. Seconded
26. This is added.
27. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote to approve the agenda.
28. The motion is passed, and the agenda are approved.

SPEAKER REPORT

1. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. You all received an email about NIU [Northern Illinois University] Cares Day.
 - b. Email from Fred Williams about phishing scams and wanted people to know there was a student account that was compromised and tried to access anywhere apps.

Because of this AnywhereApps will be moving behind a VPN [Virtual Private

Network] those on campus this should not change but if you are off campus, it will affect your ability to access AnywhereApps.

- c. Please let others know about it.
- d. We have seen an elevated level of phishing so please read and follow the warnings on legislation.

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. Over the past week I have been looking over everyone's legislation. If you have not turned it in, you have until Tuesday or Wednesday of next this week depending on when your meeting was last week.
 - b. Alongside that just a reminder that everyone who wanted to complete all of their things and receive a word and SGA [Student Government Association] merge by the end of this year you have to complete all of your work and legislation by the end of the year
 - c. outside of that I have taken it upon myself to create a framework for our social media and creating a framework for how we interact with staff and administration on how we create event staff.

- d. if you want to get something done for the end of the year now is the time to register later you might not be able to do it
- e. we also worked on the Finance Committee to make sure we got as much out to as many students as possible if you are interested or know people who are in student orgs make sure you let them know to make sure they fill out annual funding stuff, so they are able to get funding for next year.
- f. I also worked with Sladjana to make training information for senators next year. Let me know if you have ideas for trading because I want to hear what you guys think.

B. Historian's Report

1. Historian Babcock is recognized.
2. Historian Babcock states
 - a. please give me your transition materials I have now received transition materials from chairperson Hensley and Chris English. If you are a chairperson, you need to give me transition materials I know where you work. If you need help e-mail me teams me, I can go over what you need to fill out, but you are running out of time to get those in that is due the last week of April so please get those into me.
 - b. secondly raise your hand if you were graduating this semester or in the fall of next semester Clark English it after the meeting if you wouldn't mind sending a list of the people who raise their hands we are in the process of ordering stole so if you want to SGA [Student Government Association] stole that is what this is for we're going to hopefully order enough so we don't have to

keep ordering them every year but we just wanted to check on who needed them for this year.

3. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
4. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. It's a really kind gesture thank you.

C. Clerk's Report

1. Clerk English is recognized.
2. Clerk English states
 - a. Hello! As you might have noticed there are a lot of resolutions and a lot of bills today, I am sorry, but also a lot of the bylaws and constitution do need a change. It will be a longer session today and that is my fault.
 - b. People who are graduating please raise their hand. I will then say your name. If I do not say your name, please leave your hand up and call me out. English, Olson, Perez-Hernandez, Kolawole, Babcock, Douglass did I miss anyone cool cool I will get you that list tonight.

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Chairperson of Board of Elections' report

1. Chairperson of Board of Elections Olson is recognized.
2. Chairperson Olson states
 - a. We had candidate meetings on April 5th 6th and 7th.
 - b. We will be holding makeup meetings on April 10th and 11th this upcoming Monday and Tuesday
 - c. Please reach out to me or election commissioner DeMeuse

- d. Paperwork for all candidates is due April 12th at midnight.
- e. The special election will be on April 19th.
- f. And our inauguration will be on May 11th at 4-6 PM

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

1. Vice-Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Allen is recognized.
2. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. DI is rainbow rave occurred Friday right after the tornado warning which is why it was really excited that we had such a good turnout which I believe was largely due to the efforts of the people working catering who invited their friends and who are just super awesome. This is just during the event making sure the lights were set up, making sure we have good tablecloths making sure the space had good aesthetic.
 - b. A lot of what we did already occurred we did not have a meeting this week due to people not being able to make it, but we will be doing events soon.

C. Chairperson of organizational Oversight's report

1. Chairperson of organizational Oversight Hensley is recognized.
2. Chairperson Hensley states
 - a. We met this past Wednesday next Friday we will have three orgs coming up the following Friday hopefully we will have two orgs coming.

D. Chairperson of Public Affairs' report

1. There are none.

E. Chairperson of Environmental Affairs' report

1. There was none.

F. Chairperson of Campus Life and Greek Affairs' report

1. There are none.

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

1. There are none.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. President's report

1. There is none.

B. Vice-President's report as read by Speaker Douglass

1. "Dear Senators,
2. Hello and good afternoon. Over these past 4 weeks, my main focus has been centered around the creation of transition materials for the Vice Presidential position. I have been able to complete the majority of the transition material packet so that we may have this on file for future Vice Presidents.
3. Additionally, I have been working with Director Blalock to approve the Organizations that are in Huskie Hub. We are now down to 12 Organizations in WorkFlow, but will be working to approve these and any new Organizations that come through in the upcoming weeks.
4. Lastly, I have been working to update the ByLaws with new bills that have been input into Huskie Hub.
5. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. My email can be found in outlook under klee10@niu.edu
6. Sincerely,
7. Vice President Kaylin Lee"

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.

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

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 Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs

1. There is none.

OLD BUISNESS

A. SB54032

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item A.: A bill to require the Student Trustee to give a report to the Senate twice per semester concerning the Board of Trustees.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
 - a. So the main idea behind this is the student trustee is our main link between us and the board of trustees. This just gets the student trustee to talk to us similar to other executive board positions.
4. Historian Babcock is recognized.
5. Historian Babcock states
 - a. chairperson Olson and I discussed this after the election process, and it makes sense is an elected position and the rest of the elected positions have to show up to meetings and report one way or another, so it just aligns this position with all the other executive branch members.
6. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
7. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. I'm extremely in favor of this legislation as I never saw the student trustee before the election process, and it should not require students going through the trustees write up to find out what is done, and it was really well written so well.
8. Chairperson Olson

a. I want to get a gauge on it do you think twice this semester is too much or is it good.

9. Clerk English is recognized.

10. Clerk English states

a. I think twice this semester is good as trustees meet once a month and that is for meetings Lester so having to talk about the trustee meetings once every two meetings, I think is a good number.

11. Historian Babcock is recognized.

12. Historian Babcock states

a. I agree if anything I think it should be more, but I think two is a good number to start with

b. Maybe if the Senate decides next year, it is easier for the trustee to have it be more similar to the rest of the directors and the rest of the executive court.

That is something we could change in the future but for right now I think two is good.

13. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

14. Senator Kolawole states

a. I also think two is a good number because it is after two meetings so after two meetings, they can tell what they have heard and condense it down a little bit.

15. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.

16. There is none.

17. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 15 yays // 0 nays // 1 abstain.

18. This passes

B. SB54033

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item B.: A bill to update Part I, Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Historian Babcock is recognized.
5. Historian Babcock states
 - a. This is a part of the piece of legislation that is just a part of all of my bus overhauling that we are doing as I do not think if we did one it was work for anyone this is just overhauling part one of the bylaws.
 - b. actually Clerk English which I think there already was a bill to update the clerk and historian position to be paid positions I know they have not been updated in the bylaws but I know there has been a build to update them all so I think it would be more consistent to just remove that and future remind Vice President Lee.
6. Clerk English is recognized.
7. Clerk English states
 - a. Friendly amendment accepted.
8. Historian Babcock is recognized.
9. Historian Babcock states
 - a. The bylaws we're doing is to make Senate and the SGA [Student Government Association] as a whole to be more efficient this also could allow for senators to eventually have a stipend new line what this bill does is consolidate

something so that positions can do more as some positions currently don't have enough to fill their time and they need 10 hours, so this condenses a little bit.

10. Clerk English is recognized.

11. Clerk English states

- a. historian Babcock and I worked through this and a lot of changes uh we have a reason for why it changes why they are but you saw how much this was in just one section this is all the bylaws so as by historian Babcock said we didn't want to do it in one so we're going to split it out over the next coming weeks but it is something that's needed we apologize for all the length and time that will be spent on it but it's something that's needed. A lot of these changes are already in real life being utilized so the bylaws and governing documents as a whole should reflect reality of the SGA [Student Government Association]

12. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

13. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. I think this makes sense there's been no necessitation of these positions within the past couple of years and it hasn't been filled I just think it makes sense.

14. Senator Althoff is recognized.

15. Senator Althoff states

- a. Just for clarification is this removing the Deputy Speaker and chief of staff.

16. Speaker Douglass states

- a. No this is removing the assistant to the Speaker as well as the assistant to the President.

17. Historian Babcock is recognized.

18. Historian Babcock states

- a. Just for clarification we haven't had anyone filling these positions if anyone was here last year that is what Ethan DeMeuse was doing last year and basically it's just someone who's being there to assist the President and the Speaker with work and with e-mail load but honestly we haven't had the need for one this whole year and it would just make things a little bit easier so that would that position does it just generally assist those various positions.

19. Speaker Douglass states

- a. To provide a little bit more history background there's been a concerted effort in the SGA [Student Government Association] to streamline our processes and as are you have said before Senate used to be a lot more paperwork and a lot longer and in sending down our responsibilities it has made things more experience more efficient because of this there's been less of a need for direct assistants.

20. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

21. Senator Kolawole states

- a. Was the historian paid before?

22. Speaker Douglass states

- a. The updates to the bylaws did not get into there we did vote last year to make sure the historian was paid but they are not in the bylaws, so we will make sure it gets done on the clerical side but that is why that friendly amendment was made because they were already changed it is just not in the bylaws.

23. Clerk English is recognized.

24. Clerk English states

- a. I do just want to clarify it is not just removing the assistant to the President and Speaker as well as adding payment to the historian and Deputy's Speaker and clerk it also does a couple of other things that are mainly just cleaning stuff up. Mainly some grammatical stuff there is something about student fee monies in part K which is basically a duplicate of part A, but it is just wordier than part a period then there was also some removal of some things that are not done anymore such as shell execute and plan a spring retreat for senators that has been done for a while. We are also removing some other things that are being done remove I just wanted to make it clear that it is not just removing those positions.

25. Senator Althoff is recognized.

26. Senator Althoff states

- a. I just have a concern I know that we do not utilize the executive assistance now, but I am thinking about the future if the President or Speaker did need an assistant if you remove them now, they do not have someone to go to to add that back.

27. Clerk English is recognized.

28. Clerk English states

- a. in the future additions one thing will be added is adding temporary rules there will be a way for the President to add and maybe the Speaker but I doubt it so there will be a way to install a temporary position so there will be a way to

add an assistant also it has not been utilized for many many years so it's good that we're thinking forward but this is not a position that has been filled in a long time and it would take a whole 10 hours and right now there are people who do not use up that full 10 hours and they can be given those jobs instead of the assistants

29. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

30. Senator Kolawole states

- a. I want to clarify something about the paid officers moving from 4 to strike out to multiple officers. Why do you change it from 4 to be more general?

31. Clerk English is recognized.

32. Clerk English states

- a. that is a good question the reason behind that is to allow for easier additions in the future as if we ever change the number of paid positions, they now have to also look through the legislation and find all the places where it gives the number this just makes future legislation easier. I would not be opposed to keeping it in, but it is there to make it easier to add more roles in the future.

33. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

34. Senator Kolawole states

- a. Good idea

35. Senator O'Brien is recognized.

36. Senator O'Brien states

- a. I do not know I am just worried like Clerk English that if you want to shrink that bill to add the temporary assistant, I am just worried that it is not brought

up in this same bill because then how is there any insurance that that change will take place. Also, a lot of things have gone away and been slow since the COVID breakdown, so I just feel like that if you remove it there is no hope to get back to that time of prosperity executive assistants.

37. Chairperson Jovanovich is recognized.

38. Chairperson Jovanovich states

- a. with all due respect this should be a bill that should be passed this has not been utilized for our past semester for the past four years so I don't think we should worry about the wording of the future based on the wording now especially as they haven't used it and we should allocate these funds and we should remove this funds and I encourage everyone to vote yes on this bill

39. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

40. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. Do you know when this position was last utilized?

41. Speaker Douglass states

- a. not in my time so not for at least four years

42. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

43. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. All these positions need at least 10 hours per week.
- b. if there is the necessary for a new position to be created in the next piece of legislation will include that so they will have the ability to do that

44. Historian Babcock is recognized.

45. Historian Babcock states

- a. as well if anyone is concerned about this position being erased we keep really good records so we have all of the pieces of legislation from the last two sessions so if anyone is really concerned in the next few years or in the future of SGA [Student Government Association] about wanting an assistant there would be able to look back and see you when this legislation was passed and see what it was before so they would be able to add it back in if it was necessary so this is completely reversible if it's found to be needed

46. Speaker Douglass states

- a. it's occurring to me that a lot of people weren't here in the Senate when Ethan Dennis was the assistant he was the assistant because the workload was a lot more to transition from COVID that transition was challenging I will say now not just the fact that this is the second year but also now that we have policies in place I don't see the need for the assistant to the Speaker I can't speak on the President we do have President Majeed so if someone wants to make a motion to suspend their for Roberts rules of order we couldn't ask him but if we could in my opinion remove it I don't see an issue of the future and I do think the rest of the organization kind of just properly and the positions are properly supported there's no need for these assistant roles

47. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

48. Senator Kolawole states

- a. are we inviting the President to come speak or are we voting to remove the positions?

49. Speaker Douglass states

- a. both were voting to remove the positions as well as other things.

50. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

51. Senator Kolawole states

- a. You made a comment about removing Roberts rules and what that was about.

52. Speaker Douglass states

- a. To include a non-Senate member in the discussion we would have to suspend Roberts rules of order so if someone wants to make that motion, we can ask President Majeed.

53. Senator O'Brien Motions to suspend Roberts rules of order.

54. Seconded

55. Speaker Douglass states

- a. Just to clarify, all we are doing is allowing in person not incentive to speak please follow the Robert rules of order anyway and if needed I will reinstate the Robert rules of order.

56. President Majeed is recognized.

57. President Majeed states

- a. Obviously I do not have an executive assistant myself during my transition predecessor which was President Collins he recommended I take an assistant and every President before him has recommended taking assistant the vast majority of Presidents the reason they have not taken that assistant themselves when they are put into that term they have a limited number of time to select their cabinet for summer which means they don't really have the time to assign the assistant so they don't have one over the summer when fall comes around

they have a chief of staff they have other students that can help them I was very lucky to have to have queried bats who was a veteran of SGA [Student Government Association] he served on the legislative and executive side so we have that chief of staff position already kind of from that chief of IT [Information Technology] so he helped me out and then took on the responsibilities of chief of staff and then he helped transfer in chief of staff in his

- b. I don't know if people remember last year's executive position there were a lot of issues and if I was in that position, I would have hired an executive assistant a lot of it is very hard to do without all the help you can possibly get certain chiefs of staff provided certain chief of staff don't provide it.
- c. I do think assistant would be incredibly helpful, but I am kind of in the middle there is an option for President or if the temporary appointment would be helpful but if not, I do see this position as possible, but it is really a case-by-case basis.

58. Clerk English is recognized.

59. Clerk English states

- a. If the reason for the assistant is the chief of staff is not doing their job, is not it better to go through the discipline process for that instead of hiring a new person who needs to work 10 hours a week, I mean I do not know how much they would work for it but

60. President Majeed is recognized.

61. President Majeed states

- a. yeah that would be better but if the chief of staff is doing their full job with the full 10 hours they wouldn't have the time to help the President in that assistant role so in that scenario that you mentioned yes that would help but and that would take place but in future reference sake if the chief of staff does their whole job it would be difficult for them to take on the role of assistant

62. Robert's rules are resumed.

63. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

64. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. Just as far as the Speaker side go if there was assistant to the Speaker I honestly would not have the amount of work I need to complete 10 hours of work a week and I can see the same issues of all of you from the role in the role of the President as we've had Vice Presidents who weren't able to complete the 10 hours a week that instead would just be roles could be added to the Vice President
- b. I do not really see the need for these positions as President Majeed has said people have chosen not to have somebody before for years.

65. Chairperson Jovanovich calls to question

66. This passes

67. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 9 yays // 8 nays // 0 abstain. (The Speaker voted to break the tie)

68. This passes

C. SB54034

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item C.: A bill to update the Bylaws for consistency in the number of signatures required for Senate candidates.
2. So moved.
3. Seconded.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English states
 - a. In the bylaws there are two different amounts of signatures there is 25 needed somewhere in 50 somewhere I chose 50 because that is the one that we did this year
6. Historian Babcock is recognized.
7. Historian Babcock states
 - a. To clarify this discrepancy is from covid as it was harder to reach out to people but covid is gone so we moved it back up to 50. It is good to keep it consistent, this is a good piece of legislation.
8. Clerk English calls to question
9. This passes
10. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 16 yays // 0 nays // 0 abstain.
11. This passes

D. SB54035

1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item D.: A bill to update the scoring system for Senator of the Year to include grammar errors identified to the Speaker or Vice President.
2. So moved.

3. Seconded.
4. Clerk English is recognized.
5. Clerk English states
 - a. Earlier this session we pass some legislation that allowed grammatical and duplication stuff to be done by Speaker, Deputy Speaker and, Vice President this just allows senators to gain points for finding these discrepancies and encouraging an overview of the bylaws. I chose a lower number but not the lowest number because before this legislation would have easily passed which meant each time someone saw something like this, they would get five points now it is only two that is the spill.
6. Historian Babcock is recognized.
7. Historian Babcock states
 - a. Clark English, do you want to provide some context for senators who might not know about the point system.
8. Clerk English is recognized.
9. Clerk English states
 - a. Sure the point system is for throughout the year various senators can earn points from doing various SGA related activities such as going to events doing community service doing legislation at the end of the year you can earn a senator of the award which is just a nice little extra thing that you can put on your resume and be like boom look at what good things I did.
10. Speaker Douglass states

- a. I think to clarify 2 the rate stands right now there are two criteria in this matrix you can see that there is one for authoring and one for your legislation passing so that is what clerk English is referring to.
- b. Before you would have had to create a whole new legislation that would have been authored and then passed this would provide the points for that brought to the Speaker which would have given them points before and now no longer does

11. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any discussion or debate.

12. There is none.

13. Senator Kolawole points of order.

- a. Senator O'Brien has a question.

14. Senator O'Brien is recognized.

15. Senator O'Brien states

- a. I would suggest changing it from one point to two as it is just grammatical and punctuation and if community service is 1 then this should not take too much.

16. Clerk English is recognized.

17. Clerk English states

- a. that friendly amendment is accepted thank you.

18. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 16 yays // 0 nays // 0 abstain.

19. This passes

E. SB54036

- 1. Speaker Douglass calls for a motion to discuss agenda item E.: A bill to simplify changes to the number of Senate seats by referring to a different place.

2. in the Bylaws
3. So moved.
4. Seconded.
5. Clerk English is recognized.
6. Clerk English states
 - a. Right now there are a lot of places that reference the same thing over and over and over again instead of having to do all bunch of legislation where you have to find that in the bylaws all you have to do is change the election in the bylaws this will make it easier as it won't change the entire bylaws, you'll just have to change one section of the bylaws.
7. Historian Babcock is recognized.
8. Historian Babcock states
 - a. This just kind of goes along with all of the changes that we're still making.
 - b. and that makes reasoning our governing documents a lot easier to the public it also helps those who are not as versed in the language that we are used to
 - c. It makes it a lot easier for everyone and it will also help senators coming in to read our bylaws.
9. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
10. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. I do not really get what you are trying to do what is this bill about
11. Clerk English is recognized.
12. Clerk English states
 - a. No, you are good

- b. right now, in article 1 section two-part A it says the number of Senate seats as
30
- c. In this session alone I believe the number of senator seats has changed I
believe twice this just makes it so senators don't have to go through the entire
bylaws behind every single little spot where the number is referenced it will
just do it automatically so all this does is change that number being 30 to
something that references the elections part of the bylaws making it automatic

13. Speaker Douglass calls for a vote. 6:00 PM 16 yays // 0 nays // 0 abstain.

14. This passes

NEW 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. in the Bylaws
- 3. So moved.
- 4. Seconded.
- 5. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.
- 6. Deputy Speaker Allen states
 - a. Have you sent those out yet?
- 7. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. I do not believe I did thank you for reminding me.
- 8. Clerk English is recognized.

9. Clerk English states

- a. You know what we just voted on it's this but for the constitution it's in two spots and it's the same thing we just voted on but for the constitution I can talk a little bit more to by Speaker Douglas time it's specifically changes the number to go to this part of the bylaws and then in Section 3 of that same place changes the numbers to reference the bylaws that's what it does

10. Historian Babcock makes a point of order.

- a. In the version you sent it does not show the highlighting changes, at least in what I see so far.

11. Speaker Douglass states

- a. Can someone check that please?

12. Historian Babcock is recognized.

13. Historian Babcock states

- a. Chairperson Ramos just showed me theirs and it is good, so it is good.

14. Senator Woodward is recognized.

15. Senator Woodward states

- a. Mine is highlighted.

16. Speaker Douglass states

- a. The agenda that we get next week will have the highlights in there, so it will be in the agenda next week.

17. Clerk English is recognized.

18. Clerk English states

- a. If you want to look over, it more directly before the agenda reach out to me and I can send it to you.

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. in the Bylaws
3. So moved.
4. Seconded.
5. Clerk English is recognized.
6. Clerk English states
 - a. To how the bylaws have to be fixed so does the constitution this is a lot of simple changes right now technically the President if asked by the Vice President or treasurer if asked to do something has to assist in any manner this is not fair to the President.
 - b. this also fixes the formatting and makes it consistent
 - c. it changes the time to be CST instead of eastern mountain time
 - d. it changes the way we do absences as Speaker Douglas does not currently stand up here and say blah blah has missed X meetings most of these changes just work to better reflect what we do currently as senator such as changing how Speaker Douglas does not write the minutes, I do that is my job as clerk

GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. Historian Babcock

- a. I do not know if anyone saw this week in Tennessee two out of three.
 - b. OK so the situation was that a bunch of students showed up to the capital to protest and support changes to against gun violence specifically regarding the shooting that happened in Nashville they were not being disruptive, but they were present and three representatives stood up with them those representatives were then promptly removed from the room and since then two of them have been permanently removed from the session for standing with their constituents
 - c. that is a big old problem since those were elected officials who were standing on the sides of their constituents who elected them, they were not screaming or yelling they were simply standing with their constituents and the fact that that happened is completely wrong.
2. Senator O'Brien is recognized.
 3. Senator O'Brien states
 - a. I would like to make a motion to Jacob berg's public comment because I believe it should have been.
 4. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. I do have the e-mail from him we can read it as announcement would that work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. We received a public comment from Jacob Burg at 2:09 PM. We are reading this as an announcement in lieu of not submitting a timely public comment.
 - b. From Jacob," Statement for the Record NIU SGA

- c. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Senate today and I apologize that I am unable to be in person to make these remarks.
- d. My name is Jacob Burg, and I am a proud alumni of NIU and the Student Government Association. Previously, I served as a Senator, the Chair of the Board of the Elections, and Deputy Speaker of the Senate. In the two years of my service, I worked with the City of DeKalb to expand bus stops in the West Annie Glidden neighborhood, established a permanent free clothing resource on campus now known as the Huskie Closet, oversaw a 45% percent increase in voter turnout, brought accountability to the organization, and built bridges between Student Government and the student body.
- e. This past year, I have attempted to follow the SGA, excited to see what was in store now that I am no longer involved. I am sad to say that what I have observed is an objective failure by Senate leadership to effectively govern or be transparent with the student body. One prime example of this is the most basic function of Senate leadership, to have and maintain basic public record.
- f. As you all know, the Senate body is required to make notice of meetings and must promptly prepare and file minutes to record the public's business.
- g. Of the 23 meeting agendas there have only been 15 posted minutes. That is over 6 weeks, not including last week's minutes, of the student body's business done in this room hidden from the student body. 11 of the 15 existing minutes were not even posted to the public in the same month as the meeting. 4 meeting minutes from September and October were just posted 4 months after the meetings took place.

- h. The responsibility for this record keeping falls directly to the Clerk - under supervision of the Speaker. After several pieces of legislation came through the Senate clearly meant for holding SGA members accountable, Senate leadership not only failed to follow internal procedure laid out in the Bylaws, but shockingly handed out a promotion. This is not a singular failure but is part of an unfortunate pattern of advancing personal missions rather than maintaining order for the student body's business. Passing legislation to only follow it when it aligns with your view is unserious governing.
- i. At the end of my term last year, I told the Northern Star in an interview that I had hoped to see transparency and accountability in the future of the SGA. I am disappointed to see often times rash decision making, a breakdown of governing norms, and a whole leadership trip to Louisiana paid for by the students of NIU.
- j. Putting personal friendships aside, I write to you all today to encourage you to think strategically about the upcoming Speaker elections and the implications leadership has on effectiveness of the Senate and the SGA.
- k. The Speaker is by far the most powerful person in Student Government. From working alongside the University, setting the legislative calendar and priorities, creating University and Senate committee appointments, to ensuring transparency and accountability, the Speaker is supposed to set expectations and maintain unbiased order.
- l. Governance is not pretty and neat, it is messy and deliberative. It is not reactionary but carefully considered. The SGA Constitution and Bylaws are not perfect, but healthy governance requires a Speaker dedicated to a nonpartisan role

- and this includes to the rules and standards that you may not want to follow – friends or not, ideology or not. Each of you is here to serve your student body and community. I strongly urge you to use your best judgment and to elect someone you may not expect as next in line, someone outside of leadership, and hopefully someone who is dedicated to structure, order, and impartialness.

- m. I thank you all for your time and should you have any questions regarding my comment, feel free to reach out to me via email at Jacoblvburg@gmail.com”
2. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
3. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. Will a copy of the speech be available?
4. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. They will be in minutes.
5. Senator Kolawole is recognized.
6. Senator Kolawole states
 - a. When are we taking our group SGA [Student Government Association] pictures?
7. Speaker Douglass states
 - a. The Board of Elections is organizing our inauguration for the upcoming administration on that same day we will be hosting our final SGA [Student Government Association] banquet and at that time we will do a little bit more time on pictures.
8. Historian Babcock is recognized.
9. Historian Babcock states

- a. Karoshi Con, which is the convention hosted by the anime club is hosted in this building. I do not know the times off the top of my head, but I think it is a majority of the day thing.

10. Speaker Douglass states

- a. It ends at 4:00 PM and it starts early in the morning.

11. Historian Babcock is recognized.

12. Historian Babcock states

- a. and this is more of a personal thing, but Deputy Speaker Allen and I are working with the pig anthropology museum to do an exhibit on food insecurity so if you have any ideas about that or your club works with something like that, please let us know.

13. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

14. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. I do get emails from people about the legislation they were trying to write about emails following through with them not being able to get the data in a timely manner.
- b. I do want to make sure people know how to write legislation and there are templates in the SGA [Student Government Association] teams. Please copy from the template do not type directly into it otherwise it will turn into pure chaos.
- c. If you are currently working on a piece of legislation and you are not sure if you can get on next week, just send it my way so I can give it an edit and if there is anything that is missing or necessary all edited and then we will post it.

- d. if there is an organization that you are a part of that does space interest and Husky food pantry still needs people till the end of the year so if you need service those are great options to use

15. Clerk English is recognized.

16. Clerk English states

- a. hello next Friday from 6:30 until late chemistry club will be hosting their annual chem demo it'll be in Faraday Hall 143 it'll be a fun event tell anyone you know in DeKalb especially if they have children, it's a fun event it's based around avatar the last Bender it will be at 6:30 in Faraday 143 it'll be fun you should go.

17. Senator Kolawole is recognized.

18. Senator Kolawole states

- a. the College of engineering and engineering technologies has senior design day on May 5th it's a Friday and it's taking place in the Convention Center what it is the senior design is a group of students work on a project and then our showcasing it at the senior design day so you get to see a lot of cool and awesome stuff and a lot of wow bunch of cool stuff you all should go I will be continue to make this announcement until the week of May 5th

19. Deputy Speaker Allen is recognized.

20. Deputy Speaker Allen states

- a. apart from that I've been working with my organization first nations and alliance to get indigenous representation on campus with that the 20th I will be having a meeting with a member of council from the river band of Potawatomi which is our local or closest local tribe which is trying to get a presence here on campus

and work with NIU [Northern Illinois University] to build a relationship for indigenous students.

- b. and on the 21st there will be a live and online available meeting with chef Sean Sherman involved in the edible campus program here on campus about how native food groups can be used here on campus by students and indigenous students I'm working with Courtney Gallagher and Brian flowers to build a location for three sisters gardening in connection with this three sisters is corn squash beans if you're somebody who like scanning or someone who knows an org who wants to help this would be a great thing to go help with we do need assistance

21. Senator Althoff is recognized.

22. Senator Althoff states

- a. This upcoming week Phi Kappa Si and Sigma nu are hosting Phi Si snoodles this is on April 12th from 8:00 PM to 12:00 AM is that 1114 Blackhawk AVE or at Sig Nu
- b. There is a \$5 entry fee, there is some good pasta, some good garlic bread y'all should go.

23. Clerk English is recognized.

24. Clerk English states

- a. Hello! this month is and are you is doing a bunch of earth week stuff a lot of that is clustered around the week of the 17th those events start on Thursday the 13th
- b. on Thursday, the 13th there is a campus cleanup by I believe in order here let me look here it will be from 4:30 to 6:30

- c. on that Friday there is a market cleanup from 5:30 to 6:30 as well as that Saturday next on Monday the 17th EWB and ELS [Engineers Without Borders and Environmental Law Society] are planting trees along Barsema and engineering building and that will start at 12:15 and end with a plant-based lunch after that
- d. SGA [Student Government Association] is hosting a Cole Fountain cleanup from 3:00 to 5:00 PM and before that starts there will be a walk you will cities climate teaching from 2:15 to 3:15pm
- e. on Thursday April 20th SGA [Student Government Association] is doing a rec center cleanup from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- f. on Friday the 21st there will be an East lagoon restoration starting at 2:00 PM during that sweet and EWB and SWE [Engineers Without Borders and Society of Women Engineers] we're doing a MLK [Martin Luther King Jr.] Commons cleanup from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM unfortunately that is during the Senate meeting but if we end early, we should definitely go to either of those then
- g. the next Friday and Saturday are also market cleanup days

25. Historian Babcock is recognized.

26. Historian Babcock states

- a. Clerking list reminded me that there are going to be meatless Mondays for the month of April on different dining halls throughout campus this week it was at Neptune next week it will be at Patterson at alternates between each dormitory per week as someone who has been a vegetarian their whole life it's been super awesome to see how NIU [Northern Illinois University] I started to integrate stuff like this especially how it is slightly difficult to eat on campus with dietary

restriction if someone has access to those dorms please do it if someone is will be there taking a survey so this will help getting advocacy and increasing these options that would be super cool

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 3:12 PM6:00 PM

CLOSING ATTENDANCE

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

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Clerk English on April 7th, 2023

Senate Approved on April 21st 2023