

Minutes of the  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
September 16, 2022

**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. **Voting Members Present:** O'Brien, Gibbons, Hensley, Colvin, Ashton, Woodward, DeMeuse, Allen, Olson, Kolawole, Innis, Althoff, Musgraves, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos, Rosales, Rogers
3. **Voting members Absent:** English

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

1. Quorum is met.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Public comment has been delayed to next week.

**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 requests a motion to approve the agenda.
2. Seconded
3. So moved
4. Speaker Douglass
5. The motion passes minutes are approved.

**SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Speaker Douglass begins with a mention of the fact that there are community events for homecoming and asks members of the SGA if anyone would be interested in starting a team which can be found on the Homecoming page if googled NIU homecoming. Speaker Douglass also recommends that everyone reads the Bylaws to know their duties as Senator.
2. Speaker Douglass also expounds on his efforts to meet with all the committee leaders and the meetings he has already had with the chairs and members of the committees.

**SPECIAL REPORT**

1. Speaker Douglass welcomed Doctor Clint Michael Reneau to speak.
2. Dr. Clint Michael Reneau starts by sharing his excitement to speak with the SGA as well as stating that he has interest in sharing some advice on the roles of leaders. These include that when stating that we are in charge we also state that we are requesting others to follow us and that takes a lot of rough times as a leader will experience small failures or "hits". There will be people who cheer us on and there

will be hits. People may act as armchair quarterbacks and this is difficult to experience as these individuals do not have the experience of the game but one the opposite end of this there are some positives, individuals who may have a real joy for the game. The next piece of advice from Dr. Reneau is to put our neck out for others when we have the short time to be in charge and to represent our role always. Leading starts with being a very good listener as even when we cannot act it is important to hear people's concerns. Leaders cannot have egos as we as a group must operate as a team. Operating with the idea of "We over me" and supporting others so we can be supported by them later. Networking when we can. A good leader knows that we personally are the most important work we can ever do and pay attention to how we are showing up and being intentional.

3. Speaker Douglass asks if there are any questions.

4. There are none.

5. Dr. Reneau extends the offer for Senators to come speak to them whenever they may have questions. As well stating that they would enjoy talking over meals or coffee even to make sure that Senators have a chance to speak even if they have a very full schedule.

6. Speaker Douglass also gives Dr. Reneau's email out to the group to contact him.

#### **OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER REPORT**

1. Speaker Dallas recognized deputy speaker DeMeuse.

2. Deputy Speaker DeMeuse asks again for people to attend their one on ones.

3. Speaker Douglass asks if there are questions.

4. There are none.

5. Speaker Douglass recognizes Historian Babcock

6. Historian Babcock notes that they have emails members of the SGA who were interested in the housing petition and asks for them to respond.

7. Speaker Douglass asks if there are any questions.

8. Senator Rogers is recognized and asks that Historian Babcock send that email again but to their student account.

9. Speaker Douglass concludes the Office of the Speaker reports.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Speaker Douglass recognizes Chairperson Ashton to speak about the Campus Life and Greek Affairs Committee detailing how they have decided on their weekly meeting time and have made Senator O'Brien their vice chair and Senator Innis their secretary as well as reviewing the bylaws.

2. Speaker Douglass asks if there are any questions for

3. Speaker Douglass recognizes Chairperson Javonovich of environmental affairs who talks about the possible movement of their current meeting time from 11 Tuesdays to another time as Senator Myrhe was unable to make that time. They also discuss the election of Clerk Allen to Vice Chair and Historian Babcock as secretary. Chair Javonovich also discusses their efforts to make the can event occur via VC. Allens plan to include Dunkin in their efforts. Involvement otherwise will be added later.

4. Speaker Douglass asks if there are any questions for Environmental Affairs.

5. There are none.

6. Speaker Douglass recognizes Chairperson Hensley to discuss how Organizations oversight has decided to meet on Thursdays at 6pm have elected Senator English to vice chair and Senator Colvin as secretary and asks if any senators are interested that they come meet with them.
7. Speaker Douglass asks if there are any questions?
8. Speaker Douglass states that if members of the senate present are not currently in any committees, then they should meet with him as well as stating that University Committee appointments will be made this coming week.
9. Speaker Douglass recognizes Historian Babcock who states that the Student Art Collection Committee has not met this week but will be meeting next week.
10. Speaker Douglass ask id there are any questions.
11. There are none.
12. Speaker Douglass recognizes Chairperson Ramos who talks about Public Affairs Committee recognizes that they have not yet met and asks anyone with an interest contact them.
13. Speaker Dallas asks if there are questions
14. There are none
15. This concludes committee reports

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

1. Speaker Dallas recognizes President Majeed.
2. President Majeed talks about the efforts of the executive branch to increase outreach to fill their cabinet as well as that being what they have made efforts for the las few weeks. They anticipate the increase in appointments as they have been meeting with underrepresented students' groups around campus. It is also their goal to achieve an open communication line with these groups. In terms of projects, they are currently working on the mind matters campaign to help people find more of the on-campus services to serve them as they do not have a staff, they are currently unable to put more work towards this affect. President Majeed is also working with Chief of staff Batz to help students to get involved with the current election cycle.
3. Speaker Dallas asks if there are any questions.
4. There are none.
5. Speaker Dallas recognizes Vice President Lee.
6. Vice President Lee begins talking about how over the past four weeks they are trying to get organizations approved within the new huskie hub. They state that recently they found most groups to be lacking the new nondiscrimination policy in their bylaws. They have worked alongside Alex Pinter in efforts to maximize their time in office. They also have volunteered to do service at the family weekend this weekend and working to update the bylaws.
7. Speaker Dallas asks if there are any questions.
8. There are none.
9. Speaker Douglass recognizes that if their laptop shuts down and halts the recording of the minutes again, they may cry and requests the record show that.
10. Speaker Douglass recognizes Treasurer Morgan.
11. Treasurer Morgan begins with how they want to increase communication between the student body and SGA and asks that Senators inform their constituencies about

funding as they have found that this is lacking. As well they have attended two Finance meeting that have approved funding for multiple people as well as assisting one group is using funds from a business. Treasurer Morgan recognizes that specifically Senator English of Engineering is very good at sharing this information with his constituents. They also share that they will advise any groups with small budgets to stretch that money and to message them with any questions.

12. Speaker Dallas asks if there are any questions.

13. There are none.

14. Speaker Douglass recognizes Chief of Staff Batz

15. Chief of Staff (CoS) Batz talks about most of their efforts have been focused on interviewing individuals for directorships specifically that they have already had one candidate passed specifically Director of DEI Olivia Newman. They add that they have plans to completely fill the cabinet by October. They continue to note that they have been working directly on Subitup to adjust payroll in the note that many individuals do not correctly log in and out when they must leave, and this is to decrease the strain on the understaffed HR.

16. Speaker Douglass asks if there are any questions for CoS Batz.

17. Speaker Douglass recognizes Historian Babcock for questions.

18. Historian Babcock asks if the CoS Batz has a successor planned.

19. Senator O'Brien is recognized and asks how many directorships are still open.

20. CoS Batz lists the directorships that are still open are Public Affairs, Governmental Affairs, community engagement, and environmental affairs.

21. That concluded Executive Branch Reports.

## **CABINET REPORT**

1. Director Deyo is recognized.

2. Director Deyo begins with stating that we have been very busy adjusting and making big changes to the tailgates by limiting glass and bringing in a food truck (burritoville) to decrease the effects of alcohol and increase the amount of people going into the game which will be the first-time food has been at the tailgates in 15 years. They are adding additional port-o-potties so people will use those instead of using random locations around the stadium. They are working together with anti-??? Prevention week involving marching band, FSL, and ROTC. They will also be tabling speakers and having a cross campus discussion. Also, they have added street signs to Greek row and many smaller things. They also drafted policy to decrease risks to students.

3. Speaker Dallas asks if there are any questions for the Director of Greek affairs.

4. There are none.

## **OLD BUISNESS**

1. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to hear SR54013: A resolution to confirm director appointments.

2. Candidate Anthony Heavens speaks about himself majoring in business and finance, being from west side of Chicago, being the first man in his family to go to college. Candidate Anthony Heavens plans to fix the issue of vibrancy by increasing on campus student life and increasing the services and the number of services on campus. They intend to help student life and being available to hear what students

have to say Candidate Heavens was a director of a mentor organization off campus. As Candidate Heavens has experience with poor mental health, they are interested in increasing access to mental health services across campus. They used to be on the campus activities board and assisted in getting the tricycles. Their main interest is in improving campus life by sitting on multiple committees and listening to student issues.

3. Speaker Douglass recognizes senator Innis who asks what they did while serving on CAB

4. They served as the huskie of traditions and got the trikes on campus, helped with karaoke, helped with homecoming events, and handed out sanitary products to women and brought them to homeless shelters.

5. Senator Kolawole is recognized and asks what Candidate Heavens does outside of school.

6. Candidate Heavens responds that they assisted inner city youth in a mentoring program.

7. Historian Babcock is recognized and asks apart from the student voice night what other plans Candidate Heavens has.

8. Candidate Heavens states that they would like to put ballot boxes will passes to fill out what people are struggling with anonymously.

9. Historian Babcock follows by asking what Candidate Heavens seeks to do after college.

10. Candidate Heavens responds that they are interested in working in finance and equity.

11. Senator Kolawole is recognized and asks where Candidate Heavens has done collaborations.

12. Candidate Heavens responds that making student leaders more accessible is one of the struggles they seek to deal with.

13. Chairperson Ramos is recognized and asks what Candidate Heavens seeks to improve on campus specifically.

14. Candidate Heavens seeks to improve on campus housing specifically in Stevenson where more POC live.

15. Senator Kolawole asks how Candidate Heavens would overcome difficulty

16. Candidate Heavens responds that while they recognize that there will be failures they will adapt and overcome in these situation.

17. Chairperson Ramos is recognized and asks what candidate Heavens class schedule looks like

18. Candidate Heavens responds that they have one in person class Monday through Thursday and three more online classes but that they are very flexible.

19. Senator Musgraves is recognized and asks what kind of community service Candidate Heavens has done

20. Candidate Heavens responds that they recently served at the Dekalb foodbank and assisted with clothes also they have done a lot of other work as with their mentorship.

21. Speaker Douglass asks if there is a motion to enter a closed session

22. Senator Javonovich is recognized and makes a motion to enter a closed session

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

24. Senator Javonovich is recognized and states that they would prefer a closed session as it would be much easier to discuss the candidate without them present.

25. Historian Babcock is recognized and asks if the candidate could be removed outside of a closed session.

26. Chair person Ramos is recognized and states that as the senate has set a precedent to enter a closed session we should keep doing that.

27. Senator Kolawole is recognized and agrees.

28. Senator Rosales is recognized and also agrees.

29. Senator Kolawole is recognized and asks if the senate must always discuss before entering a closed session.

30. Speaker Douglass adds that there is a danger to enter closed session and they have been advised by legal not to.

31. Deputy Speaker Demeuse is recognized and asks/ notifies the body that there is a risk of the senate being sued for entering closed sessions.

32. Senator O'brien is recognized and enters that the senate should not risk being sued and that we should still have a full conversation.

33. Senator Javonovich calls to question.

34. In the opinion of the chair the motion fails.

35. Discussion begins

36. Speaker Douglass opens the discussion on the candidacy of Anthony Heavens.

37. Chairperson Javonovich is recognized and states that they intend to vote yes as this candidate is a no brainer.

38. Chairperson Ramos is recognized and voices her support for the candidate.

39. Senator Olson is recognized and adds their agreement with the previous two speakers.

40. Senator Kolawole is recognized and voices their positive opinion of the candidate.

41. Senator Rogers is recognized and voices their support for the candidate and candidate Heavens interest in assisting POC specifically those who live in Stevenson as well as the issues on mental health.

42. Senator Colvin is recognized and makes a motion to call to question.

43. Seconded.

44. So moved.

45. With 15-0(due to the software used this vote may not be 100% accurate) this resolution passes.

46. Speaker Douglass requests a motion to hear SB54007: A bill to amend the requirements of members of both the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch leadership positions.

47. Seconded

48. So moved

49. Speaker Douglass recognizes Deputy Speaker DeMeuse

50. Deputy Speaker DeMeuse states that this would extend a 20-question quiz on the rules of order to the executive.

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

52. Senator Javonovich is recognized and asks if this would be for all leadership positions, and this is a new thing.

53. DS DeMeuse is recognized and states that they would have two attempts and that they could have more is asked that language was just copied from previous leadership roles position listing in the bylaws.

54. Senator Jovanovich is recognized and makes a motion to call to question.

55. Seconded.

56. So moved.

57. Speaker Douglass asks if there is any further debate.

58. There is none.

59. With a vote of 16-1 and no abstentions this resolution passes.

#### **NEW BUISNESS**

1. There is none

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. There is none

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Douglas states that he added all members of the Huskie Hub for Senate which is where there are old agendas, leave of request forms, and the location to send students who have questions that cannot be answered by the senator themself.

#### **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 adjourn at 3:18pm.

#### **CLOSING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Voting Members Present:** O'Brien, Gibbons, Hensley, (Colvin??), Woodward, DeMeuse, Allen, Olson, Kolawole, Javonovich, Innis, Althoff, Musgraves, Douglass, Babcock, Ramos, Rosales, Rogers

2. **Voting Members Absent:** English, Ashton,

3. **Candidate Members Present:** Edwin

#### **MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Clerk Babcock on September 21st, 2022