CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Domke at 6:02 PM in the Sky Room of the Holmes Student Center. Speaker Domke asks Clerk Jamal Pasha Mohammed to conduct a roll call of the Senators. All members were present except; Senator Clayton-Taylor, Senator Lagioia, Senator Lesyk, Senator Mitchell, Senator Agro, Senator Jusino, Senator Lezon, Senator Wahlstrom and Senator Williams.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Speaker Domke asks Senator Summers to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Speaker Domke motioned to approve 01/25/15 meetings minutes. Seconded
   i. Minutes Approved

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Speaker Domke motioned to move item A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H from new business into old business. Seconded.
   i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT

A. Speaker Domke requests everyone to fill out and submit the Absentee Form if they are going to be absent.
B. Speaker Domke also requests everyone to utilize the Blackboard website especially to have a look at the agenda for the next meeting. This will help us in referring to the organization’s bylaws and constitution and be prepared to ask relevant and necessary questions during the meeting.
C. Speaker Domke informs that President Baker recently had his Town Hall meeting where he discussed on various topics like the retention rate, program prioritization, etc.
D. Speaker Domke informs that they will be discussing on possibilities for online elections for the Student Association and also Rules and Procedure Committee is looking into changing the election policies

EXECUTIVE REPORTS
A. Joe Frascello- President of Student Association is recognized  
B. We are here to unveil Student Association Strategic Plan and Huskieline Transportation system.  
C. We are going to talk on three important point of the strategic plan:  
   a) Experience: The SA firmly believes that all NIU students believe that all students deserve a college experience which is fun, engaging and comfortable. They also need experience which is affordable, academically rigorous and practical.  
      Huskielink is like Facebook for students and student organizations at NIU. Huskielink can be used to fill up forms online and get rid of most of the paperwork. It allows organizations to communicate with the student association and with the other students. Thus, this will exponentially increase marketing and publicizing of events across the university.  
   b) Safety and Health: We will be having number of preventative and proactive programs to make sure no sexual assaults occur on campus. “Safe Passage” organization will be coming up and give a brief on how they have been working with NIU and DeKalb community from past 30 years and how they are going to help victims of sexual assaults. We would like to increase the number of counselors in the NIU to counsel students who are going through mental health disorders.  
   c) Sustainability: We want to make sure that the important events and awareness programs are improved, innovated and presented to the students so that they are not forgotten and awareness continue to exist among the students. We need senators to come up to Student Association and give their opinion on what goals they think should be important for SA and the time frame in which those goals must be achieved.  
D. Ben Donovan- Director of Governmental Affairs is recognized.  
E. NIU is operated under Shared Governance system. Shared Governance includes the faculty, staff and students who coordinate and help each other in taking crucial governance decisions for the university. This allows students to voice their opinion on what happens on campus and the Student Association is tasked with the responsibility to be the representative of the students in the NIU shared governance system.  
F. One of the most important aspects of shared governance is our continuing operation of the Huskieline Bus System. It has been run by students for students, and the Student Association is excited to announce the new changes in the bus system.  
G. These changes to the bus system have occurred because the Lucinda Avenue is going to be extended past the residence halls till the Convocation Center. We have started taking feedback from the students and analyze new bus routes around the campus.  
H. Brett Williams – Director of Mass Transit is recognized.  
I. We are going to revamp Huskieline in three different ways:  
   J. a) We are going to create new routes based entirely on student feedback. This will be done by creating focus groups and the first focus group will be held this Wednesday in CLB, room no: 180 at 7:00pm.  
   b) We are going to look into possibility of having new huskie bus designs. This can be done by having new paint jobs which can help us portray new attitude or portray that we are student focused. We can have annual contest for students to participate and give their ideas on how new buses should look like.
c) We are going to have new Bus Tracking System (GPS) soon.
K. All student organizations should enroll into Huskielink. If any student organization is not signed up by March 23rd then that organization will be suspended.
L. Senator Birt: When are they going to extend the Lucinda Avenue?
M. Hopefully, that will be finished by next Fall
N. Senator Cappi: What steps have you taken for new Bus tracking system?
O. We had looked into 4 different companies, evaluated them in summer and decided the best two companies in fall semester. We then created a work specification which got transformed into procurement. And, after analyzing the results of both the companies, we decided the best one for the job.
P. Senator Phillips: Is there any focus groups besides the one that has already been announced
Q. Yes, we are going to have many other focus groups, but presently we do not have any perfect dates to announce the meetings.
R. Senator Kreml: Who have you reached out for these focus groups?
S. We have publicized our first focus group on the social media. Since, it is only in the starting stage, we will be trying to attract more students in the future for feedback.
T. Representative from Safe Passage is recognized.
U. Safe Passage is DeKalb County’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Agency serving the DeKalb county community since 1981. Some of the services we provide are 24 hour hotline/crisis line, emergency shelter and long-term transitional housing program for survivors of domestic and sexual violence who need help getting back on their feet. We provide legal and medical advocacies to victims and help them through legal system. We conduct counseling for individuals, groups and children. We are trying to become more recognizable among the student bodies at NIU so that they could approach us if they have been a victim of domestic or sexual assault. All our services are free of cost and confidential. Hence, all the students are encouraged to approach us if they have been a victim of any such violence.
V. Senator Coronado: What are the other concerns that have been brought to your attention besides the sexual and domestic assaults on campus?
W. There has been a lack of coordination between various student organizations and Safe Passage as they wish to solve the matter on their own terms. Since we have been handling these situations since past 30 years and we quite more experienced. Therefore, it will be much better if they approach us and allow us to handle the situation.
X. Senator Grace: We have Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault committee in our public service sorority and I would like to get your contact details.

CABINET REPORTS

A. Joe Palmer- Director of Public Affairs is recognized.
B. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Basketball games and these games help us promote our University across the country. It would be great if the games are watched with packed houses as that would send a positive signal to the television audience on how well the games and the athletes are promoted by the students at NIU.
C. I have been working on promoting the Basketball through HuskieLine Bus System by reimaging them. All students are encouraged to give their feedback for the new reimaging of the bus system.

D. Alexander Martin - Director of Academic Affairs is recognized.

E. The main goals to be achieved for this semester are
   a) General Education Reform which has already been discussed in the senate meeting during last semester.
   b) I have attached a file to the agenda which gives a brief on how the student fee is utilized and where it is being used. We have done a lot of research to get that information and everyone are encouraged to have a look at it
   c) We are going to start an initiative on changes in the repeat grade policy. I have been researching on other repeat grade policies being used in other universities.
   d) Administrators are going to make UNIV 101 compulsory for all freshmen. We have tried to advertise this news and make students know about this change.

F. Senator Grace: Center for Black Studies are going to have a meeting with the directors about how some of the classes that we offer in the center as well as the other cultural centers across campus do not work really well with the pathways, so some of those classes are going to be cut out. I just mentioned this so that you could research more on it and know how it is going to work.

G. I will make sure I will bring this up in my next meeting.

H. Senator Kreml: How are you specifically involved in this General Education reform?

I. I am one of the two students that are involved in this reform and it is called as PLUS task force. We are given the responsibility to give the administrators the perspective of the students.

J. Senator Grace: What steps have you taken to make sure students are getting engaged and their feedback is being taken into consideration for this reform?

K. I have been interacting with students on campus, my classes or to students with whom I live with to get their feedback.

L. Senator Grace: I would advise you to interact with Director of Cultural Affairs and get his opinion to get better feedback.

M. In addition to that, if any of the students would like to be part of any of these committees, they are encouraged to join them and they can find information online.

N. Ben Donovan - Director of Governmental Affairs is recognized.

O. The City Council meeting was held this week and we got a positive response regarding the lowering of entrance age to bars. There was no definitive answer on whether any of the council members would support the resolution but they were interested in facilitating the discussion on this topic.
A. Speaker Domke: Rules and Procedure meeting happened just before the senate meeting and we had discussion on research done in other schools regarding their election policies. We are going to continue the research this week and come up with the three strategies from which the best strategy will be selected.

B. Senator Summers: We had a meeting on Friday where we discussed on ideas for the diversity week. We have mailed around 30+ cultural organizations around the campus and we got few responses. We will be sending out few senators for these organization’s meetings to get more ideas on what to be done during the diversity week

OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion to table SAR46042- A resolution to support lowering the entrance age to bars.
B. Seconded.
C. Motion SAR46042- A resolution to support lowering the entrance age to bars has been tabled.
D. Motion to hear SAR46047- A resolution to appoint Maggie Anderson Senator at Large.
E. Seconded.
F. I am a transfer student and freshman at NIU. I am doing my major in Political Science with emphasis on Public Law. I wanted to be the voice of the people who are blind. I would like to be a part of CL&GA and improve the transfer orientation and the parking spots at NIU.
G. Motion to hear SAR46048- A resolution to appoint Jessica McKay Senator at Large.
H. Seconded.
I. I am a transfer student and sophomore at NIU. I am doing my major in Geology and Environmental Geosciences. I have been member of NIU women Softball Club, Stevenson residential hall council, Geology club and also an employee at NIU campus childcare. I would like to be a part of Senate because not only I want more involved with DeKalb community but also helping in improving the campus and make it more renowned around the world. I would also like to be a part of senate because I would like to represent the science community as I feel they are under-represented in the senate.
J. Senator Coronado: Which community would you like to be a part of?
K. I would like to a part of public affairs committee.
L. Senator Leigh: What are the issues or concerns that you would like to address as a transfer student?
M. I would like to improve the orientation process as I felt it wasn’t much informative about NIU and I, individually had to explore to find out about NIU and the student organizations.
N. Discussions on Maggie Anderson
O. Senator Kremil: I have known her for a few weeks and I have realized that she is very dedicated about the campus and once she heard about the SA and senate, she was ecstatic and wanted to be a part of senate. I think she deserve to be a part of senate.
P. Motion to vote SAR46047- A resolution to appoint Maggie Anderson Senator at Large.
Q. Motion passes.
R. Motion to vote SAR46048- A resolution to appoint Jessica McKay Senator at Large.
S. Motion passes.
T. Motion to vote SAR46049- A resolution to support the investigation on lowering the entrance age to bars.
U. Motion passes.
V. Motion to hear SAB46024- A Bill to approve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (L.E.E.D.).
W. Seconded.
X. Motion to postpone SAB46024- A Bill to approve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (L.E.E.D.) to the next meeting.
Y. Motion passes.
Z. Motion to hear SAB46025- A Bill to approve Anthropology Graduate Student Council (A.G.S.C.).
AA. Seconded.

BB. Anthropology Graduate Students were disorganized and there were lot of miscommunication between them within the department. We wanted to make this council so that we could organize the students so that we can improve the communication between the students so that national and educational development within the department can take place and also we will be able to work with undergraduates to further those goals. Graduate students have a lot more interaction with the faculty and co-students; hence a lot of miscommunication and issue can take place. This officially recognized student body can help us communicate better with the department and faculty and represent students during faculty meeting. It would also help us reserve rooms, funding facilities and improve professional educational development. We have successfully brought in alumni from anthropology department to communicate with graduate and undergraduate students to share their experiences and improve the social network.

CC. Motion to vote SAB46025- A Bill to approve Anthropology Graduate Student Council (A.G.S.C.).
DD. Motion passes.
EE. Motion to table SAB46026- A Bill to amend the Bylaws- SA Historian.
FF. Motion passes.
GG. Motion to hear SAR46050- A resolution to appoint Sean Birt Sergeant at Arms.
HH. Seconded.
II. Sean Birt: I am a freshman at NIU doing my major in Political Science with emphasis on Public Law and currently, I am member of CL&GA. If I am elected as Sergeant at Arms, I will make sure that there is decorum in the senate meeting; I will memorize all the Bylaws and the constitution of the student association. I will make sure that everyone is accommodated in the meeting and everyone actively participates during the discussion.
JJ. Discussion on Sean Birt.
KK. Senator Kreml: Has he taken and passed the required test for leadership position?
LL. No, he hasn’t but he has to take it after he gets elected and he has to score minimum of 80% to pass the test.
MM. Motion to vote SAR46050- A resolution to appoint Sean Birt Sergeant at Arms.
NN. Motion passes.
Motion to hear SAR46051- A resolution to advise the university on technological issues.

Seconded.

Speaker Domke: Brett Correal discussed during one of the senate meeting about the technology required on the campus for students. It is more specific to the diminishing printing quota at the end of this year. He wants to work with us and requested our opinion, so I request all the senators to forward the fliers that contain the link of the survey to all their constituents and also get feedback by discussing with students who are using the anywhere printers on their opinion. I want one hour from every senator to do the survey and get feedback from various students.

Motion to postpone SAR46051- A resolution to advise the university on technological issues to the next meeting.

Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

A. None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Junon Sutton: Graduate Assistants of Ombudsperson office would like to attend more Student Association meeting to receive information as well as to give information about our services and what we do. Next week, we would like to give 10-15 minute presentation on what we do in the office of Ombudsperson so that this information could be given to your respective constituents which can help them if required.

B. Kelly Bradley: Submit your application for Kevin D. Knight Leadership Award is on 02/13/2015 by 4:00pm on Huskielink. You need to have all of the materials including your Letter of Recommendation while filling up the application. David White is the new intern at Student Leadership and Student organization services and if you have any queries you can contact me or David White.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

A. The architects for the Holmes Student center and Neptune Hall design project will be here next week on 02/11/2015 at 3:00pm. As they will be here only once a month, we have to make sure that we communicate with them and give them our ideas and opinions.

B. Senator Grace: Black Students Union will be hosting Annual Freshmen B.S.U. Pageant on 02/21/2015 in Duke Ellington Ballroom at 7:30pm. It is a free event and everyone is invited to attend the event. Also on 02/10/2015 at 6:30pm in Regency Room, we are going to have a seminar on topic “Education, Liberation and Resistance by Dr. Evans-Winters. It is for Black History month and everyone are invited for this event. National Pan-Hellenic Council will be hosting a program called Greek Roots. Everyone who is interested are encouraged to attend the meeting held in CLB Room No: 100 on 02/10/2015.

C. Senator Warsi: My office of career services will be hosting ABCs of getting an internship where they will be having a student panel consisting of students who have already done internship to share their experiences. It is going to take place in Capitol room on 02/09/2015 at 4:30. Also next day, same place same time we will be conducting career fair prep workshop where students can
learn on how to approach the career services internships and job fairs that is going to take place on Feb 17th and 18th. This Wednesday at 7:00pm there will be a continuation of the interfaith conversation. It takes place in the lounge located in the basement of the library. This week, they will be talking about Hinduism. If anyone is there in the Honors program, they will get credit for it and hence they are encouraged to attend the program.

D. Senator Pastrana: I am providing 3 YMCA type volunteer events which are SA sponsored. (Gives a brief description on all the events). All our encouraged to volunteer in these events.

E. Senator Kincaid: I am going to contest for city council alderman for Ward 7. (Gives a brief on what he would do and what issues he would address if elected).

F. Senator Hampton: I am on Smoke Free Task Force; all students are encouraged to discuss their problems and issues regarding the smoking free policy in the two meetings to be held on: 
   a) 02/16/2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Blackhawk Annex. , HSC.
   b) 02/17/2015 from 03:00 p.m. to 04:30 p.m. in Blackhawk Annex. , HSC.

G. Senator Kreml: NIU will be hosting the “Illinois Residential Hall Association”. We are looking for volunteers for this event and if any of the senator are interested, please email me on rkreml@niu.edu.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 02/10/2015

EXECUTIVE ALLOCATION INFORMATION