Minutes of the
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
22 February 2015

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The meeting was called to order by Speaker Domke at 6:01 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 Burnside and Senator Mitchell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Speaker Domke asks Senator Pastrana to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. Speaker Domke motioned to approve 02/15/15 meetings minutes. Seconded
i. Minutes Approved

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A. Speaker Domke makes an amendment to add SAB46032 as a New Business item F in the Agenda.
B. Speaker Domke motioned to move items A, B, C, D, E and F from new business into old business. Seconded.

i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT
A. Speaker Domke requests all the senators to be attentive and professional throughout the meeting.
B. Speaker Domke informs that there will possibly be 29 million dollars cut to Northern Illinois’ budget for the fiscal year 2016. Senator Sorenson has been assigned the job to keep a tab on the whole process and formulate a report. Finally, a resolution would be drafted and sent to the representatives of Springfield to express how 29 million dollars cut would be detrimental to NIU and how we should invest in education.
C. Speaker Domke notifies that members of Program Prioritization Committee will be giving a presentation on Program Prioritization Process. SA had a meeting with the administration of this program on Thursday where we presented students’ concerns over involvement of students in this process and the remedies to it.
D. Speaker Domke informs that he wishes to highlight the successful student organizations across the NIU campus in the senate meetings by giving them the opportunity to give presentation about their organization and what they do.

E. Speaker Domke notifies that he will be meeting with CIO Brett Coryell on Tuesday to discuss the results of the survey taken last week on the printing quota issue and the different strategies that can be adopted so that the result could be beneficial to both the students and the administration.

F. University Council meeting will be held on Wednesday and all senators are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about what shared governance is.

G. Speaker Domke informs that the executive election meeting will be held tomorrow and on Wednesday.

H. Speaker Domke has postponed the Senate Bowling and informal meeting to next week.

---

**GUEST SPEAKER REPORT**

A. Representatives from the Office of Ombudsperson are recognized.

B. A Presentation about the Office of Ombudsperson, what it does and the services they provide are given and all the senators are encouraged to promote it among their constituents.

---

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

A. Raquel Chavez – Vice-President of SA is recognized.

B. Golden Key Honor Society and Student Association will be co-sponsoring The Diversity Fund Fair which is going to take place on February 28th from 12 pm to 3 pm. The Diversity Fund Fair is going to encompass everything NIU and DeKalb have to offer including the student or community organizations that are based on performances. They charge 10$ to student organization to participate in the event. The people who are going to attend the event, they are going to charge either 1$ or a food can and these donations will be going to Huskie Food Pantry.

C. We are planning to have another Networking Session in the month of March.

D. All the Bylaws and Constitutional changes that happened in the 46th session have been updated.

E. We have discussed on the Sustainability plan for “It’s On Us” campaign so that it does not fade away and exist in the coming years.

F. We are going to have Electronic Election only if we can do it through Huskielink System.

G. We are trying to have hybrid elections where we the voting can happen electronically in the polling booth.

---

**CABINET REPORTS**

A. Annie Ziga- Director of Organizational Development is recognized

B. I am working on organization recount task and Huskielink system is going to help me in that as it has been made mandatory for all the organizations to sign up for Huskielink by March 20th.
C. I am planning to have the Network Session hopefully in the first week after the spring break. It is going to be more discussion based than lecture based session.

D. I am motivating the student organization to participate in the Diversity week. As this is my final semester, I am making sure everything I have been doing should be continued in the next semester.

E. If any of the students are interested in being Director of Organizational Development, they can contact me and I can explain what the job is and how it should be done.

F. Alex Fitch- Director of Athletics and Recreation is recognized.

G. I would like to thank IFC and Northern Pact for providing scholarships during the Basketball games.

H. There has been an overall increase in audience for the Basketball games. Next week, there is going to be a basketball game where the first 250 students to come to the game will be given free gloves. So, everyone is encouraged to attend the games.

I. We are working with athletics to have marketing campaign for Baseball and softball. The recreational center is going to host “Be Active” campaign where they will be going to promote active lifestyle.

J. I have been looking into the facility fee of NIU and on how much money from the tuition fee is given to the facilities on campus. We are going take feedback from students on which facilities they use the most and what facilities they would like the university to improve.

K. I have been part of Sports Club Advisory Board overlooking the budgets and emergency funds allocated to them.

L. If any of the students are interested in being Director of Athletics and Recreation, they can contact me and I can explain what the job is and how it should be done.

M. Chad Harris- Chief of Staff is recognized.

N. We are planning to make some Bylaw changes at the end of the year as there are few Bylaws that are presently not useful at all and few bylaws that have to be incorporated but presently aren’t. If anyone is interested in any position in the SA for next year, please come into the office and give your input.

O. I have been helping Student Legal Advisory with the advertisement of their events and programs.

P. We have ordered 2000 t-shirts which contain 12 advertiser’s names printed at the back.

Q. We have kept 500 t-shirts aside to distribute them during Basketball games, SA sponsored events, etc. and the rest 1500 t-shirts will be distributed to the small student organizations who can buy it and print their logos in the front for the total cost of 3$ for each t-shirt.

R. SA is taking more active role in the Compliance Checks for the New Social Policy. Its main goal is that it should be totally run by students. Therefore, SA is going to train students for the Compliance Checks.

S. Senator Lentz: When are you going to have training for the Compliance Checks?

T. Hopefully, next week.
A. Senator Summers: Diversity Committee discussed with student organizations who are interested in participating in the Diversity week. We are trying to get quotes for budget week. We have got one quote and I will be setting up more meetings to figure out other quotes and create the master quote.

B. Senator Warsi: We have finished the design for the crew necks but we have not got everyone sized and hence I was unable to put in the order. Therefore, all the senators are requested to write their sizes on given sheet of paper.

C. Senator Coronado: We are trying to create annual review of the university services and academic departments of the university. We are trying to have different ways in making sure that we have sustainable resource centers without depending much on the budget.

D. Senator Lezon: We have got feedback from all the chapter presidents that we have emailed to regarding the resource policy. We have been working on lowering the age to entry bars and it is looking much better than expected. We are also looking into campus cinema which has not changed from quite a while.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion to hear SAR46053- A Resolution to express the Student Association’s concerns regarding Shared Governance at NIU.

B. Seconded.

C. Representatives from Program Prioritization Coordinating team are welcomed to the dais. They introduce themselves. All the senators are given handouts which explain the different ways the students will be able to participate throughout the process.

D. Student Participation on Program Prioritization Process for Spring 2015

E. Program Prioritization coordinating team would like to have undergraduate student representing the students’ perspective in their team.

F. Student Representatives would be available through the Academic Planning Council and the University Council Resource space budgeting team and those committees will be finalizing the criteria based on the campus survey which will be finishing on Monday.

G. We would also like to invite leadership from student organizations and also request SA to formally attend those meetings which will be held on March 16th and March 23rd.

H. Students are also encouraged to nominate faculty and staff to serve on the academic and administrative task forces that will be running from mid-October to mid-March of next year.

I. Data elements selected to match finalized criteria will likely include student experiences and outcomes

J. Student Participation on Program Prioritization Process for Summer 2015

K. Students participate on the Program Prioritization Coordinating Team

L. Students provide input into administrative program narratives
M. Student Participation on Program Prioritization Process for Fall 2016
N. Students participate on the Program Prioritization Coordinating Team
O. Students provide input into academic and administrative program narratives
P. Students invited to the Expert Panel presentation
Q. Student Participation on Program Prioritization Process for Summer 2016
R. Students participate on the Program Prioritization Coordinating Team
S. Students review program rankings (in a forum to be determined) and will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the rankings to senior leadership
T. Students have representation on shared governance committees where rankings are reviewed and/or curricular decisions are made before any programs are eliminated including APC, RSB and UC, College Curriculum Committees, UCC, GC, and the BOT
U. Senator Diala: What is the procedure for students to nominate faculty or staff to the task force?
V. It is nomination for only faculty and staff but not for students. Nominations will be taken for next two weeks and the nominees will be widely publicized through social media. The selection of individuals as committee members will depend on SA and on how they would like to select them.
W. Senator Coronado: How many sponsors are available for the academic and administrative task forces?
X. We are looking at approximately 15 sponsors each and not more than 20.
Y. Senator White: What level of consideration and importance will the given to the student input?
Z. The student’s will be important but to what level will depend on the criteria that will be decided in the meetings held on March 16th and 23rd.
AA. Speaker Domke: After the meetings we had with the Program Prioritization Coordinating Team, we had some of our views changed on how the students are being involved in this process. University has expressed valid reasons on why students are not being involved in this process, one of them is the time commitment as a lot of time would be needed from the students present in the task force and also the pressure they may receive from faculty and staff.
BB. Motion to amend the resolution SAR46053 and read as follows: THEREFORE, we the students represented by this body do hereby express our appreciation that we have been further included in the Program Prioritization Process, and believe that students should be included in each phase of the prioritization process;
CC. Seconded.
DD. Motion passes.
EE. Motion to vote on SAR46053- A Resolution to express the Student Association’s concerns regarding Shared Governance at NIU.
FF. Motion passes.
GG. Motion to hear SAB46030- A Bill to approve Secondary Educators’ Organization.
HH. Secondary Educators’ Organization prepares its members for the work force and become excellent educators. We do resume building workshops, class management workshops, interviews with actual administrators, principals, etc.
II. Senator Phillips: Few weeks back, we have already approved another secondary education organization. What makes your organization different from the other organization?
JJ. We do value each member individually giving them mock interviews, tutoring them, etc. We have been trying to get funds through fundraising campaigns and have also been in discussion with scholarship office to provide scholarships to our members. We also work a lot with community colleges where we invite their students who are interested in education to our meetings and encourage them to join NIU.

KK. Senator Summers: How many members do you currently have?

LL. We have around 40 members in our team.

MM. Senator Kreml: Do you give membership to all the students from Education Major or only those students who are in their final year of their teaching education?

NN. All the students doing their Major in Education will be given membership.

OO. Senator Kreml: Is your organization going to be a part of Co-Teaching Model?

PP. Yes, we are trying to get involved with the Co-Teaching Model.

QQ. Senator Kreml and Senator Lentz praise the organization and its activities.

RR. Motion to vote SAB46030- A Bill to approve Secondary Educators’ Organization

SS. Motion passes.

TT. Motion to hear SAB46031- A bill to make an amendment to the Northern Illinois Student Association Bylaws to establish a Senate Order of Succession.

UU. Senator Kreml gives a brief about the bill and also an explanation on the Order of Succession.

VV. Motion to vote SAB46031- A bill to make an amendment to the Northern Illinois Student Association Bylaws to establish a Senate Order of Succession.

WW. Motion passes.

XX. Motion to hear SAR46054- A Resolution to confirm David White as Election Commissioner.

YY. Seconded.

ZZ. I will ensure that the Spring 2015 Executive Election runs appropriately, accordingly and without any hiccups.

AAA. Senator Birt: Do you anticipate a higher voter turnout this year than the last year?

 BBB. We will try our best to publicize the elections in the most effective way and hopefully, get as many students as possible to exercise their political right to vote.

 CCC. Senator Grace: How do you feel about the time frame between you being appointed as Election Commissioner and the meetings that are held?

DDD. I was appointed two weeks late due to some unavoidable issues in the office, but I have been trying to work with Executive Staff of Sa to annihilate this problem.

EEE. Motion to vote SAR46054- A Resolution to confirm David White as Election Commissioner

FF. Motion passes.

GG. Speaker Domke: I do pledge to change the Bylaws in the aspect of when the time frame is for appoint the Election Commissioner. We are planning to appoint it as quickly as the first week after winter break.

HH. Motion to hear SAR46055- A Resolution to establish the 2015 Board of Elections.

III. Nominations for the members of Board of Elections take place and the final list of selected candidates for the Board of Elections are:

JJ. a) James Forman
b) Brandon Phillips  
c) Jake Swick  
d) Gregory Lezon  
e) Rachel Gorsuch

KKK. Nominations for the chairman of Board of Elections takes pace and the nominees are 
   a) Gregory Lezon  
   b) Rachel Gorsuch  
   c) Brandon Phillips

LLL. Rachel Gorsuch: I have good relation with the Election Commissioner and I believe we can work 
successfully in tandem for successful elections. I do not hold any major position in the senate and 
therefore I can give much more time for this position.

MMM. Brandon Phillips: I have an extensive experience with the Board of Elections as, two years 
ago; I was vice-chairman of the Board of Elections and also have an experience on federal level 
due to my past experiences on campaign trail. I believe that it is possible for SA to get 5000 voters 
this year and to achieve this we will need your help.

NNN. Gregory Lezon: I have always been interested in the elections and how they work here in 
NIU. I would like to improve the voter turnout for the elections by allowing candidates to 
promote themselves before and during elections. I would like to have fair elections and would 
not step back from prosecuting anyone who breaks the rules.

OOO. Questions to Gregory Lezon: 

PPP. Senator Hampton: Why is it that there are no polling booths at residential halls for 
voting?

QQQ. Gregory Lezon: I have no idea.

RRR. Senator White: We have to employ two co-workers for every polling station from 9:00 
am to 6:00pm. We are trying to increase the number of polling booth on campus

SSS. Senator Kreml: What is your schedule this semester and will you be able to provide adequate 
time to this position?

TTT. Yes, I have very flexible schedule and I can give as much time as required for this position.

UUU. Senator Koss: What is your opinion on the outlaw of using chalk on the sidewalk to 
advertise?

VVV. I think if it is done in correct way, chalking on sidewalks should be allowed.

WWW. Questions to Brandon Phillips?

XXX. Senator Coronado: How would you be able to make sure that no hiccups would occur in 
the elections?

YYY. Brandon Phillips:: We can make sure that no hiccups occur by giving extensive 
instructions during candidate meeting and also through quality control on behalf of Board of 
Elections.

ZZZ. Senator Coronado: Have you ever experienced a situation where the Chairman was not well 
familiar with the laws and that resulted in hiccups during the elections?
Brandon Phillips: Yes, during my second semester last year when I was under University Services.

Senator Swick: What are your plans to increase the voter turnout?

Brandon Phillips: I am strong proponent of Online voting as I have experienced number of troublesome situations like the students were either unable to reach the polling stations to cast their vote, had no knowledge about the candidates, etc. I feel, online voting can alleviate most of those problems.

Senator Koss: What is your opinion on the outlaw of using chalk on the sidewalk to advertise?

Brandon Phillips: There are a lot more efficient ways than chalking on sidewalks or bus ads to promote election. Some of them include social media, having debates between candidates, fliers, etc.

Senator Kreml: What is your schedule this semester and will you be able to provide adequate time to this position?

Brandon Phillips: Yes, I can give as much time as required for this position.

Senator Kreml: What is your schedule this semester and will you be able to provide adequate time to this position?

Rachel Gorsuch: Yes, I can give as much time as required for this position as Political Science Student Advisory Committee does not take up lot of my time.

Senator Hampton: How important is online voting to you and would you make it a reality if you are elected?

Rules and Procedure committee did a lot of research on online voting happening in different schools and we realized that the schools having online voting has much higher turnout than schools which do paper voting. So yes, I would like to make online voting a reality here at NIU.

Senator White: What are the personal characteristics and traits would a person require to become the chairman of the Board of Elections?

I think teamwork would be an important thing to conduct successful elections.

Discussion and Debate on the candidates.

Senator Coronado: I feel we have to elect someone who has vast experience with respect to the board of elections

Senator Kreml: We should elect someone as the Chairman of the board of the elections who is familiar familiar with all the bylaws and the constitution because I believe, if an election candidate has any doubts regarding the laws, the board should be ready to give a definite answer.
TTTT. Senator Summers: I believe everyone is qualified for the job but I believe we should elect someone who already had experience working as a member in the Board of elections.

UUUU. Motion to vote for SAR46055- A Resolution to establish the 2015 Board of Elections.

VVVV. A roll-call vote takes place.

WWWW. Brandon Phillips is elected as the chairman of the Board of Elections.

XXXX. Motion to hear SAR46056- A Resolution to request the administration fill the Vacant Counselor.

YYYY. Seconded.

ZZZZ. Senator Kincaid reads the Bill and gives a brief description about it.

AAAAA. Senator Phillips: Is this resolution going to be first step for a long term goal to see that administration fills this position?

BBBBB. I am not sure how interested administration is on listening to my opinion but I will continue to help the university in making it better for the students.

CCCCC. Speaker Domke: This bill perfectly fits with the SA Executive Staff’s new initiatives, one of them being mental health. I feel we would need a coordinated effort between the Executive staff and the senate to see that this position be established.

DDDDD. Senator Kreml: I believe human lives are really important and we should make sure that this position be established for students.

EEEEE. Motion to vote SAR46056- A Resolution to request the administration fill the Vacant Counselor

FFFFFF. Motion passes.

GGGGG. Motion to hear SAB46032: A bill to amend the Student Association bylaws in Part II, Article VII, Section 2, Clause B and Part II Article VII, Section 3 so that the due date for executive election packets is changed.

HHHHH. Seconded.

IIII. David white gives a brief description about the bill.

JJJJJ. Motion to vote SAB46032: A bill to amend the Student Association bylaws in Part II, Article VII, Section 2, Clause B and Part II Article VII, Section 3 so that the due date for executive election packets is changed.

KKKKK. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

A. None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT
A. Senator Hampton: The Smoke Free task force is done with the community discussions. If you still have any suggestions or questions you can ask in the NIU Smoke Free Task Force website. On 02/5/2015 in New Hall West at 9:00pm we are going to have our United by Diversity meeting. All the senators are encouraged to attend the meeting.

B. Speaker Domke: We are going to postpone the Senate Bowling and the informal meeting by one week because of the candidate meetings for the elections.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 02/25/2015

EXECUTIVE ALLOCATION INFORMATION