- Minutes of the

STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
25 January 2015

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Domke at 6:10 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 Diala, Senator Partington, Senator Sheikhali, Senator Agra, Senator Cappi, Senator Joseph and Senator Birt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Speaker Domke motioned to approve 12/07/14 meetings minutes. Seconded

   i. Minutes Approved

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Speaker Domke motioned to move item A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J from new business into old business. Seconded.

   i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT

A. Speaker Domke informs that NIU has appointed two new positions: Vice- President for Institutional Advancement and Vice-President of Finance.

B. Speaker Domke appreciates everyone on the success of “It’s on Us” campaign last semester.

C. Speaker Domke notifies everyone that there are going to be a few changes in the policies this semester. First of which will be the change in the election policy and discussions on it have already been started during the Rules and Procedures meeting. Speaker Domke invites everyone to attend those meeting and be a part of this change and get committed to the discussions.

D. The other change that is going to take place is on the Printing Costs. Speaker Domke requests all the senators to take a survey and get a feedback from their constituents on this issue.

E. Speaker Domke notifies that General Education Reform is going to take place in this semester and invites Guest Speaker Edward Klonoski on stage to give a brief on it.
A. Edward Klonoski briefs on the PLUS Baccalaureate Curriculum.

B. The General Education committee has endorsed the General Education portion of the PLUS Baccalaureate Reforms with inputs from the CUC, UCC and the last step will come this week at the University Council Meeting where they will sign and confirm this reform.

C. The PLUS Baccalaureate Curriculum comprises of three large components.
   a. Baccalaureate High Impact Practices
   b. Four General Education Areas of Study
   c. PLUS Thematic Pathways.

D. Edward Klonoski gives a brief on all the above three components.

E. Senator White: Is the course UNIV 201 available for the transfer students to have College Experience

F. We currently have UNIV 201 course which is optional to the transfer students.

G. Senator Kreml: Is the whole General Education Curriculum being replaced through this reform?

H. Yes, the whole General Education Curriculum will be replaced through this reform and also number of credit hours will be reduced from currently 39 to 33 hours.

I. Senator Clayton-Taylor: Is the whole reform going to take place in Feb. 2015?

J. It is going to take place is two-phases. We have requested the faculty to place their courses in the new knowledge domains and in one week we got 100% participation. That portion will be in effect from Fall-2015. We will put out an application call for pathway participation as early as tomorrow. They will be implemented in 2016.

K. Senator Clayton-Taylor: Will the students in sophomore year be able to switch to the PLUS if they feel they are more comfortable with the curriculum?

L. I found out that a student from 2014 catalog can move to 2015 catalog. Therefore, it is possible only for sophomore year and not first and second year.

M. Senator Summers: Could you clarify on how this reform will affect first and second year student’s education?

N. This reform will not cause any negative impact on your education and you can continue following the catalog.

O. Senator Koss: As you have already specified that most of the schools have adopted this reform, can we say that this method is a proven one or is it still experimental?

P. I was initially in Task force for General Education Reform back in 2007 and one important thing I have learnt is that we have to make changes depending on the university. We have made reforms depending on the number of General Education reforms from different universities and finally chosen those which suited best for our university. You can find all the information on the implementation process on our PLUS website. I would encourage you to share this information with your respective constituents and spread the news as much as possible.
Q. Senator Coronado: Have you tried to communicate with the High Schools?
R. Not yet, but we will sure contact them in a short while.
S. Senator Koss: How is this reform going to affect NIU enrollment?
T. We are hoping that this reform will have a positive impact on NIU and hopefully, there will be an increase in enrollment and retention rate.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

A. None.

**CABINET REPORTS**

A. Lindy Luchowski- Director of Greek Affairs is recognized.
B. We had a retreat for all the chapter presidents, councils and the executive board yesterday and on Friday. It was a success and we discussed on Greek unity and what they were expecting from SILD. We also discussed on the social policies and how to improve them.
C. We also went over EBI fraternity and sorority assessment results. It was done in the Fall Semester, it required 90% of students to fill up a form given them and then we analyzed it to know what our Greek like is and what things need improvement.
D. The Greek committee will be meeting this Thursday at 7:30 pm in CLB, room no. 108 and all the senators who are interested are invited to attend it.
E. This week we will be finalizing the agenda and the match ups. Hopefully, it will be distributed to all the organizations by first week of February and then they can start working on it.
F. I met with a representative from “Safe Passage” in the first week of this semester and they wished to give a presentation to all our Greek organizations on healthy relationships and what to do at the time of crisis and how to help people who have come to an organization asking for help.
G. Senator Coronado: Was there any talk on increasing the retention rate and getting first years more involved into the organizations.
H. Yes, we have talked a lot about marketing for recruitment and allowing students to reach out to faculty who have been part of Greek organization. Each council had their own marketing strategy and also, all the councils wished to have retreat on campus with new members educating them on how the Greek life should be and how they can increase their social network and we hope that it will happen next year.
I. Senator Leigh: Some sororities and fraternities cannot mark it on the first day of school. So is there any way that the students can represent their organizations when they are helping people?
J. We had discussions on students wearing t-shirts with their Greek organization name written on it when they are helping freshmen move in. They can also have small booths during the orientation day to represent the Greek Organizations.
K. Benjamin Donovan- Director of Governmental Affairs is recognized
L. We discussed with Chief Lowery and other members of City Government community on installing some additional safety Call Boxes in Greek Row area. However, Chief Lowery made
compelling argument against it saying the call boxes at NIU have been used more than 150 times and 3 times it was for actual emergency.

M. I also met with the Communiversity Coordinating Committee and we spoke about integrating community service groups and students but we didn’t come to a final proposal.

N. There has been a change Parking Restriction on Garden Road which is between 2 am and 6:00 am.

O. Chief Lowery announced a new potential parking pattern for North West Neighborhood. We are going to go through it and analyze the consequences of this change in pattern and give our opinions on it.

P. I am on the implementation of the New Smoking ban which make all the state universities smoke free. So far the discussions have been on executive section and are still not public.

Q. I met with Mayor Rey during December-2014 and discussed on student involvement in downtown and also on the bar entry age. We are having a lot of media coverage for this resolution and there have been a lot of positive response but a dismissive report was given by daily chronicle on student advocacy in regard to this issue. We are going to have a discussion on all the issues regarding the bar entry age. We have created a statement which we will be submitting to the city council tomorrow night.

R. There have relatively positive results on the research going on and if you have any questions on it you can ask Senator Lezon and Senator Birt as they are working with me on this research.

S. Our new governor has imposed a moratorium on all the non-essential expenditure for the state. I will be investigating on the possible impact on student organization particularly with respect to travelling to attend out-of-state events.

T. Senator Gorsuch: What was Mayor Rey’s opinion on the entry age bar matter?

U. The initial meeting which I had with him last semester, he was positive but recently looking at his media interviews, maybe he is a bit skeptical on this issue.

V. Senator Coronado: What ways have been discussed on the smoking ban and how is it going to affect students who smoke on campus?

W. The law says that smoking any lighted smoking device is illegal and there is a whole list of things in the bills that are going to be banned on campus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Senator Coronado: We are looking at possibly increasing the Electronic Signage. We also want to work with public affairs committee and create an informational campaign about all the services provided by the university. We went over the idea of outsourcing the free bike system due to the fact that depending on the school budget, we may not have the finance to fund it and it will be difficult to be managed by Campus Parking services.

B. Senator Summers: The Diversity Hall Committee is planning to meet tomorrow at 5:00pm. It will be a research committee and the first initiative will be to have diverse discussions weekly
starting this spring. We are planning to have a Diversity Week this semester which will give an opportunity for students to enjoy different cultures. We are planning to have it from March 17 - March 19. It is not full week because we are not sure how many students are going to get involved.

C. Senator Jusino: Mass Transit Committee met this week. In the meeting we divided the individual members of mass transit and got each member to ride a bus and reported on what is going on from both passenger’s and driver’s point of view. We also talked about Communiversity and discussed on how Mass transit can help the community by making few improvements in the transportations.

D. Senator Phillips: What was the stated adjective for riding the buses? Was it determined with issues on the professionalism of the drivers as there have been number of complaints on the professionalism of drivers by my constituents?

E. We have discussed with the employer of the drivers and it has been mentioned a multiple times to him on improvement of professionalism by drivers. He has assured us on taking action on the drivers regarding the complaints given by the commuters and make sure on improving the professionalism. We do not have any direct jurisdiction on the drivers and we can only complaint to the about the problems. If you or any of your constituents have complaints regarding the drivers, please let us know so that we can take appropriate action.

F. Senator Leigh: Of all the people who participated in the activity, did anyone complaint on the timeliness of the buses or their schedule.

G. No, the report has still not been submitted so we need to go through it to answer that question.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion to suspend SAB46021- A Bill to approve Kingsword NIU indefinitely.
B. Motion passes.
C. Motion to hear SAR46039- A resolution to appoint Miki Grace Senator at Large. Seconded.
D. I am currently Junior at NIU and I am doing double major in Political Science and Community Leadership and Civil Engagement. I am current member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and within the sorority; I currently hold position of Chair of Political Awareness and Involvement, Co-chair of social action where we do programs like voter registration. I was a senator during spring of 2013 but lost during the re-election. I also served in University Council for a semester and learnt a lot during my time there. I also served in University Services committee where we worked on late night rides last year. I hope to get back on that committee and look into the matters and improve the services.
E. Senator Coronado: What is the most important thing that you learnt as a senator last year?
F. I had to work with a lot of different people having different opinions but still had to work together and decide common solutions for the people that we working for here in the senate.
G. A motion to suspend SAR46040- A resolution to appoint Ashley Sands Senator at Large indefinitely.
H. Motion passes SAR46041- A resolution to appoint Mark A. Mitchell Senator at Large.
I. I am currently studying at NIU and doing my major in Jazz studies: Piano performance. I felt being involved in senate will help me in representing school of music and also educate and inspire future leadership.
J. Senator Coronado: What particular committee do you feel you could represent in the most efficient way?
K. I feel I would be able to best represent Finance and Mass Transit committees. The reason for wanting to be a part of Finance Committee is that there is no actual representation from school of music. It’s very hard to find funding for the events to be conducted by arts and school of music and I would love to help them in finding funds.
L. Senator Pastrana: Are you part of any other organization?
M. I am a part of I.A.J.E. and also part of B.M.I.
N. Senator Kincaid: What leadership experience do you have and what ideas do you have that you think can improve the involvement of arts and music at NIU?
O. I have been a part of board of I.A.J.E. where I was responsible for bring a lot of artists and composers to the school of music. I have also been a photographer and historian for B.M.I. I have even suggested initiatives for conducting events at N.I.U.
P. Senator Kincaid: As the architects have specified that there is no venue for musicians to perform events and if you were asked to give an input to the architects on providing venue for musicians, what would it be?
Q. I already had conversation with President Baker, where my suggestion was that we could perform at any space provided to us like we have already done in Stevenson Towers and Neptune Hall. We need space and instruments and that would be sufficed to perform. We have also been trying to get involved with community and restaurants so that we can get proper venue to perform.
R. Discussion on Miki Grace
S. Senator Clayton-Taylor: She was the person who had advised me join the senate as she was already part of it so long and also there is not a strong presentation of women in senate. I would ask everyone to vote for her.
T. Senator Coronado: She has been part of committees which she didn’t have to and I feel she has to be part of senate.
U. Motion to vote SAR46039- A resolution to appoint Miki Grace Senator at Large.
V. Motion passes.
W. Discussion on Mark A. Mitchell.
X. Senator Hampton: I think he should be a part of senate as presently, there are no senators who represent School of music.
Y. Motion to vote SAR46041- A resolution to appoint Mark A. Mitchell Senator at Large
Z. Motion passes.
AA. Motion to hear SAB46022- A Bill to recognize NIU Goal Ball.
BB. NIU GoalBall is a sport for the blind. It is a sport that you play without using your vision. It is a sport that blind and sighted people can play together. This sport is trying be incorporated in the General Education System. It is a completely different experience for sighted people to play a
sport without their vision. It is more competitive in the blind schools but slowly it is being played even in normal schools. As it is no particular club for students who are visually impaired and this club would be a great opportunity for both visually impaired people and sighted people to interact and play together.

CC. Senator Coronado: What equipment do you require to play goalball.

DD. We require a goalball which is a basketball with a belt, tape, goggles and protection equipment like knee and elbow pads.

EE. Senator Kreml: Is there any membership fee? If not, then do you provide players with equipment or should they buy their own equipment?

FF. We haven’t really discussed on membership fee. We have equipment for up to 6 students. We would like it to be a free sport and therefore we want to get recognized so that we could collect funds for the game.

GG. Discussion on NIU Goal Ball.

HH. Senator Leigh: I have known Mitchell and he is really excited about the game and I have always seen him encouraging students to play this sport at recreational center. I feel it is a great way to add to our diversity even within sport. I would vote for them

II. Motion to vote SAB46022- A Bill to recognize NIU Goal Ball.

JJ. Motion passes.

KK. A motion to hear SAB46023- A Bill to recognize Professional Writing Student Association.

LL. I feel we do not have an organization at NIU that could help people with regards to professional writing. We are group of students from undergraduate and graduate fields who will organize and coordinate events for students who have interest in professional writing skills. Presently we are just a part of English department and have still not got chance to officially voice out our opinions. There would be number of students from other departments who would be interested in professional writing and being a part of student association would help us promote our organization.

MM. Senator White: Have you tried to reach out to the other colleges on how to train students for gaining professional writing skills?

NN. At present, whenever a student comes to us having a doubt on how to write for example a report in a particular field, then we try to find information through our own sources or by contacting the faculty advisor.

OO. Senator Koss: What is the difference between your organization and the writing center?

PP. Writing center focuses on helping students to apply for associations inside the university but we train them for the corporate world.

QQ. Senator Mitchell: Will there be any project at the end of semester that would help students present whatever they have learnt?

RR. We are planning on those lines but nothing has still been confirmed.

SS. Motion to vote SAB46023- A Bill to recognize Professional Writing Student Association.

TT. Motion passes.

UU. Motion to hear SAR46043- A resolution to approve Peter Kim Director of Cultural Affairs
VV. My name is Peter Kim and I am currently junior at NIU major in Elementary Education. I want to become a Director in Cultural Affairs because I feel my past experience in cultural affairs as an individual can benefit this position.

WW. Senator Grace: Have you visited any cultural centers on campus before seeking for this position?

XX. Yes, I have met all the directors from various departments, communicated with them and increased rapport with them.

YY. Senator Sto. Domingo: What different cultural activities have you been part of?

ZZ. I have been part of AAA (Asian American Awareness), I am also part of my fraternity which helped learn about the Latino culture.

AAA. Senator Clayton-Taylor: What are you plans if you are selected for the position?

BBB. My first aim is to introduce myself to the international affairs. As their directors are going to start an organization that consist of both native and international students. I will try to bring that into the NIU community as I believe that has been lacking before.

CCC. Senator Coronado: How do you plan to accommodate international students into NIU’s diverse culture?

DDD. My first step is to interact with them and introduce them to various organizations and enlighten the students on what the organizations do and encourage them to interact with students with people from diverse cultures

EEE. Motion to vote SAR46043- A resolution to approve Peter Kim Director of Cultural Affairs.

FFF. Motion passes

GGG. Discussion on Peter Kim

HHH. I work in SILD and I have seen him constantly interacting with everyone and letting know people that he wants to become the Director of Cultural Affairs.

III. Senator Coronado: I feel he will be a good replacement for Director of Cultural Affairs.

JJJ. Senator Mitchell: I feel he is the right person for this position since he is one of the few people who goes around the campus and interacts with people.

KKK. Motion to vote SAR46043- A resolution to approve Peter Kim Director of Cultural Affairs.

LLL. Motion passes

MMM. Motion to hear SAR46044- A resolution to approve Samantha Lupa Director of Student Life.

NNN. I am Junior Marketing major and Arts minor. I have held position of Web Master, Public Relation and Vice president of Communication. I was a senator in Fall-2013. I want to become Director of Student Life because I am really involved with campus and I want to solve the problems faced by students. I am working on student’s choice of words and improving quality of dorm’s food. I feel the quality of food can be improved and I am currently looking discuss this matter with Director of Housing and Dining.

OOO. Senator Clayton-Taylor: How do you plan to get feedback from students living in dorms?

PPP. I am planning to conduct a survey to get a feedback from them and I am also planning to go and personally meet them in residence halls so that I can know their grievances and take appropriate actions.
Senator Kreml: How are you planning to contact associations in residence halls or community advisors on the floor to make an impact on students who live on campus?

I have emailed a number of people making them know about me and also I am going to request directors to help me in interacting with people who could help me in solving a problem.

Senator Grace: You could use social media instead of survey papers to get a lot of feedback on the quality of food in dorms, residence halls, etc.

Discussion on Samantha Lupa

Senator Clayton-Taylor: She has great communication abilities and I feel she would do whatever she claimed she would do. So, I think we should vote for her.

Senator Grace and Senator Kreml also gave positive response on her to be voted as Director of Student Life.

Motion to vote SAR46044 - A resolution to approve Samantha Lupa Director of Student Life.

Motion passes.

Motion to hear SAR46045 - A resolution to appoint 2nd Semester Committees and Chairs

There are couple of changes that have taken place. Miki Grace and Mark A. Mitchell have to be designated to their respective committees and Greg Lezon has been appointed as Chairman of Campus Life and Greek Affairs. I would like to take interviews to anybody who would like to take the position of Sergeant At Arms. So, if anyone interested please send me an email and make an appointment.

Motion to vote SAR46045 - A resolution to appoint 2nd Semester Committees and Chairs

Motion passes.

Motion to hear SAR46046 - A resolution to approve Mikey Pastrana Director of Community Service. Seconded.

I feel I am good for this position because I have been part of EPL for 4 years, I have coordinated number of events, I have good connections in the community where we can volunteer. The major events that I see us are helping out with NIU Cares Day and the other event I want to do is getting a group to volunteer at the Bank of America. Last semester, I have coordinated 60 volunteers from 3 different organizations to go Downtown, Chicago and volunteer in Chicago Marathon. Volunteers needed for service events are available throughout the semester. A new type of event that I want to bring in is the interaction of various international students in Weekly English Conversation meetings which can help us in understanding each other’s culture and thus, in the process promoting diversity. These are some of the ideas which I have for this semester and I am looking forward to it.

Senator Hampton: I like the ideas he had regarding the service events as we did not have many in the last semester which made it difficult for us to complete our community hours. It would be easier for us, having so many events to complete our community hours. Therefore, We should vote him in.

Motion to vote SAR46046 - A resolution to approve Mikey Pastrana Director of Community Service.

Motion passes.
NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion to read SAR46042- A resolution to support lowering the entrance age to bars.
B. Motion to amend SAR46042- A resolution to support lowering the entrance age to bars to change bachelors to bars in the pamphlet.
C. Motion approved.
D. This resolution is to only to lower the entrance age to bars and not reducing the drinking age. We will not be voting it on this week as I want to give the city an opportunity to come in and take a stance, so that we got a broader view of the pros and cons of this resolution. This resolution will give an endorsement of our investigation into the policy change.
E. Senator Kreml: How extensive is this research on the policy change?
F. This was going to be a semester long process but since we are getting incredible feedback, we are trying to expedite the process. We are looking into the similar policies present in different communities and how it has affected them, if the research comes back positive, we will talk to all the stakeholders and decide whether it is correct fit to the DeKalb community.
G. Senator Phillips: What are the roadblocks you foresee during this investigation?
H. The major problem we have to overcome would be the premature nature of the announcement. We had to get some information available before we went public with it. But since students have already gotten the idea and have started taking survey on it, I feel it would be a difficult task to persuade them otherwise if the resolution does not go their way.
I. Senator Kincaid: From the people who take side on lowering the entrance age to bars, how many of them are not students?
J. The only side who is 100% against this policy change is the DeKalb Community Police. Chief Lowery is very clear that he will not support the policy. The Mayor is skeptic about the policy change but he has not definitely against the policy change. NIU Police Chief has not taken any stance on this issue. We are going to have a meeting with him in next couple of weeks and discuss on this issue.
K. Senator Kreml: Is it only for DeKalb Community?
L. Yes, it is only for DeKalb Community.
M. SAR46042- A resolution to support lowering the entrance age to bars. Is officially read.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. There is a scholarship that student legal offer to alumni. It is specifically for study abroad trips for members of student association both executive and senate side.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

A. The senate meeting next week will be at 2:00 pm
B. Senator Jusion: Basketball Match is going to be held on January 31st at 7:00pm in Convocation Center and certain number of Basketball t-shirts will also be given. So, all the senate members are encouraged to come and support the NIU team.
C. Miki Grace: Center for Black Studies, NIU will be hosting week long events during the month of February. People who are interested in attending any of the events, the calendars are available in the center as well as you can get an electronic copy through email. If anyone interested in the Chicago campaign where we are going to start an alternative spring break that we are going to pay for. There is going to be an application process. If anyone is interested, they can contact me.

D. Senator Lesyk: Office of First and Second year experience are going to start Interfaith Conversation at NIU on this Wednesday at 7:00pm in Lower Level Library. We need to attend these events to show that we care about the diversity.

E. Senator Clayton-Taylor: The Black Student Union is going to have their first mass meeting on 01/28/15 in Cole Hall Auditorium.

F. Senator White: The Student Group UNICEF is going to show two films on human trafficking.

G. Senator Hampton: I am finding Public Relation officer for upcoming organization called United by Diversity. We are going to have our first meeting this Wednesday in New Hall West. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting.

H. Senator Sorenson: City Council Meeting will be held tomorrow at 6:00pm where there will be a discussion on lowering the Entrance age to bars.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 01/28/2015

EXECUTIVE ALLOCATION INFORMATION