- Minutes of the

STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
16 November 2014

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 Norman and Senator Coronado.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

  a. Speaker Domke motioned to approve 11/02/14 meetings minutes. Seconded
  b. Robert Kreml makes a motion to remove item ‘V’ in the old business from the minutes as it does not pertain to last week’s agenda. Seconded.

    i. Minutes Approved

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

  A. Speaker Domke makes a motion to add SAR46035: A Resolution to support a new parking ban on garden road as item ‘H’ on the agenda. Seconded.
  B. Speaker Domke motioned to move item B, C, D, F and H from new business into old business. Seconded.

    i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT

  A. Speaker Domke requests everyone to submit the community service forms.
  B. Speaker Domke requests the senators to give prior intimation if they are unable to attend the meeting due to bad weather so that appropriate decisions can be taken depending on the situation.
  C. Speaker Domke reminds everyone that there will be an Ice Hog fun event for the senators at Rockford next Friday and requests everyone whoever are coming to the game to fill up the forms.
  D. Speaker Domke also reminds the senators to write their description and submit or email it to him so that it can be added to the Senate Website.
E. Speaker Domke informs that he met Chief of NIU Police Department and also Chief of DeKalb Police Department where they discussed on the safety of students living off-campus.

F. Speaker Domke gives a task to senators who live on west side of Annie Glidden road, to interact with their neighbors and find out their opinion on which parking situation would be better. A) Parking allowed only on one side of the street. B) Restrict parking during the day time, for example from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

G. Speaker Domke welcomes John Rey- DeKalb Mayor.

H. John Rey notifies that “Staying ahead of the evolving world” would be the theme of his presentation

I. John Rey briefs about his background and about the importance technology in our lives and their advances.

J. John Rey informs that DeKalb Community foundation was started by Robert’s Family and he is very fortunate to have them as mentors drawing managers, employees to the an organization that has given tremendous amount back to DeKalb community.

K. John Rey praises NIU as it brings the talent, cultural depth and diversity to the community.

L. John Rey is honored to be in leadership role working with Dr. Baker, SA senate and others on NIU’s team.

M. John Rey informs that city governance has FY15 goals in place focusing on physical stability, operational sustainability, infrastructure, public safety, strategic planning, regionalizing the airport and enhancing airport traffic.

N. John Rey gives a brief on staffing and organization.

O. John Rey informs that they are trying to enhance the community development to a director’s role within the city government.

P. John Rey notifies that Crime Free Housing Bureau was established last year and it is focused on disorderly houses, crime free lease tandems, registration of landlords and side walking inspection of rental property.

Q. John Rey notifies that they are currently working in commercial building inspection, language for an ordinance. An ordinance was passed on September with the intent of moving the first and second reading. They are trying to slow down the process of approval and are in contact with 5 different departments to make sure the quality of environment around the commercial properties around the community is good.

R. John Rey informs that they are negotiating with the Fire Fighters for the building inspection. They are projecting a cost of 250000$ for the building inspection where 200000$ is being absorbed by the city and 50000$ will be billed out to the building owners.

S. John Rey informs that traditionally they have 3 interns from NIU working for city government. They are planning to increase the number of internship opportunities.

T. John Rey informs that there have been parking issues throughout the city and Chief Lowery wants to look into the parking requirements and make it conducive to the local community.

U. John Rey is working on Enterprise Zone and has initiatives on public art where the control box can be decorated in an artistic way. Sustainability Plan has been approved by Environment Commission. The city government has been working for several months trying to attract new book stores to the community.
V. John Rey informs that the Art Museum South East Asia studies and also Anthropology museum have celebrated their 50th Anniversary and encourages everyone to have a look at them.

W. John Rey gives a brief about the challenges he has met in his tenure and how he overcame them.

X. NIU Caresday will be held on April 18th and the registrations for that event will be starting next week and warns that unregistered students will not be allowed to the event.

Y. “It’s On Us” will be starting next week on Nov. 17th and it is a part of National initiative in campus sexual assault and doing prevention and awareness on that.

Z. John Rey acknowledges the National Hunger and Homeless awareness week from Nov. 15th to Nov. 23rd and appreciates all the student initiatives that is going on around the campus for the community.

AA. John Rey informs that on survey taken for the 10 most exciting places taken in Illinois, DeKalb has come in 72nd position out of the 100 cities they had taken and he looks forward to make progress in that rankings.

BB. Senator Lesyk: Why have we not discussed about the relationship between the community and the university earlier?

CC. John Rey: Since the time I have been in the community, we are in new era where new leadership at the university and new leadership at university council are looking to foster new and stronger relationship between them.

DD. Senator Summers: How are you going to redevelop the Historic District Neighborhood?

EE. John Rey: We are looking to reduce the density of multifamily property. We have mixed use solution with possibly attractive commercial building on Lincoln Highway and enhancing the east side of the Kishwaukee River.

FF. Senator Summers: How could we attract more restaurants to our DeKalb city?

GG. John Rey: The developers look for food traffic count when the university is session and when it is not to expand its territory. We are doing everything to enhance the saving and customer friendliness that our city services present to the developers.

HH. Senator Hampton: Olive Garden could be brought to the city of DeKalb to improve our rankings?

II. John Rey: I am not too optimistic on whether Olive Garden would open in DeKalb.

JJ. Senator Leigh: What places do you think we could improve and create excitement among students and thus increase the retention rate?

KK. John Rey: The challenge for us is that properties on Sycamore road are more attractive to new businesses just because of their traffic count. We are going through strategic planning to find attractive venues in our city. I encourage everyone to participate in the strategic planning process and offer suggestions.

LL. Senator Lezon: Parking lot for Blackhawk and hillcrest campus cinema is vacant, do you have any plans to use that empty space?

MM. John Rey: Hopefully, there would be some development in that neighborhood and we are still planning on it.
A. Rachel Chavez- Vice President of Student Association is recognized.
B. “It’s on Us” campaign consists of a week of events which tackles a lot of facets of sexual assaults on campus. It will be starting from this Monday and please have a look on our social media to know the schedule of events.
C. We had held a Networking Session this semester and we are thinking to have it again during the Spring Semester.
D. Involvement Fair is generally held during the fall semester but I have decide to have it during spring semester
E. Golden Key Honor Society are planning to have a Day of Diversity and SA are planning to collaborate with them and all student organizations are requested to attend the event.
F. Senator Warsi: Does the Orgs Expo involve only the SA recognized organizations or does it involve all student organizations at NIU?
G. It welcomes any on-campus organization that has registered for the event.
H. Senator Clayton-Taylor: How is the “It’s on Us” being publicized?
I. We didn’t have much time so it’s mainly being publicized through social media and I request all of us to take the responsibility and publicize it
J. Speaker Domke notifies that all the events of “It’s on Us” campaign could be referred on its website.
K. Speaker Domke also informs that the Senator of the year points will be given for attending these events.
L. Husam Salem- Treasurer is recognized.
M. I have been working on the Budget Presentation. I am going to start creating schedules for the spring semester committee so the organizations that have met all the qualifications can sign up and present their budget to the general programming in activities committee and Greek and Cultural Committee.

CABINET REPORTS

A. Annie Ziga-Director of Organizational Development is recognized.
B. I have been helping in editing the constitution of different student organization. I encourage the student organizations to come to us so that we can help them in solving their problems.
C. American Market Association is trying to make “Big Brothers Big Sisters” program more active with NIU students. This program involves students to mentor children between the age 5 to 16 years old.
D. I have been calling different student organizations to know whether they are active or not.
E. I am trying to get SA get more involved with freshmen through Newsletters for UNIV which can help in making SA more powerful on campus.
F. Senator Sheriff requested me to attend Campus Life & Greek Affairs meetings, but unfortunately, due to my class schedule I will not be able to attend the meetings. Hence, I have requested to email me the minutes, to know what is happening in the meetings.
G. Speaker Domke informs that 60% of the children in DeKalb are below the poverty line and therefore, requests everyone to take part in the “Big Brothers Big Sisters” program.

H. Senator Diala: What kind of problems can a student organization bring to you?

I. They can bring a number of problems, for example we can mediate if they have some conflicts inside an organization or if they need a general help like reserving rooms, building foundation for their organization, etc. If I will not be able to help with some problem, I will refer them to someone who can help them with the problem.

J. Lindy Luchowski - Director of Greek Affairs

K. I have made Facebook group of all the chapter presidents from all four university councils and also all graduate assistants from each council. It has been really helpful in communicating with each other and also promote various events.

L. We organized Trick or Treat with Greeks event which was highly successful and displayed Greek unity.

M. I am working with SILD to promote sexual assaults, crisis prevention, and healthy relationship education to Greek community.

N. I am planning to have a four Council Executive Retreat on January 16th or 17th. This retreat will not only include the executive board but also chapter presidents from all the four Councils.

O. Senator Gorsuch: Does the retreat for the Executive board and Chapter Presidents happen together?

P. Yes it is one event which will involve both executive board and chapter presidents.

Q. Chianthony Lee - Director of Student Life

R. The Student Association Toy Drive is going on successfully and will go on till Dec 05th.

S. We have decided with a group Chow Parent Group to wrap up the gifts. In the Spring Semester, there are number workshops coming up and I am working with different people to make them successful.

T. Senator Gorsuch: How is the Toy Drive being marketed?

U. We are have emailed to all the student organization we have worked with. We will be sending fliers for the Toy Drive from next week.

V. Senator Kreml: What Chapters are you going at to donate the toy collections?

W. We are looking at different organizations having day care, and we are making sure that day care who don’t receive much get this toy collection.

X. Senator Sherif: What other initiatives have you planned for next semester?

Y. There are discussions on student security policies going on and providing different resources and information to the students.

Z. Have your goals for this semester been successful? If not, what plans do you have for the next semester to make them successful?

AA. Most of my goals have been met. We are looking for more students get involved in the campus and we are being highly successful in it. For my next semester, I would like to have better collaboration with the directors.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Senator Warsi: In the Pamphlet, the Thanksgiving with the SA will take place in Grand Formal instead of New Hall Community center on November 18th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The volunteers for this event will meet at 5:30pm and Senator Normal will offer Community service hours if you volunteer for this event. We will be making SA decoration for this event in the SA office tomorrow so all are welcomed for it. Also, For the Can food drive, please make sure to check the expiration date before donating the canned food because we pulled out nearly two garbage bags of expired food.

B. Senator Sheriff: Campus Life and Greek Affairs on top of its initiatives and is also looking into Lincoln and obtaining student organization and Greek organization space. NIU is looking into possibly acquiring a whole floor and having an open organization space where they can collaborate with each other, so we are trying to have that Lincoln Space. Senator Agro is pursuing some initiatives with recreational center and seeing how we can support the students with the organization space and improve it.

C. Senator Phillips: I am talking on behalf of the NIU PLUS Task Force, NIU PLUS Task Force does not exist and will be fazing into the implementation process of general education models. Three of the main thesis that we are going to discuss on how to implement them are Engagement Thesis, writing infused courses, the university 301 course. Any senator who could help us in this regard are appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion to hear SAB46009- A Bill to approve NIU Mahjong Club.
B. Seconded.
C. Mahjong is $-player card game originated in East-Asia. We came up with this organization to bring different communities play Mahjong together.
D. Senator Summers: How many members do you current have?
E. Currently, we have 8 members.
F. Senator Diala: Have you started doing advertisement for your organization?
G. We have not started advertising our group yet, but we will be starting after we get official recognition.
H. Senator Diala: Would your organization participate in different Mahjong Competitions?
I. We are interested in participating but unfortunately, there are not many competitions happening in our locality.
J. Senator Cappi: Are you open to all the departments?
K. Yes, we are open to all students who are interested in playing Mahjong.
L. Discussions:
M. Senator Sheriff: I would say yes to the group because there are very few Mahjong Clubs in NIU
N. Senator White: Such clubs have diverse games with different backgrounds and have to be promoted.

O. Motion to vote SAB46009 - A Bill to approve NIU Mahjong Club.

P. Motion passed.

Q. Motion to hear SAB46013 - A Bill to approve Society of Plastic Engineers.

R. Seconded.

S. We experiment with electronic waste plastics and test the mechanical properties. We are conducting an industry visit to Ideal industries in DeKalb on Friday.

T. Senator Kreml: How many members do you currently have?

U. We currently have 4.

V. Senator Lagioia: Do you have a different project every week or one big project you are working on?

W. We have one big project on which we will be working where we will be finding mechanical properties of different electronics and how on what applications can these be used.

X. Senator Phillips: Is your organization open to all departments of NIU?

Y. It is open to all students who are interested in the group.

Z. Senator White: Are you planning to collaborate with other engineering clubs?

AA. No we have not planned anything yet.

BB. Senator Gorsuch: Would you be request funding from the Student Association in near future?

CC. No, we have not planned anything about funding yet.

DD. Motion to vote SAB46013 - A Bill to approve Society of Plastic Engineers.

EE. Motion passed.

FF. Motion to hear SAR46031 - A Resolution to Appoint Sara Partington Senator At Large.

GG. It’s my 3rd year in NIU with History Major and minor in Political Science and English. I am member of National Society for Collegiate Scholars, a Leader of National Student Leadership Conference for last four years and member of Death Pride. I want to become a senator mainly to help the students by advocating stronger campus leaders outside the campus. I frequently attend Hall Council which gives me opportunity to speak on behalf of residence and to aid in action to support their community. I have been community advisor for last two years which enabled me to have keen organizational attention to details skill. I have also been Neew Hall tour guide for last two years which allowed to be in direct contact with freshmen, transfer students and their parents. The main area of concern for me is Retention, students return to their home during weekend because lack of affordable fun events around the campus. I believe in increasing the social programs that are relevant to our student bodies will help in increasing the retention rate.

HH. Senator Williams: Which committee would you like to work with?

II. I would like to work with Campus Life and Greek Affairs or Mass Transit.

JJ. Senator Calyton-Taylor: Do you see any current traditions on campus or do you wish to start any?

KK. Normally, during academic convocation, we are given a pin which we have to carry for all 4 years. I would like to add more traditions that would involve more students and increase retention rate.

LL. Senator Diala: What prevented you from attending the Senator Elections?

MM. I was not aware of the elections going on at that time but once I got to know Senator at Large positions were available, I readily applied for them.
NN. Motion to hear SAR46032- A Resolution to Appoint Akeem Williams Senator At Large.

OO. I am a Computer Engineer and minor in Economics. I was member president of a club and also member of debate team during my high school. I was member of Afro-American Student Union. I was not able to be a part of any organization in NIU because I was full-time student and also full-time worker. As of recently, I was able to gain flexibility in my schedule to participate actively for my community. My goals for the senate are to improve the quality of living for students currently on and off campus. I believe that my work experience and motivation can be used to produce new ideas and new traditions which can help the university in increasing the retention rate.

PP. Senator Phillips: What specific university services do you want to implement?

QQ. Specifically I would like to implement services that would increases interaction between students since I feel the university is very segregated. The on-campus facilities are very accessible but the off-campus facilities need to be enhanced to increase the retention rate.

RR. Speaker Domke: You have specified that your work experience will be beneficial to the senate, what work experiences do you have?

SS. I have worked for two years in Chrysler Group LLC which allowed me to personally see how the company operated and gained a lot of experience working there.

TT. Senator Leigh: Have you planned to join any other student organization?

UU. Yes, I am planning to join National Society for Black Engineers.

VV. Senator Koss: Why didn’t you run for the elections?

WW. I was not sure whether my work schedule would allow me to join the senate. But, due to my flexibility in my present schedule, I am confident I can handle both.

XX. Motion to hear SAR46033- A Resolution to Appoint Paul Arelatosa Senator At Large.

YY. I am freshman in NIU. In High School, I was the president of Journalism Club and a member of student council. In NIU, I am programming vice president and also member of CAB, member of Liberated Minds organization and volunteered for number of NIU events. I want to be a senator because I want to make a difference in NIU, improve the relationship between the students of NIU and also make the students aware of Student Association and its advantages.

ZZ. Senator Clayton-Taylor: How do you plan to fix the communication between Student Association and Black Organization on campus?

AAA. I am member of one Black Organization and I have experienced that there is not much communication between the students and the administration and students forget to fill up the forms given to them.

BBB. Senator Sheriff: Why have you not taken an initiative to make your organization more organized and make it SA recognized?

CCC. In Liberated Minds organization, I was not a board member and hence I could not bring any changes.

DDD. Senator White: You could now voice your opinion in the organization you were involved in. How do you expect to voice your opinion in the senate?

EEE. In the senate, everyone is allowed to give their opinion and discuss with each other. Therefore, I would like to be in the senate

FFF. Senator Gorsuch: You have told you are involved in many organizations, don’t you think you are already involved in many to handle the position of senator?
GGG. No, I am sure I will be able to work my schedule and handle the senate position with utmost importance.

HHH. Discussions on Sara Partington

III. Senator Diala: She was very much prepared and has experience to contribute a lot to the senate. I would like her to be in the senate.

JJJ. Senator Hampton: She is absolutely amazing and would provide a lot to the senate.

KKK. Senator White and Senator Koss also gave positive response to elect Sara Partington.

LLL. Motion to vote SAR46031- A Resolution to Appoint Sara Partington Senator At Large.

MMM. Motion Passed.

NNN. Discussions on Akeem Williams

OOO. Senator Gorsuch: He was nervous but he seemed to have a lot of experience. So, I urge you to vote for the candidate.

PPP. Senator Hampton: He has different major and different background and hence will be beneficial to the senate.

QQQ. Senator Kreml: He seemed to be very approachable and that is what we want in the senate.

RRR. Motion to vote SAR46032- A Resolution to Appoint Akeem Williams Senator At Large.

SSS. Motion passed.

TTT. Discussions on Paul Arelatosa

UUU. Senator Clayton-Taylor: I agree that the relation between black organization and SA are iffy but the facts he had given are not true.

VVV. Senator Diala: He was not prepared and the things he told were contradictory.

WWW. Senator Gorsuch: I felt like he doesn’t really want to be in the senate.

XXX. Senator Williams: If he would have been on the senate, he would have the most community service hours as he worked for 7hours for the community. I would vote for him.

YYY. Senator Kreml: He told that as a freshman he did not have a voice in the organization. If he could not step up in his own organization, why would he step up in the senate?

ZZZ. Motion to vote SAR46033- A Resolution to Appoint Paul Arelatosa Senator At Large

AAAA. Motion does not pass. 6-aye 26-nay 1-abstention.

BBBB. Motion to hear SAR46034- A Resolution to Appoint Robert Kreml Deputy Speaker.

CCCC. Third year student here. Minor in mathematical sciences. Member of student conduct board. Secretary of hall council. Honors CA in new hall. Interaction with a lot of students on any given day. Chaired recognition committee for hall council. I was responsible for making minutes, collecting reports from executive staff and creating agenda from those reports. I have attended Hall Council meetings, Executive work meeting and recognition committee meetings. In Spring-13, I was the New Hall tour coordinator in which I had to get volunteers and then train them. I was part of the Resident student conduct board in which I memorized the Student code of conduct and the guide post which is the residential code of conducts. I act as positive role model for current and future students. I also attend Hall council meeting which gives me talk on behalf of SA. I also conduct one-one with residents 4 times a year which allows me to get more acquainted with them and help them get more acquainted with the campus. I want to bring collaboration between the student committees. If we as governing have unity, we can accomplish
a lot more things. I want the senators to know the governing documents properly. This will be done through weekly emails which will consist of next week agenda and what is currently going on in the SA. I also want to raise awareness about SA to current and future students. I will always be open to suggestions, opinions and thoughts that could improve me as a better Deputy Speaker.

Senator Hampton: I would like to suggest you to work 4 times a week instead of 5 times a week.

The reason I have chosen 5 times a week because I live on campus and it’s not far away from my office. Hence, I can be here whenever I want.

Senator Diala: I would like to point out the quickness in which he read over the constitution and pointed out the GPA requirement for Graduate students and that was probably within two weeks becoming the Senator at large. Hence, he has my vote.

Speaker Domke: There have been only 4 constitutional amendments in the history of SA and he has written one within weeks of becoming a senator.

Senator White and Senator Phillips also give positive response on his selection as deputy speaker.

Motion to vote SAR46034- A Resolution to Appoint Robert Kreml Deputy Speaker.

Motion passed.

Seconded.

Chief Lowery approached us on Friday asking us to give our consent or not on a parking ban changing from 9:00am to 6:00am on Garden Road. Since some students have classes from 8:00am, they are having difficulty in finding parking areas during that time. Therefore, Chief Lowery asked us for our consent because he will be going to present this to the City Council in their next meeting on next Monday and wanted our opinion before including it into the agenda.

Motion to vote SAR46035- A resolution to support a 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM parking ban on Garden Road.

Motion passed.

Motion to suspend SAB46016- A Bill to approve Supplemental Funding, Prism indefinitely.

Seconded.

Senator Sheriff: Did they give any reason for pulling out their application?

Yes, the funds they were requesting were already coming from Annual Budget and therefore, according to bylaws, they cannot request supplemental funding for something they have already requested.

Motion passed.

Motion to read SAB46017- A Bill to amend the constitution- Grad Student GPA.

This motion will be on our agenda for the next two weeks.
H. Deputy Speaker Robert Kreml reads the bill to amend the constitution adding a qualification for office that applies to graduate students.

I. Deputy Speaker Robert Kreml makes it clear that the change in GPA in the constitution is just for graduate students.

J. SAB46017- A Bill to amend the constitution- Grad Student GPA read.

K. Motion to suspend SAB46018- A Bill to approve NIU Badminton Club to the next meeting.

L. Deputy Speaker Robert Kreml makes a motion to table SAB46018- A Bill to approve NIU Badminton Club.

M. Motion does not pass.

N. Motion postponed to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

A. Senator Leigh: The center of Black Studies NIU is going to host their first annual Thanksgiving dinner and it will be hosted at New Hall. We are requesting for volunteers as well as monetary and canned food goods. For more information, you can contact me.

B. Senator Clayton-Taylor: This Thursday at 7:30pm, it be my first event I have coordinated on eboard. It is called Wild and Out and it is free of cost. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting.

C. Senator Warsi: This Thursday, the Muslim Student Association in collaboration with the office of first and second year experience will be hosting a Fast-a-thon and it will be held in Campus Life Building Room No. 100 at 5:00pm. This is part of hunger and Homelessness awareness week where we will ask them to pledge to fast from sunrise to dark and then we will be breaking fast together. We will be collecting donations which will be be sent to the homeless shelter here in DeKalb.

D. Senator Hampton: I am in charge of getting feedback from students who are passionate smokers. I am also in the process of working to get the Recreational Center work for 24 hours. This Wednesday, Survivors Find Freedom from 2pm-7pm, and I am looking for volunteers. We need people to run a booth which is like a pledge against sexual assault and you will obtain service hours for it.

E. Senator Williams: If any of the organization want to print their t-shirts for cheaper price, they can contact me.

F. Senator Koss: In the absence of Senator Norman, I would like to announce that the Collaboration for Fall Clean-Up will be held this Saturday at 11am-2pm.

G. Senator Summers: The senators who are interested in Diversity Ad-hoc committee are requested to contact me after the meeting.

H. Speaker Domke: Everyone who wants to come to the ICE Hog game is requested to fill up and submit their forms.
I. Speaker Domke: The chairman’s meeting will be held tomorrow at 4:00 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 11/19/2014

EXECUTIVE ALLOCATION INFORMATION