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 Bateman, Senator Lentz, Senator Sheriff, Senator Partington, Senator Joseph, Senator Jusino and Senator Wahlstrom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Speaker Domke motioned to approve 11/23/14 meetings minutes. Seconded
   i. Minutes Approved

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Speaker Domke motioned to move item A from new business into old business. Seconded.
   i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT

A. Speaker Domke informs everyone that agenda items will be finished first so that the required time can be given to the guests to give their presentation.
B. Speaker Domke announces that a decision was taken by Board of Trustees Meeting on new structure for the tuition fee at NIU. There will be a decrease in per credit hour class of education. It will act as an insurance plan where after reaching certain, the price will remain the same and will not increase. For new students, it is going to be 12 credit hours price ceiling and for continuing students, it is going to be 15 credit hours. It is going to increase the retention rate and it will allow students to select the courses of their interest without having to worry about their finance.
C. Two search committees were going on for selecting vice-president of Advancement and Vice-president of Administration and Finance. Both committees have selected a set of finalists and interview will be taken next week.
D. Speaker Dome decides on skipping Executive and Cabinet Reports for interent of time and hence their reports will be sent.
E. Speaker Domke announces that Applications for Director of Cultural Affairs and Director of Student Life are now officially open. Applications are available on front page of SA website and you can apply right through the link.

F. Speaker Domke notifies that several changes will be happening around the campus especially near Neptune Center and Holmes Student Center.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

A. None.

**CABINET REPORTS**

A. None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Motion to hear SAB46017- A Bill to amend the constitution- Grad Student GPA.
B. Seconded.
C. Robert Kreml briefs about amending the constitution- Grad Student GPA.
D. Motion to vote SAB46017- A Bill to amend the constitution- Grad Student GPA.
E. Motion passes.
F. Motion to suspend SAB46021- A Bill to approve Kingsword NIU to the next meeting.
G. Motion passes. 20-aye 10-nay
H. Motion to hear SAR46038- A resolution to confirm the regular meeting schedule for the Spring Semester of the year 2015.
I. The main changes in the regular meeting schedule for the Spring Semester of the year 2015 are that we won’t be having a meeting on Martin Luther King Day as the university will be closed.
J. The senate meeting on Super Bowl Sunday i.e. 02/02/2015 will be held at 2pm instead of regular 6pm.
K. Motion to vote SAR46038- A resolution to confirm the regular meeting schedule for the Spring Semester of the year 2015.
L. Motion passes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. None.

**GUEST SPEAKER REPORT**
A. Ron Walters is welcomed on the stage and is appreciated by Speaker Domke for his work at NIU.

B. Ron Walters: I joined President Baker 18 months ago to increase the enrollment rate, retention rate and funding. To do it, we needed a new focus, new approaches in order for us to be sustainable. We started by focusing a lot on how we change the culture of the university. We did it by starting Ball future’s workshops. We also focused on various things to improve the student’s experience.

C. We gathered a group of designers from around the country who had a lot of experience in this field and had a very intensive four and a half day exercise to decide on how we can reinvasion this campus. Student Leadership helped us in this discussion and gave us the feedback from students which were really helpful.

D. We recognized there is huge opportunity to focus and improve the campus core i.e. the student center and the Neptune complex. We have a lot of opportunity to expand Neptune complex and bring in more residential area into the core of the campus. We are planning to have three design contracts which should happen together in a collaborative manner. One is a contract for two firms to work together in a collaborative way to design core framework and decide on the framework parameters on how these plans are going to come together. The other contract is given to a firm selected to redesign the student center. The third contract is given to a firm to redesign the Neptune and also look at a concept for housing that will be go beyond the existing blueprint of Neptune Hall.

E. President Baker took this to the Board of Trustees in May and the approved this concept and design. We requested for quotations and we received them from best Design Firms from around the world. It was tedious work to select the best firms for these contracts as we were looking into many attributes but in particular we were looking at how they would get students engaged into this development. The firms we had selected have an amazing way of engaging students and getting their feedback on the design and development.

F. We decided that the best time to start this project is one week after the spring semester starts. We expect to have some big things happening in the next coming years.

G. Ron Walters asks Interim Associate Vice-President of Facilities and Services to introduce the teams.

H. Team from Dewberry Workshop who will be working on renovation of Holmes Student Center is welcomed on the stage.

I. Presentation on their plan for renovation of Holmes Student Center is given.

J. Team from Design Organization INC. SASAKI Associates who will be working on renovation of Neptune facility is welcomed on the stage.

K. Presentation on their plan for renovation of Neptune Facility is given.

L. Senator Clayton-Taylor: Will the Neptune Hall be closed when the renovation take place?

M. There will not be any loss of housing during the renovation of Neptune and alternative places will be selected for residence under affordable prices.

N. Senator Koss: Pertaining to the survey, can we have the maps printed out so the students can manually select their locations and we can submit these maps back to you?
O. We want to get information from as many students as we can on campus and if we distribute maps manually we may not be able to reach all students. The online tool is best way to reach out to the students and get their feedback.

P. Senator Coronado: What is the cost assessment and evaluation for renovation of these buildings?

Q. It is too early to comment on the cost estimation. Our main aim is to execute our plans in the most cost effective way. We should not forget the point that a lot of revenue can be generated from the residential hall once they are renovated.

R. Senator Brimeyer: We recently renovated the College’s Grind. Will we be re-renovating it again?

S. We have not taken any decision on it but we would need a compelling reason to re-renovate it at this point.

T. Senator Lesyk: Is there any perfect date for completion of project?

U. We would like to finish it in next five years but we have to take into consideration the funding and other criterion.

V. Senator Kincaid: What sort of deliverables can we expect shorty?

W. We are going to document the process, analysis and concepts and present it in the next meeting.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. If you have any questions on Leadership Board or institutional tuition waiver, they are all posted online so you can go to [www.leadershipboards.niu.edu](http://www.leadershipboards.niu.edu) and get your required information.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A. A resolution on Garden Road was recently passed in the senate meeting which is now going to be voted during the City Council meeting which be held tomorrow and all the senators are encouraged to attend the meeting and support the resolution.

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**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY**

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 12/09/2014

**EXECUTIVE ALLOCATION INFORMATION**