STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE
of
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
5:00 p.m. - Sunday 22nd November 2015
Clara Sperling Skyroom
Holmes Student Center

I. Call to Order and Roll Call
II. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Approval of Minutes
   [Minutes distributed electronically to members]
IV. Approval of Agenda
V. Speaker’s Report
VI. Executive Branch Report(s)
VII. Cabinet Report
VIII. Committee Reports
IX. Old Business
   A. SAR47022- A Resolution to support writing infused courses & proposed transcript documentation for co-curricular engaged learning activities.
X. New Business
XI. Public Comments
XII. Announcements
XIII. Adjournment
CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Domke at 5:04 PM in the Sky Room of the Holmes Student Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Speaker Domke motioned to approve previous meeting’s minutes. Seconded
   i. Minutes Approved

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Speaker Domke motioned to move items A and B from new business into old business and remove item D from the agenda. Seconded.
   i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT

A. Speaker Domke informs all the senators about the “Annual Holiday” party held at the end of the semester after the last senate meeting. He proposed to change the party into potluck and requests all senators to give their feedback on this proposal.
B. Speaker Domke informs about the “Program Prioritization” process and about the student review panel that is going to be set up for all the academic and administrative narratives currently being written and requests all senators who want to be a part of this panel to contact him.
C. Speaker Domke informs about the “Letter Writing” campaign and notifies all senators that they would be getting senators if they participate in organizing the event.
D. Speaker Domke invites Ed Klonoski to the dais.

GUEST SPEAKER REPORT

A. Ed Klonoski and give a brief update on the PLUS Reform Process as well as two separate initiatives that are going to take place as part of PLUS curriculum.
B. Senator Neely: Have you looked over the criteria of the Majors to see if any of the classes they have already taken fit into this condition of writing minimum of 3000 words?

C. Yes, I have visited each of the faculty senates, university senate and each of the college curriculum committees and also had meeting with advisors, college deans, etc. and they identified 12 courses that matched this criteria.

D. Senator Vanover: I believe it should be put into action as writing 3000 words is easy.

E. Yes it is a national norms and a student can write more than 3000 words but not less than that.

F. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: If the student has taken one of the courses that has been identified as writing infused course previously, will you be allowing it to transcend over the requirement or will the student has to take a different course as it was taken before this initiative came into effect.

G. At this point there is no plan to transcend over the requirement as these courses have not been developed as “writing infused” course. And I believe there will be very few students who come into this category and therefore each student will be handled individually.

H. Anthony Guzaldo gives a brief description about the co-curricular engage learning experience and about the proposal to have transcript notations added to student’s official transcript for learning experiences that the students had outside the classroom that meets a certain criteria.

I. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: Can a student apply for both transcript notation and credit for an activity that satisfies both conditions or should the student forfeit one of them to achieve the other?

J. At this point, the intention is to have it only for co-curricular activities and there =fore it cannot be listed twice on the transcript. We are planning to do in phases where co-curricular engage learning experience will be refined after each phase.

K. Senator Wang: What if a student is in a program that spans three and a half years and if its intensity varies in different semester. Does it count as transcript notation on official transcript?

L. If that student’s program meets the standards specified for this initiative, then the student will get the notation in his/her official transcript.

M. Senator Wang: When is it going to start?

N. It is still in preliminary stage and there are still discussions going on among faculty, students and administration. We are planning to start this program in Fall-2016.

O. Senator Dominguez: Once this process becomes operational, would it be possible for students to submit their past achievements?

P. It is still to be determined on how far the past experiences can be taken into account.

Q. Senator Martin: How do you plan to implement this into the university curriculum?

R. Because it is not a course bearing activity, it does not need to go through the curriculum process. We are planning to have the first phase running by Fall-2016.

S. Speaker Domke: Being a member of Student Association Senate fall under the Leadership category and if it doesn’t, could the SA work with the people who are formulating this initiative to incorporate this above said criteria?

T. One of the main criteria that the student has to meet is that the student has to demonstrate how his activity has helped him to achieve one of the 8 learning outcomes. If you are able to
demonstrate it and if a faculty mentor is present to observe that, then it can come in the documentation.

U. Ed Klonoski gives an explanation about the pathway in terms of General Education Curriculum.

V. Senator Brandner: The pathways you have currently explained is similar to one of the program called Medieval Study Liberal Arts and Sciences Concentration. Is there any plan to work with Medieval Study coordinators into one of the pathways?

W. Certifications, Concentrations, Specializations, etc. are sub-divisions of major and all have specific requirements. It is important for a pathway needs to have very broad range of disciplines. It needs to have at least two college courses and also has to have adequate representation from departments across the campus. Therefore, certifications cannot be made a pathway since they are more specific to one discipline.

X. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: Pathways seems to have bigger amount of credit house so will it have more bearing than minor?

Y. The proposed pathway minor will be 18 hours and therefore it will not be in larger demand than most minors.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. None.

CABINET REPORTS

A. Speaker Domke reads the Cabinet Reports emailed to him by Kiran Gill-Director of Governmental Affairs and Miki Grace- Director of Student Life.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion to hear SAB47008- A bill to approve supplemental funding- Black Student Union.

B. Seconded.

C. Representatives of Black Student Union give a brief about the organization and provide reasons on why supplemental funding has to be approved to their organization by the SA.

D. Senator Paquin: How many people are going to attend this conference?

E. Five members of my organization are going to attend this conference. We have removed the transportation expenses that we are going to incur from the supplemental fund that we are requesting from the Student Association.

F. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: When did you plan to attend this conference?

G. This conference was attended last year by the Black Student Union members and I just wanted to continue it as it helps my members gain a lot of knowledge.

H. Senator Brandner: As I believe, senators would like to see the supplemental funding provided to organizations be successful. So, would you be willing to submit a letter to senate to know was the conference fruitful or not?

I. Absolutely, we would like to come back to senate and demonstrate what all we learnt in the conference.
J. Motion to vote SAB47008- A bill to approve supplemental funding- Black Student Union.
K. Motion passes.
L. Motion to hear SAB47009- A bill to amend the bylaws regarding the Director of Cultural Affairs
M. Seconded.
N. Senator Phillips gives a brief description about the bill.
O. Motion to vote SAB47009- A bill to amend the bylaws regarding the Director of Cultural Affairs
P. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion to hear SAR47022- A Resolution to support writing infused courses & proposed transcript documentation for co-curricular engaged learning activities.
B. Seconded.
C. Speaker Domke gives a brief description about the bill.
D. SAR47022- A Resolution to support writing infused courses & proposed transcript documentation for co-curricular engaged learning activities is marked read.

EXECUTIVE SESSION takes place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. President Lupstein informs everyone about the It’s on Us action week starting from November 17th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Senator Warsi: I have been working on a diversity campaign with Director of Cultural Affairs called “Ask me about” which is held tomorrow at 10:30 am in Conference Room 180 and also on Tuesday at 11:30 in same conference room. The Muslim Student Association and Better Together@NIU is organizing a “Fastathon” tomorrow in CLB 100.
B. Senator Hoxworth appreciates everyone who attended Fall Clean Up” day on November 22nd from 11am to 2 pm.
C. Senator Stewart: There is an event in Stevenson Towers on Tuesday at 7pm.
D. Senator Robinson: On November 18th, Black Male Initiative is conducting Candy Sale in HSC to raise funds for Annual Conference.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 11/17/2015

EXECUTIVE ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Old Business
First Reading
Agenda Item: A November 15, 2015
Author: Speaker Domke
Sponsor:

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 47022
Forty-Seventh Session

Summary: A Resolution to support writing infused courses & proposed transcript documentation for co-curricular engaged learning activities

Legislation:

WHERAS, General education is currently being reformed at NIU to a “Pathway” process that will require students to take less credits

WHERAS, On November 15 Dr. Ed Klonoski and Anthony Guzzaldo were before Senate to discuss some of the changes that relate to the general education process

WHERAS, Dr. Klonoski discussed the changes regarding the addition of writing infused courses into the general education program

WHERAS, Anthony Guzzaldo discussed the proposed transcript documentation process for co-curricular, engaged learning activities

WHERAS, It is the duty of the Senate to legislate on all matters that are of interest to the students

THEREFORE, The student of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve: its support for writing infused courses & proposed transcript documentation for co-curricular engaged learning activities that were discussed by Klonoski and Guzzaldo at the November 15th meeting.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.