CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Domke at 5:03 PM in the Sky Room of the Holmes Student Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Speaker Domke asks Senator Joseph 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, B, C and D from new business into old business. Seconded.
   i. Agenda approved

SPEAKER REPORT

A. Speaker Domke requests all senators to check the agenda and pamphlet for the senate meeting uploaded on blackboard before attending the meeting.
B. Speaker Domke informs that the application for “Director of Environmental Affairs” is available on Huskielink and application for “Senate Clerk” position will also available on Huskielink from next week.
C. Speaker Domke informs about the decisions made in “Green Initiative Committee” meeting that was held this week.
D. Speaker Domke informs about the Resource based and budget committee meeting this Friday and assures all students that student services will be given the top priority for non-cuts.
E. Speaker Domke notifies that President Baker has announced that NIU, for its students, will be covering MAP Grant Funding.
F. Speaker Domke informs about the new student fee structure which has been approved by Board of Trustees.
G. Speaker Domke informs about the successful rally held on October 29th and discussed on different ways to continue this peaceful agitation.
H. Speaker Domke invites Bob Pritchard-Illinois State Representative.

GUEST SPEAKER REPORT

A. Bob Pritchard gives a brief description about MAP Grant Funding cut, explained on how important MAP Grant funding is for the students and how it makes Higher Education affordable to students.
B. Senator Neely: Why hasn’t the government increased the funding so that the students can afford higher education?
C. Because there are lots of needs in our state and we haven’t had enough citizens demanding state to invest in higher education.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS
A. Nathan Lupstein – President of SA is recognized.
B. Nathan Lupstein appreciates all senators who have interacted with executive staff, gave their feedbacks and helped the Student Association better itself.
C. Nathan Lupstein informs that the application for “Director of Environmental Affairs” is available on HuskieLink and encourages everyone who believes that they are capable for that position to apply.
D. Nathan Lupstein informs about the It’s On Us campaign that is being held on 17th November which will be a Campus-wide Demonstration Day where students will be encourage to take the pledge against sexual violation.
E. Nathan Lupstein notifies about the new student fee structure and how the executive staff is trying to understand the process and find out how student representation fits into it.
F. Nathan Lupstein informs that they have been trying to create a new expenditure forms for student organizations and Student Association so that administration does not deny the expenditure.
G. Nathan Lupstein informs that half of the broken lockers at recreational centers can be replaced as the current budget situation does not allow them to replace all the lockers.
H. Nathan Lupstein informs about the “No Shame” campaign which focused on eliminating stigma with mental health.
I. Speaker Domke: How much executive allocation have you given out this year and to how many student organizations?
J. Nathan Lupstein: I have given out in total around 11000$ this semester and the highest allocation I have given to a single student organization is 3000$. I want to assure everyone that I have approved requests and provided funds conservatively.
K. Speaker Domke: Pertaining to the Bylaws, have you prepared a 10 week evaluation of your staff?
L. Nathan Lupstein: I am in process of getting them finalized.

CABINET REPORTS

A. Alyssa Dunbar - Director of Advertising is recognized.
B. Alyssa Dunbar informs everyone that advertising total in past 4 weeks has come down to 4060$.
C. Alyssa Dunbar informs that promotional commercial for Student Association is nearly completed and will be displayed in athletic events during next semester
D. Alyssa Dunbar informs that she has been approaching different clients and finalizing schedule for advertising for upcoming semester.
E. Alyssa Dunbar informs about advertisements being conducted for various events being organized on campus.
F. Alyssa Dunbar informs about the changes made to the rate card for advertising on NIU buses.
G. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: During previous meeting, you had specified that departments weren’t ready to renew their contracts with us due to state budget cuts. Are you still facing that issue?
H. Alyssa Dunbar: Yes, due to the current state budget condition, there has been no improvement regarding NIU departments’ contracts with us.
I. Jevonte Marshall – Director of Information Technology is recognized.
J. Jevonte Marshall informs about the modifications being done on NIU website and informs that changes to SILD and SA website unfortunately will not be done until next semester.
K. Jevonte Marshall informs about the computer issues that were faced by some of the SA employees including logging into Microsoft Outlook, printer problems, etc.
L. Jevonte Marshall encourages everyone who believes that the SA website can be improved or if they feel that new things should be incorporated into the website to meet him and discuss the possibilities.
M. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: Is there any progress in the “Acceptable Use Policy” since the last time you spoke about it during the previous senate meeting?
N. Jevonte Marshall: Unfortunately there hasn’t been progress since last meeting but there will be a meeting next Friday regarding the “Acceptable Use Policy” by C.F.A.C and then I might be able to update you regarding the progress of it.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Senator Warsi informs that the Public Affairs committee met two weeks ago where they discussed about different ways to promote SA around campus.

B. Senator Birt informed about the main goal of Campus Life and Greek Affairs Committee which is to improve collaboration between student organizations and they are working closely Logyn Hoxworth-Community Service Coordinator and Stephanie Norman. They also created fliers for “Campus Fall Clean Up” which is going to be held on Nov 22nd from 12pm to 2pm. To improve safety on campus, they have contacted NIUPD Commander and discussed on possibility of having Huskie Patrol in some of the off-campus areas.

C. Speaker Domke informs that the Rules and Procedure Committee elected their new Vice-Chairman – Senator Gorsuch and Secretary - Senator Wang. The Rules and Procedure Committee have approved recognition to “Game Design Club”

OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion to hear SAR47019- A resolution to appoint Members to the Supreme Court
B. Seconded.
C. Jason Montemayor gives a brief about him and provides reasons on why he should be appointed as member of the Supreme Court.
D. Senator Turner-McDonald: have you gone through the SA bylaws and constitution?
E. Yes, I have gone through them and understood the SA bylaws and constitution.
F. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: What are your plans for the SA if selected as member of the Supreme Court?
G. My main goal would be to get the whole campus involved through different kinds of media outlets.
H. Discussion on Jason Montemayor
I. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: It is a good plus point that he has gone through SA bylaws and constitution and he has also specified that he would be transparent while taking decisions and give reasons for taking them. That feature is very important for a person who wants to become a member of Supreme Court.
J. Senator Brandner: He has a diverse background and I believe his experience would be a valuable tool for the Supreme Court.
K. Motion to vote SAR47019- A resolution to appoint Members to the Supreme Court
L. Motion passes.
M. Motion to hear SAB47006- A bill to approve supplemental funding- Black Male Initiative
N. Seconded.
O. Representatives of Black Male Initiative give a brief about the organization and provide reasons on why supplemental funding has to be approved to their organization by the SA.
P. Senator Clayton-Taylor: Since the conference has already occurred yesterday, are you asking for the expenditure you have incurred while organizing the event?
Q. Yes, we had submitted the document two weeks ago but we didn’t have the opportunity to come in front of the senate and plead our case until today.
R. Discussion on A bill to approve supplemental funding- Black Male Initiative
S. Senator Turner-McDonald: I had the honor of going to one of their conferences two years ago in Detroit and I believe that was one of the most influential conferences in my life. Black Male Initiative does a lot for this university and I believe we should repay them through this supplemental funding.
T. Deputy-Speaker Kreml: They have tried to submit the lowest quote possible to make sure that we weren’t spending a lot of money. I believe that this conference helps in promoting our university by bringing a lot of students from different universities to our campus. Therefore, I believe we should accept their supplemental funding request.
U. Motion to vote SAB47006- A bill to approve supplemental funding- Black Male Initiative
V. Motion passes.
W. Motion to hear SAB47007- A bill to amend the SA Bylaws to give student organizations more autonomy in determining their policies.

X. Seconded.

Y. Senator Brandner gives a brief description about the bill.

Z. Senator Phillips: Would this bill give student organizations chance to choose between Democratic Process versus Executive Board Relative Autonomy?

AA. Senator Brandner: Yes, the general principle is that the decision made by executive board is a democratic decision because their members are democratically elected by the students. It is no different than the senate making a democratic decision for the student body. It gives the organization chance to decide whether elected members making their organization’s decision is sufficient or not.

BB. Motion to vote SAB47007- A bill to amend the SA Bylaws to give student organizations more autonomy in determining their policies.

CC. Motion passes.

DD. Motion to hear SAR47020-A resolution to approve Tristan Martin Senator at Large.

EE. Seconded.

FF. Tristan Martin gives a brief about him and provides reasons on why he should be appointed as Senator at large.

GG. Senator Brander: I believe you are not from district 1. Therefore, how would you be able to represent the students of District 1 since you will be placed in District 1 if elected?

HH. I believe that would put me in position of advantage because it would help me get perspective from the students living in the residence halls which might be different from the perspective of student living off-campus.

II. Senator Wang: What is the thing you improved since the last time you had applied for this position?

JJ. I have attended many senate meetings as well as committee meeting and tried to understand how the senate and student association works. So, I believe I have understood much better what my responsibilities would be than the last time I had applied for senator at large position.

KK. Motion to vote SAR47020-A resolution to approve Tristan Martin Senator at Large.

LL. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

A. None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION takes place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Kelli Lance gave a public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Senator Norman informs that they will be making Hygiene Packages and will be handing them out around DeKalb area this month. Every senator is encouraged to participate in the event and more importantly if you give 5 items you will get 1 hour of community service.

B. Senator Hoxworth: We are planning “Fall Clean Up” day on November 22nd from 11am to 2 pm. Everyone are encouraged to attend the event.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

Jamal Pasha Mohammed, Clerk of the Senate 11/10/2015