



Northern Illinois University
Student Association Senate
Sunday, October 24, 2010
Clara Sperling Skyroom
6:00 p.m.
Minutes

- I. Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
 - A. Led by Speaker Talley
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Motion to approve. Seconded.
 - i. Agenda approved.
- IV. Speaker Report
 - A. Speaker Talley explains that the Senate will be hearing from the first organizations seeking SA recognition tonight.
 - B. There will not be meeting next week on 10/31/10.
 - C. Senate will be hearing from committee heads in the next weeks.
 - D. Talley speaks about recent events and the importance of being a leader on campus, but also reminds senators that the counselors are here for students.
 - E. Talley yields and introduces Dr. Hemphill.
- V. Dr. Hemphill
 - A. Dr Hemphill is the Vice President for Student Affairs. He explains that he had originally had a lot of things that he planned to speak to the Senate about but that has changed in the past week.
 - B. Dr. Hemphill feels the need to speak about where NIU is with items relating to the Antinette Keller report. He begins to walk through facts on the case and what people need to focus on as a Huskie nation.
 - C. Keller was reported missing Friday, October 15th, and the NIU University police began searching the location that friends thought she had gone to. Multiple entities have conducted searches but the investigation was turned over to a major case squad. The search continued until the press conference that was held Saturday (10/23/10) where the case was moved

from a missing person to a death investigation, have not ruled anything out yet. The whole community has been saddened by this new.

- D. Dr. Hemphill stresses the importance to come together as a community to support one another. NIU has been tested before. Although the investigation is ongoing, officials have made decisions to heighten security around campus. It is not believed that students are at risk, but they know that there are people who are scared and nervous and they would like to provide assurance and a peace of mind. One policy that has been put into place is the 24/7 restricted access to halls. This is important to be done in order to know who is coming in and out of halls.
- E. People have asked what they can do to help. It is important that everyone makes safety their main priority. Hemphill explains safety precautions that have been put in place and passes around a flyer. Highlights the importance of not using electronic devices when alone, especially at night. It is also important to always communicate to other where you are going. Dr. Hemphill encourages everyone to keep in well lit busy routes and avoid shortcuts.
- F. Encourages Senators to dispel any myths that relate to the case. The NIU Hotline can be reached at 815-753-4NIU to talk to someone who can clarify any information that may be rumor.
- G. Reminds everyone to take care of themselves, academics, friends, and family. Need to make sure to support each other.
- H. A vigil for Keller is being planned by Huskies United. A meeting is scheduled Monday in Neptune Central at 10:30 AM in room 216, anyone is encouraged to join.
- I. Dr. Hemphill closes with the importance of keeping the Keller family in our thoughts and prayers. NIU Counseling Centers are opened and are opened for extended hours on Sundays. As a community, he knows that we will move forward and continue to support the Keller family. Expects more information to be coming forward. He encourages senators to make copies of the flyer that he handed out in order to get the word out. Yields.
- J. Questions
 - i. Senator Beasley asks if it has been confirmed that those were Keller's remains.

1. Dr. Hemphill is not sure, but investigators are confident enough to change the type of investigation but will not disclose everything because it is an ongoing investigation.
 2. Beasley asks if students who do not live in the dorms will still be able to use the facilities.
 3. Students will be able to show their NIU OneCard and sign in to gain access to the halls.
 4. Beasley yields.
- ii. Senator Troutman asks how long these security precautions will be in effect.
 1. Dr. Hemphill is not sure because they have not set an end date to the restricted access.
 2. Troutman yields.
- iii. Senator Layfield asks for clarification on the new security policy in the dorms.
 1. As a student, there will still be access to the facilities. Students will just need to sign in.
 2. Layfield yields.
- iv. Senator asks if there will still be guest limitations, just as there were before.
 1. No, those rules have not changed.
 2. Senator yields.
- v. Senator Jackson speaks about an upcoming program in Stevenson, and asks if guests need to be signed in by residents.
 1. Dr. Hemphill explains that they will still need to be signed in as guests to the program. People will just need to acknowledge what they are coming in to the residence halls for.
 2. Jackson yields.
- vi. Senator Reynolds asks if there will there be additional security on campus.
 1. NIU will be increasing police officers seen on campus in terms of buildings and halls. There will be more officers working individual shifts. Officials want people to feel comfortable.

2. Reynolds yields.
- vii. Senator Beasley asks if there will be more help off campus since the incident occurred off campus.
 1. Dr. Hemphill noted the DeKalb is making sure to send a message of safety to the town's residents. There has been talk about how DeKalb and the NIU police can partner together to make people feel safe. They want everyone to make sure that we are looking out for one another and being safe.
 2. Beasley yields.
- viii. Senator Macklin asks if this is something that will be put into permanent effect.
 1. This is temporary the normal schedule and procedures will be back in place after an undetermined period of time.
 2. Macklin yields.
- ix. Senator Wians asks if Prairie Park will be closed off to the public.
 1. Part of the area is restricted because of the investigation. Dr. Hemphill encourages people not to go out to the area, especially during the investigation. There are a lot of other places that can be utilized.
 2. Wians yields.

VI. Executive Reports

- A. Chair yields time to SA President, Erik Calmeyer.
 - i. Calmeyer speaks about the disappearance of Toni Keller. He is assured our community will work together to keep students safe. Safety must continue to be top priority and encourages all to keep their safety in mind.
 - ii. Calmeyer recommends taking advantage of the late night ride service, which can be reached at 815-753-2222.
 - iii. NIU police are also making security escorts available. They can be reached at 815-753-1212. Both of these are a no questions asked services. Calmeyer yields
- B. Chair yields time to Student Trustee, Robert Sorsby.

- i. Sorsby greets senators and is mourning the loss of a fellow Huskie. Students have pulled through to support each other in the past, and we will again.
- ii. Sorsby reports on a 135 million dollar bond to cover the reconstruction of grant as well as other areas around campus. A student fee will be reestablished to repay this bond, which is typical. The fee will be slated so students will not be paying for facilities that they are not using. Sorsby yields.
- iii. Questions
 - 1. Senator Theodore asks if there is anywhere online where more information can be found.
 - a. Yes, the Northern Star as well as the Board of Trustees website.
 - b. Theodore yields.
 - 2. Senator Quick asks about the payment system.
 - a. Sorsby explains that students will pay more the later they arrive to campus. It will be heightened each fiscal year.
 - b. Quick yields.

C. Chair yields time to SA Treasurer, Darrell Nelson.

- i. Nelson greets senators and gives his regards to family of Keller.
- ii. Nelson gives a brief synopsis concerning the budget. Budget requests by organizations were due on October 11th. 70 applications were submitted. Financial Committee will begin meeting and the final budget will be approved the 3rd week of April, 2011.
- iii. Supplemental funding applications have begun to be submitted to the SA office, these will be tabled to upcoming Senate meetings.
- iv. Nelson and the Deputy Treasurer have been helping to create fundraising opportunities for organizations as well. Nelson yields.

VII. Officer Reports

A. Chair yields time to Arlieta Hall, Director of Public Affairs

- i. Hall has been publicizing the SA debate, which took place last week and was successful.

- ii. She is looking into creating new Student Association t-shirt. This should be done by the end of November. She is also looking into putting on a game night. Yields.

B. Chair yields time to Alyssa Ford, Director of Cultural Affairs

- i. Ford sends condolences to the Keller family. Is working with the Director of Latino Resources. They are trying to expand the committee and trying to improve student and faculty relations. Will be meeting on a continual basis.
- ii. Last week, she worked with the Resource Center to utilize early voting on campus. This week she will be meeting with university committees and will have more information in the future. Yields.

C. Chair yields time to Josh Venaas, Director of Mass Transit.

- i. Venaas explains that Mass Transit Committee has their first meeting Tuesday; they will have a report at the next meeting. He would like to see all members at the end of the meeting. Venaas yields.

VIII. Old Business

A. SAB42001- A Bill to Recognize the Listed Student Organization- NIU Juggling Club

- i. Speaker Talley motions to approve. Motion seconded. Chair yields time to members of NIU Juggling Club to speak on their own behalf.
 - 1. William Petsche, Graduate Assistant and student at NIU thanks Senate for the opportunity to speak. He has been juggling for 15 years and his father started a club in Iowa. Petsche wanted to get back into it but would like more people to juggle with. Through this organization, he would like to improve his skills as well as help others. Anyone at NIU can join and it is a good forum to socialize, meet new people, as well as a form of entertainment. He would like to eventually have a professional come in for events. Yields.
- ii. Questions
 - 1. Senator Layfield asks if he plans on charging members for lessons and if they will possibly be an act that other

organizations can book. Layfield also asks how many members NIU Juggling Club has.

- a. There will be no membership fee. Petsche explains that he has been juggling in the MLK Commons and has had 4 or 5 people come to meetings and 10 law students are also interested. They will be a free book in the future.
 - b. Layfield yields.
2. Senator Bennett asks what the organization has to offer to people who do not juggle.
 - a. People who don't want to learn can be entertained. Petsche hopes to improve his skills and provide skills he's learned to others.
 - b. Bennett yields.
3. Senator Beasley asks if there will be GRP requirement, if they will have uniforms, when will they meet, and if they will need to buy their own juggling equipment.
 - a. Members must be a good standing student. Once the organization gets SA approval, they will book a room depending on their schedule.
 - b. Beasley asks if juggling releases stress.
 - c. Yes it does, it also improves dexterity, hand eye coordination, as well as other positive benefits.
 - d. Beasley yields.
4. Senator Howard asks if they will move on to juggling items such as knives.
 - a. Petsche explains that he does have all the general equipment, but will have to look into juggling more items as members improve.
 - b. Howard yields.

iii. Vote SAB42001. Motion carries.

B. SAB42002- A Bill to Recognize the Listed Student Organization- Students for Sensible Drug Policy

- i. Speaker Talley motions to approve. Motion seconded Chair yields time to members of SSDP to speak on their own behalf.

1. Chris Clanin, Vice President of SSDP, thanks for Senate for the opportunity to speak. Explains that they are a drug policy reform group and want to change laws associated with drug policies. Find the drug war to be expensive. NIU has the 12th largest SSDP group in the nation as well as fastest growing. SA recognition would give them the respect necessary to continue growing.
2. They are trying to stave off bad connotations that go with group that has the word “drug in their name. They have helped landscape a local nursing home. They also have held a charity poker even with delta upsilon, helped raise over \$250 and would like to continue to add to that to help students in the form of a scholarship.
3. Erik Haslinger, publicity chair, mentions that a policy they want to focus on is rehabilitation instead of incarceration for minor drug crimes. They are working toward a Good Samaritan Policy. This policy will hopefully save lives by allowing people to help those who may possible be overdosing on drugs.
4. They are mainly a policy group and do not back candidates or parties. Haslinger yields.

ii. Questions

1. Senator Peters asks what actions they will be taking at NIU.
 - a. They are looking into policy reform and local policies. Are also following the states attorney race. Are talking to Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). They first want to get their name out there. They are trying to organize a speaker from LEAP at NIU. They also believe anything good for the school is good for their organization, such as recycling cans. Anything that gets people active is good.
 - b. Peters yields.
2. Senator Quick asks how many members they have.
 - a. They have over 400 join their Facebook group since last spring. They are the 12th most active in the

nation. They are listed with over 70 active members on their webpage and have had over 20 people show up on. They have about 30 active on campus.

- b. Quick asks about how these local service events affect the group.
 - c. It is mostly to get their name out there as a new group and so far has been successful. They want to get people attracted to what they are doing and change policies. They are also in touch with marijuana policy in the capital.
 - d. Quick asks if they are involved with political policies.
 - e. They are out there getting into policies.
 - f. Quick asks if they have a constitution for their group.
 - g. They have submitted a copy, but do not have one on hand.
 - h. Quick yields.
3. Senator Reynolds asks if they are lobbying for people who are charged with drug charges.
- a. They picked to support the Good Samaritan Policy because it is something that is very active in schools. But they can't hope to push change until they have the steam to do it. Need to manpower to solve problems. They are trying to function to change specific local policies. Are in touch with Roosevelt University's SSDP chapter to stage a summit.
 - b. Reynolds yields.
4. Senator McCullough asks if their basic premise is to legalize drugs.
- a. It is not, they would like to change policies on the war on drugs. The war on drugs is expensive and has not been effective. They do focus on the college level since they are students.
 - b. McCullough yields.
5. Senator Adetunji asks what they consider a minor drug offence.

- a. They explain it is small amounts of drugs for personal use, not for sale or for trafficking. They state that 70% of the inmates in California are there for small drug offenses. A lot of money is wasted on the court system for these charges. They do not take a stance on if doing drugs is okay.
 - b. Adetunji yields.
- 6. Senator Quick asks where the poker fundraiser was held.
 - a. It was at the Delta Upsilon Fraternity house. Poker is allowed if 51% go to charity.
 - b. Quick yields.
- 7. Senator Lausch asks if they are in support for medical marijuana.
 - a. They are. With marijuana charges, they would like to see offenders receive a ticket instead of going to jail.
 - b. Lausch asks if SSDP supports general marijuana usage.
 - c. No, they do not; they would like to change policies in place because the current ones are not working. They explain that it comes down to public good, sending people to jail costs more than sending them to school. Lives should not be defined by the court system.
 - d. Lausch asks about lowering the regulation on the offenses.
 - e. They are looking into rehabilitation instead of just jailing people. They are not condoning widespread drug use. Education helps offender better than prison does.
 - f. Lausch asks if they want to not have image as pushing to use of drugs.
 - g. They rarely bring up drugs in their meetings. They are talking about helping on campus. The Good Samaritan Policy has to do with local laws.

- h. Lausch yields.
- 8. Senator Wians asks if they will seek funding if approved.
 - a. They will.
 - b. Wians yields.
- 9. Senator Peters asks if they would be eligible for funding since they are working with political candidates.
 - a. Speaker Talley explains that, as a social justice advocacy group, it would be possible but does not necessarily mean that they would.
 - b. Peters yields.
- 10. Senator Troutman asks how drug are not talked about when they have the word in their name.
 - a. They explain that SSDP does not talk about specific drugs.
 - b. Troutman asks if they would that assume members have tried drugs.
 - c. They try not to stereotype, and have not asked their members about drug use because that would be stereotyping.
 - d. Troutman yields.
- 11. Senator Macklin asks if students would be able to get help from SSDP if they have minor offences.
 - a. They are trying to change policies on campus as a way of starting to help.
 - b. Macklin yields.
- 12. Senator Quick asks if they have though about working with the College Libertarians, since the two groups have similar views.
 - a. They have considered this.
 - b. Quick yields.
- 13. Senator Lausch asks if they have received money from political groups they lobbied for.
 - a. They have not.
 - b. Lausch yields.

iii. Discussion

1. Senator Theodore is a member and sponsors the Good Samaritan Policy. Vouches for SSDP as a professional organization that does base their actions on policy. It is a large organization with different opinions. Makes sure they have good image and good policies. Yields.
 2. Senator Quick has an issue about them being based on policies. They are helping with lobbying so they are a political group. Has issue that they will be seeking funding. Wants more information on what SSDP is doing. Yields.
 3. Senator Lausch has concerns about their possible future funding that will come from student fees. Yields.
 4. Senator Reynolds feels that funding is something different from what is being discussed right now. Feels that there may be many organizations on campus that cause issues with people. Yields.
 5. Senator Kunde agrees that the issues SSDP are talking about are important, but feels they should reclassify as a political organization since they are working with politics and policies. Yields.
 6. Senator Peters agrees that they are debating on possible funding.
 7. Peters motions to call the question. Seconded.
- iv. Vote. 23-yea, 14-nay. Motion fails with less than 2/3 vote.

Discussion continues.

1. Senator Troutman asks if the vote now would possible allow them to receive funding. Yields.
2. Senator Layfield states that they will not be able to receive funding for 2 years if gaining SA recognition. Yields.
3. Senator Quick yields time to Erik Calmeyer.
 - a. Calmeyer explains that future finance committee will be intelligent enough to determine the possibility of funding for an organization. They will not receive funding if they seem to have a political backing. Yields.

- b. Quick agrees with Calmeyer. Quick motions to vote to postpone the vote for a later date.
- 4. President Pro Tempore Smith explains that the bill can be postponed and then amended. Smith explains that they are debating on if it will be postponed with the knowledge that their status will be changed to a political organization.
- 5. Smith asks SSDP representatives if they would be willing to change their status.
 - a. They would be willing to change to political.
- 6. Senator Layfield asks for clarification on what is being debated. Yields.
- 7. Senator Theodore asks if they can still discuss what a political group is. Asks what defines a political group. Yields.
- 8. Smith explains that College Libertarians is a political group.
- 9. Senator Kunde points out that they are sponsored by a member of a political party in DeKalb so that explains how they are a political organization. Yields.
- 10. Senator Hoffman feels that group is looking out for the safety of the college campus. They are a group representing the best interest of the community. Yields.
- 11. Senator quick speaks that having a view and recalls that Advocates for Choice were asked to change status because of their policies. Yields.
- 12. Speaker Talley explains they did not change their status. Yields.
- 13. Senator Troutman explains that it feels ambiguous as to what they do support besides the one policy. They do not seem to be very advocacy in nature. Feels unsure of what they do. Yields.
- 14. Senator Theodore explains that a political organization has a strict stance as to what they should support. SSDP is an organization that feels the current laws are ineffective and they need to discuss ways to change them. They do not

directly do any political actions, although they represent them in some form. Yields.

15. Senator Lausch reminds the Senate that SSDP explained being behind the legalization of medical marijuana and sees conflict with this. Yields.

16. Senator Quick would like to see them receive recognition but the issue at hand is funding. He would like to postpone the bill so that they can reclassify. SSDP does some very positive work.

17. Senator Quick calls to postpone. Seconded.

v. Vote. 33-yea, 5-nay. Motion passes. Bill postponed.

C. SAB42003- A Bill to Recognize the Listed Student Organization- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

i. Speaker Talley motions to approve. Motion seconded. Chair yields time to members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity to speak on their own behalf.

1. Omega Psi Phi would like to thank Senate. Explains that they are seeking to put on programs for students. These include going to Hope Haven, Help a Brother Out. They focus on scholarship and have involvement in the NAACP. They also support local and district events in their fraternity. Yield time to questions.

ii. Questions

1. Senator Bennett asks what they do with the NAACP.

a. Arthur explains that do what is expected on a local and nation level.

b. Bennett yields.

iii. Discussion

iv. Vote SAB42003. Motion carries.

IX. New Business

A. Motion to have al new considered as read. Seconded.

i. Motion carries.

B. SAB42004

C. SAB42005

D. SAB42006

E. SAR42011

X. Announcements

A. Talley yields time to a SILD representative to speak about NIU LEAD Summit.

- i. Dino Martinez, Assistant Director, speaks to the Senate. Speaks about inaugural summit to be held November 12th and 13th. It is not a conference, but an institute to focus on the students as a leader and leadership development. It is a weekend experience but is not an overnight. The SA, Residence Hall Association and Campus Activities Board are all providing financial support for the event. It is opened to 100 students and any student on campus can apply. The keynote speakers are Mr. Hill Harper Dr Scott Allen. Martinez speaks about the activities for the weekend and urges people to consider doing it. Applications are due Monday but they can be flexible if more people are interested in the event. Believes that this will be a memorable experience. Yields

1. Senator Beasley asks where the summit will be.
 - a. It will be in the Holmes Student Center. Beasley yields.
2. Senator Bennett asks how people there are so far.
 - a. Do not know yet how many applications have been handed in. Bennett yields.
3. Senator Reynolds asks how people will be picked.
 - a. There will be a resume as well as three essay questions. Reynolds yields.
4. Senator Troutman asks about the essay questions to be attached.
 - a. Martinez states there are actually only two. Troutman yields.

B. Speaker Talley encourages senators to apply. Would like to speak with Rules and Procedures after the meeting. Yields.

C. President Calmeyer asks that those interested speak with him after the meeting. Yields.

XI. Adjournment