

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Approval of the Journal:** Available at [bit.ly/ASG-Senate-Minutes](http://bit.ly/ASG-Senate-Minutes).

**Executive Board Reports**

- Ani: We are piloting joint office hours this quarter. FMO in the black house tomorrow. That meeting is open to everyone. Please come by, if you have any questions, please just text me or call. If you are a member of student group that is interested in doing this, just let me know.
- Alex: Hey guys. From what Rob talked about, we are helping plan the Fall NU Day in Chicago. We have room for one more. We would love for that person to be a Senator. Preferably a sophomore or junior. Email me if you are interested. Also, I put a question in my exec board report a question that I would like you to answer. We are still working on Ignite and the freshmen first year experience. We are meeting next week, and I would really like your input to bring to the table. 10K presenting next week.
- Anna: Shadowing is happening this week, so you will hear about that last week. We met about Double map this week. The ASG basketball game is March 6. A sign up will be coming out tonight. IT is great chance to talk to administrators in the athletics office. Check out rest of projects in report.
  - Lauren: Do you know when SPAC parking garage will open.
  - Anna: Parking structural will be functional in next couple of weeks.
- Sofia: Kresge is going under full reconstruction and I meeting with administration about logistics. CTEC pilot, if you have any general feedback, please send me your general feedback. We want to rebuild platform for students and geared towards students. We are have discussion about peer academic advising for premed students. Lots of projects happening.
- Kevin: Community Engagement Grant application is live. Please let students know about it to apply. Fulfill your PR requirement and flyer. 'Cats Come to Dinner-100 people signed up and we are looking for hosts. Alderman meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> on campus. IT will be in Louis Hall and 2 are coming.

- Noah: We got our data from the ASG survey and we analyzed it. We are drafting legislation for getting money to start an app. Let me know if you are interested getting involved.
- Julia: Please encourage you and your friends to sign up for special topic round tables. We have 5 for the rest of the quarter.
- Wes: We are working on green consulting and green accreditation for students. Sending out survey about interest in an off-campus composting service.

**Special Order:** Rob Donahue, Associate Director of the Center for Civic Engagement

[No Questions]

**Special Order:** Dr. Lesley-Ann Brown, Director of Campus Inclusion and Community

- Senator: What date is this happening?
- Posse: April 4-6
  - Social movements in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. What social movements have happened and what do they look like now. How can we make changes through the channels students currently use, like social media. This our first year at Northwestern, but the Posse Plus Retreat is annual and there is always a topic. Every university with a Posse has a retreat
- Sofia: Who will be there.
- Posse: There will be students and faculty, we are all one community.
- Senator: Will other students will be invited outside ASG?
- Posse: Yes, we are trying to engage as many students as possible. 100 students can go and there is a waiting list after this.
- Leslie: This is basically like sustained dialogue for 2 days. I know some of you are involved in that, and that is out of my office. I would love to see some of you all there. There will be 200 people there and it really should be a great event. It is a very comfortable space. Please share it with the groups you represent.

**General Order:** FVP/SGVP Application Release Date

- Ani: The Code is actually pretty lax about FVP and SGVP applications and process. The application must be released by 5<sup>th</sup> week and then be nominated and presented to Senate by the last

week. This is good because we have some flexibility. We ask to move this back 2 weeks, because we have a constitutional forum coming and position might be changing. We don't want to release an application if things are subject to change regarding the positions. These positions are filled before the rest of the board, because of funding cycles and they are supposed to be separate from the rest of the selection process.

- Alex: Do we need to motion?
  - Ani: It is an up/down vote.
  - Lauren: If we wait 2 weeks, when would you release the app and hold interviews?
  - Ani: Applications released Feb 26, due March 5, and confirmed March 12. All of this is still by the end of the quarter as in the Code.
- [Vote passes]

**Old Business:** [SR1314-04: ASG Supports Trans\\* Students](#)

- Isaac: This is product of the Associate of the Big 10 Student conference. It was a conference for all BIG 10 student governments. A lot was discussed and these resolutions were drafting. This is a resolution for trans\* students. It is for student support for students who don't fit into the binary.
  - Petros: The trans\* is an underrepresented community, so this is coming as a great time.
  - Alex: Previous question
  - Senator: 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Katie: We can just skip debate. Any object?
- [Vote passes]

**Old Business:** [SR1314-05: Resolution Supporting the Affordable College Textbook Act](#)

- Lauren: This is also a product of the conference. This is a resolution in support of the affordable college textbook act that is being debated in Congress. The idea is to make student textbooks more affordable. NU students spend about \$600 more than the average college student on books per year. This is about a push towards open source textbooks. This helps with the reprinting of editions and students have to purchase additions. With open source, you

would just update the online version which students can view or request to print. This program would be developed through grants.

- Adam: Is this promoting textbook companies to go open source, or is this a push for NU not use company that is not open source?
- Isaac: This is more just a grant to encourage the start to open source printing. Then we create a new competition of textbooks to go open source.
- Sarah: these grants would for those who write textbooks?
- Lauren: It is for the universities. Ohio States has a program like this. It is for higher institutions that would use the grant money to launch programs with professors.
- Isaac: The Ohio State project looks like they
- Kevin: Senator Dick Durban also proposed this.
- Ani: Yes I was talking some administrators that would love to see something like this pass.
- Kevin: this is something that we would talk about at other conferences and it would affect the issues we discuss.
- Harrison: What impact does us passing this actually have?
- Isaac: Very little to be honest. But all the schools in the Big 10 collectively will have impact. And if Senator Durban is also behind something like this too, we are increasing relations with him as well.
- Ronak: Where is the grant program coming from.
- Isaac: it is coming from the act, so tax money essentially. The pilot program is the act.
- Alex: PQ
- Senator: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
[Vote passes]

**New Business:** [SL1314-20: Helping Student Groups, One Position at a Time](#)

- Ani: This is an idea that started last year and was dormant for a while. After the past few days with Siddiq and Neel and their committees. And now it is coming to you. The additional member to the board will help us help you and give the resources for student groups that they need on campus. We are proposing is creating a 3<sup>rd</sup> position to create a student group resources team. We like to stay that we are helping student groups with our work and

allocation of \$1.3 million each year. The VP for student activities would be focused specifically on resources. They are going to look at what we are offering student groups and how can we answer them. They will answer questions like are presidents and vice presidents properly trained, are there enough practice spaces? Neel and Siddiq want to work on these projects but are very busy working with their 150 student groups. So this

- Alex: What does an ideal candidate look like?
- Ani: Someone with some experience with SAFC or SGC or president or treasurer of a student group on campus. We want someone who has navigated the current system. This position will be our liaison for lobbying for student groups on campus.
- Alex: Someone who is able to zoom out and see it not only from their student groups experiences but all student group.
- Jane: Can you explain your rationale regarding the selection process?
- Ani: This is a peer position, and that is how most of our positions are selected. Also it will help with consistency regarding the selection of the FVP and SGVP as well.
- Lauren: Would it follow the same timeline as the FVP and SGVP?
- Ani: That is the idea. You can also apply to multiple. The constitutional forum will be Monday.

**New Business:** [SL1314-21: Codifying University Student Advisory Board: Everybody was Kung Fu Fighting \(Those 'Cats Were Fast as Lightning\)](#)

- Sofia: This bill is for adding another role for the AVP. For the past year, I have been meeting with the 6 SAB. All school has one. I have been sitting with them since last spring, and earlier in January I brought together all of the boards. For them to cohesively represent all students, it will need to be a cross-school conversation to match the cross-school students. I had this conversation with all SAB about codifying this meetings. This actually was an idea that I found in the archives. SO I would like to add it to the Code for AVP, who should act as the lobbyist across all the schools. They would meet at least monthly.
- Alex: Can you give us an idea of the type of things you discussed at your last meeting?

- Sofia: We talked about creating consistency across the boards, such as aligning their election processes. We also talk about the effectiveness of meeting the needs of students across all the schools.

**New Business:** [SR1314-06: Support for Bankruptcy Protection for Students](#)

- Lauren: In most consumer loans, actually all, if you fall into circumstances where you can pay back a loan, and you find yourself in a situation where you can't pay back the loan, you can file for bankruptcy. There are however many caveats. You though aren't able to do that for student loans. This resolution supports the idea that students loans have the same protection as other student loans. This also supports statute of limitations on student loan debt.
- Alex: An argument that I have heard in opposition, they can't repossess your diploma, like you could a car or house. It also might make banks less willing to hand out loans. Do you have anything to say in response?
- Isaac: Not everything can be repossessed, like a vacation. And this is the most important thing you should spend money on, education.
- Lauren: It also is not that difficult to get a credit card, I think I don't have one, and it is not that hard to rack up debt.
- Isaac: Student loans are also federal loans and this used to be this way.  
Alex: Yeah and they were really hard to get. Once they stopped applying bankruptcy, it became much easier to get loans. Sorry this isn't debate period though.
- Senator: What other schools have passed this?
- Isaac: The Big 10 conference passed it. I don't know about individual governments.
- Parag: What is the practical policy implication of us passing this
- Isaac: It is mostly just to pass pressure for lobbying.

**New Business:** [SR1314-07: Support for Exemption of State Student Loan Programs](#)

- Isaac: Currently, the federal government only recognizes student and private loans that they give. Certain states also have similar programs. The idea behind this will just say that the state program loans will hold the same recognition of federal loans.

- Lauren: It will help provide lower interest rates. Ohio has a program like this as well.

**New Business:** [SR1314-08: Support for Ending Sequester Cuts on Higher Education](#)

- Lauren: It was the beginning of last year that we fell off the fiscal cliff. These sequester cuts were in result. One of the areas that was most affected was education. \$3 billion was cut. And for a university like NU, our research is dependent on this federal money. So a lot of research has been cut across the board.
- Isaac: NU receives \$500 million from the federal government each year.
- Senator: How much did they cut from NU?
- Isaac: I don't know
- Will: It was 15% of the \$3 billion.
- Jane: Why should I care as an undergrad? Most of the money goes to graduate students?
- Isaac: these do affect undergraduates and especially seniors who want to stay and do research.
- Lauren: This also applies for undergrads who work with professors for work study or not.
- Will: Why should we get special treatment with the Sequestration Act?
- Isaac: We have a lot of stake in it personally. And having a lot of the Big 10 support this, it will apply pressure to stop the education sequestration act.
- Senator: Do you have numbers for how this has affected NU specifically?
- Isaac: I don't have stats on that.
- Steven: I have heard about this and we haven't been affected yet. But schools outside the top 15 schools have been hit noticeably.
- Will: But why would this be not cut in the sequestration act?
- Isaac: This is what we can most applicably argue for.
- Noah: So if we pass this, are our lobbyists going to use this or is this just in case if they do support this? Is this on the agenda?
- Isaac: As you know, Ani meets with lobbyists and it will be on the agenda.

**Good of the Order & Announcements**

- Adam: American Studies and Political Unions are holding a panel about block on Israel studies.
- Parag: Like NU Cuisine on Facebook. Harrison and I are on the student board of directors and it is a good way to spread information.
- Will: I am with MARS and we are making an awareness and support video so go and participate really quickly.
- David: I should have said this earlier, but reapply for your seat! Apps are due a week from today. I have only received a few. It is easiest to access from the website. Also spread the word. DM Triva at 9pm. Disney themed.
- Alex: ETHS students came last week and we are going to theirs. Thursdays at 3:45pm.
- Eliza: Suits is coming to Northwestern. 8pm in Ryan auditorium next Tuesday.
- Alec: Chi O and SigEp are having fondue night.
- Harrison: Lamda Chi and DZ having nacho night next week.
- Katie: Next week on Tuesday and Wednesday CCE is having info sessions about summer programs.

### **Roll Call and Adjournment**