

**Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
2:00 p.m. – Friday, 18 November 2022
Holmes Student Center Sky Room
Public Streaming: <http://go.niu.edu/SGASenateLive>**

Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an [Intent to Speak](#) form, no later than 11:59 pm, November 17th, 2022.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. *Minutes are distributed electronically to the Senate.*
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Speaker's Report
- VII. Special Report
 - A. Orientation – Athena Knowles
 - B. Social Change Leadership – Kelly Wesener-Michael
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
 - A. SB54022: A bill to amend the bylaws to require Executive branch members to be OMA certified
 - B. SB54023: A bill to increase the number of Senate seats allocated to the Graduate College and College of Law
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

Please be advised that public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person, and that any one topic may not be discussed for more than 15 minutes.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Clerk Allen, Historian Babcock

Sponsor:

First Reading

18 November 2022

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54022
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to amend the bylaws to require Executive branch members to be OMA certified.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Senate are required to adhere to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA); and

WHEREAS, all members of the Senate are required to be certified and take Illinois Open Meetings Act training; and

WHEREAS, members of the Executive branch act as non-voting ex-officio members of committees; and

WHEREAS, members of the Executive branch attend Senate meetings multiple times throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §3 of the Bylaws describes the duties of the Executive branch;

THEREFORE, the students of the Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the Bylaws be amended to include the following:

ARTICLE II
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 3

Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch

The Student Government Association Executive Branch shall have the following duties and responsibilities when acting in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws:

- A. Coordinate all Student Government Association activities to ensure the success of the organization.
- B. Investigate issues of student interest using Senate and non-Senate persons.
- C. Initiate and recommend legislation to the Student Senate.
- D. Act for the student government in situations in which immediate action is necessary.
- E. Allocate financial expenditures to a maximum of five (5%) percent of the total Student Activity Fee collected during the fiscal year. A written report will be filed with the Senate Speaker and the SGA Treasurer within four (4) business days following the executive allocation.
- F. Supervise Student Government Association committees to ensure their efficient functioning based on the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
- G. To establish ad hoc committees of the SGA, such as taskforces, etc., and/or conduct hearings. Establishment includes the determination of the organization, membership, and non-management duties of the ad hoc committees.

- H. The President shall conduct at least one (1) comprehensive evaluation of all paid SGA executive branch staff members, other than the elected officers, each semester. Staff evaluations are to be conducted by the tenth (10th) week of each semester. The Evaluations shall include recommendations as to how to improve. The President must report the evaluation immediately to the Senate after it is completed. The Chief of Staff shall help the President in the evaluation process.
- I. The President of the SGA shall address Northern Illinois University's student body and the Student Government Association's Senate by speaking on the state of the student government and student interest.
- J. It will be the responsibility of the SGA to review the following listed organizations and services and provide funding to enhance the quality of life for NIU students: Campus Child Care, Health Enhancement, Huskie Bus System, Huskie Tracks (GPS Bus Locator), Organizational Expo, Organizational Development, Recreation Services, Student Legal Service, Campus Security Fund, Go Student Leaders, Organizational Blackboard Community, SGA Study Abroad Initiative, and SGA Senator Study Abroad Scholarship
- K. Executive Branch Members are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act training as directed by the SGA Operating Manual. Executive branch members are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business
Agenda Item: B
Author: Speaker Douglass
Sponsor:

First Reading
November 18 2022

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54023
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to increase the number of Senate seats allocated to the Graduate College and College of Law

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Senate seat distribution model is based on NIU enrollment data; and

WHEREAS, the current seat distribution does not reflect the number of graduate students; and

WHEREAS, student governments at many universities have interest groups or governing councils specific to their graduate populations; and

WHEREAS, Part II, Article III, Section 1.A of the Bylaws describes the allocation of Senate seats;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the Bylaws be amended to the following:

ARTICLE III
QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY

Section 1
Legislative Qualifications

- A. Senate voting seats shall be composed of the following constituents:
1. The following NIU Colleges shall be represented by students who occupy three (3) seats: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The following NIU Colleges shall be represented by students who occupy two (2) seats: College of Business, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, College of Health and Human Sciences, and the College of Education. The following NIU Colleges shall be represented by students who occupy one (1) seat: College of Visual and Performing Arts.
 2. Graduate students representing The Graduate School shall occupy ~~three (3)~~ ~~one (1)~~ seats. ~~This includes students in the College of Law.~~
 3. Students representing the College of Law shall occupy one (1) seat.
 4. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy ~~three (3)~~ ~~four (4)~~ seats.
 5. Underserved student communities shall occupy ~~five (5)~~ ~~six (6)~~ seats and shall be defined as any group of students who are protected classes under federal, state, or university nondiscrimination policies.
 6. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy ~~six (6)~~ ~~seven (7)~~ seats as University At-Large representatives. Students who are undecided on their major may also occupy

these seats.

7. All questions and disputes regarding the seat status of any candidate or student shall be directed to the Election Commissioner. Decisions of the Election Commissioner on the disputes referenced immediately above may be appealed to the Board of Elections.

This act is ordered to take effect upon commencement of the 2023 SGA election cycle and shall affect the 55th Session Senate.