

**Student Government Association Senate  
Northern Illinois University  
2:00 p.m. – Friday, 03 February 2023  
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, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.***

- 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
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SR54027: A resolution to appoint a Sergeant-At-Arms
  - B. SP54001: A petition to NIU administration for improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus
- 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**

**First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** A  
**Author:** Speaker Douglass  
**Sponsor:**

03 February 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54026**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to appoint a Sergeant-At-Arms

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, Section 1.Q of the Bylaws states that the Sergeant-At-Arms “[s]hall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote”; and

WHEREAS, Historian Atlas Babcock was appointed to the Sergeant-At-Arms position on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Historian Babcock said in their discussion and debate that they would step down if another Senator wanted to fill the position; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Douglass has appointed Senator Emmanuel Corpuz as Sergeant-At-Arms;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that Emmanuel Corpuz be appointed as Sergeant-At-Arms.

***This act is ordered to take immediate effect.***

**Agenda Item:** B

3 February 2023

**Author:** Historian Babcock, Director Newman

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE PETITION 54001  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A petition to NIU administration for improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus

**Legislation:**

February 3, 2023

Office of the President

Altgeld Hall 300

595 College Avenue

Dekalb, IL 60115

To the Office of Dr. Lisa Freeman:

Through working with Black student organizations and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, by the authority vested in this Senate by the Constitution of Northern Illinois University Student Government Association to submit a petition on behalf of the students of NIU we, the undersigned Senators of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association Senate, hereby petition for the improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus regarding the treatment of Black students and offer the following charges and specifications:

*Charge:* A lack of diversity and representation in campus staff and administration.

*Specification 1:* There is a lack of Black representation in NIU's administration and staff. Black students would feel more comfortable and better supported in a predominantly white institution if there were more professors, advisors, and staff that reflected students from all backgrounds.

*Specification 2:* It is hard for non-Black staff to relate to Black student issues when they do not share the same life experience.

*Charge:* Performative Activism.

*Specification 1:* Two years ago, NIU painted 'Black Lives Matter' on Castle Drive in response to the anti-Black hate crime at the Center for Black Studies. That mural has not been repainted and has drastically faded. The vandalism culprit was never caught. This only shows students that there is no accountability or continued support for the Black community both on and off campus.

*Specification 2:* NIU has advertised campus as "a community of diverse people, ideas, services, and scholarly endeavors of respect for the intrinsic dignity of each individual." To many students, it appears that NIU lacks the self-reflection or systems to address how injustices are perpetuated on campus.

*Charge:* Lack of long-term community support.

*Specification 1:* Black events both on and off campus are over-policed and shut down at a disproportionate rate. This translates to Black students feeling like they don't belong and robs them of community and support.

*Specification 2:* Events have been shut down because NIU has done a poor job at communicating rules and event policies to students.

*Specification 3:* This creates a cycle that many student organizations face. In response to a lack of community on campus, students try to create their own via clubs and group activities. This is a short-term solution for student communities because they do not have long term support from the university to thrive.

We, the undersigned Senators of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association demand that the Northern Illinois University administration address our concerns and proceed with an improved plan to better diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus. This new plan needs to work faster than current efforts, involve students as much as possible, and be better communicated to students overall. We demand this plan regarding the remediated treatment of Black students (and students of color as whole), taking into consideration the charges listed above, to be put in effect as soon as possible.