

**Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 24 March, 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, March 23<sup>rd</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)
  - a. Director Newman (written)
- XII. Old Business
  - A. SB54029: A bill to update the elections policy in the Student Government Bylaws
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SR54034: A resolution to confirm the Director of Governmental Affairs
  - B. SR54035: A resolution to affirm the Student Government Association's stance on the active genocide against transgender/gender-non-conforming people in America
  - C. SR54036: A resolution to approve student organizations
- 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.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations.

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item:** A

**Author:** Historian Babcock, Speaker Douglass

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

03 March 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54029**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to update the elections policy in the Student Government Bylaws.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part II of the SGA bylaws cover all processes of the SGA election; and

WHEREAS, as the SGA has grown and changed as an organization, the Vice President no longer serves a role in the SGA Spring election process; and

WHEREAS, as technology has advanced since the start of the SGA, there is no longer a need for physical polling stations during the Election; and

WHEREAS, the current structure of the Board of Elections versus the Election Commission and the Chairperson of the Board versus the Election Commissioner is confusing and redundant; and

WHEREAS, the Election Policy contains several inconsistencies and minor errors;

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

**Northern Illinois University**  
**Student Government Association**  
**Bylaws, Part II**  
**Elections Policy**  
**UPDATED Spring 2023**

**ARTICLE I**  
**TIMELINE OF SPRING ELECTIONS**

- A. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of October.
- B. Nominations for the Board of Elections shall take place no later than the second-to-last regularly scheduled

Senate meeting of November. The Board of Elections shall also be appointed at the next consecutive meeting.

- C. Candidates' meetings must take place no later than the Monday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess.
- D. Candidates' registration shall close the Friday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess, and the ballot shall be announced no later than the Wednesday prior to spring recess.
- E. Elections shall take place on the last consecutive Tuesday and Wednesday of March.
- F. Election results shall be announced no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls have closed.

## ARTICLE II

### ~~Section 1~~ ~~Election Commission~~

~~ELECTION COMMISSION: The Election Commission shall be composed of the Election Commissioner and the Board of Elections.~~

### Section 21 Requirement of Neutrality

- A. No member of the Board of Elections, ~~the Vice President, or the Election Commissioner~~ shall play an active role in the campaign of any candidate. ~~None~~ ~~Nor shall any~~ of the above-mentioned persons shall endorse, publicly support, or play an active role in advocating in public for any candidate or referendum subject to election. ~~However, the Vice President is exempt from these restrictions if they themselves are running for office.~~
- B. All SGA officials involved in the Senate Vacancy approval process must make all decisions in a viewpoint-neutral fashion. All candidates shall be judged objectively on their personal merit and character and not on the views of the groups or organizations with which they are affiliated.
- C. Any member of the Board of Elections, ~~the Vice President, and the Election Commissioner,~~ who fails to comply with the rule regarding public neutrality or whose misfeasance, malfeasance or incompetence jeopardizes the conduct of an election, will be subject to removal as prescribed herein and in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.
- D. When validating candidates' eligibility or in the consideration of sanctions, ~~Election Commission~~ ~~Board of Elections~~ members shall abstain from verifying documents, discussion, or debate, and voting on those ~~who with whom they share or~~ have shared current or past organization affiliation.

### Section 32 Election Commissioner

- A. To hold the office of Election Commissioner, a student must fulfill the following requirements:
  - 1. Must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, and the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for undergraduate students or 3.00 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
  - 2. Shall be paid the same hourly rate as the highest paid Executive staff member for each hour worked. No person shall become Election Commissioner who already holds a paid position within the SGA. ~~Any person who simply refuses to be paid for a specified period of time shall still be ineligible to hold the office of Election Commissioner.~~
  - 3. An undergraduate student must be enrolled for twelve (12) semester hours in the same semester in which they shall serve; all other students must also be enrolled for nine (9) semester hours.

- B. When the Senate is in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President for the Spring Election with the approval of the Senate. The Senate shall have oversight authority over the performance of the Election Commissioner.
- C. When the Senate is not in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections. The Election Commissioner so appointed will hold office until the Senate can convene. If the President is unable to reach an agreement with the Board as to the appointment of an Election Commissioner, then the Speaker shall appoint the Election Commissioner with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections.
- D. The authority and duties of the Election Commissioner include:
  - 1. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections.
  - 2. The Election Commissioner will administer all NIU Student Government Association elections and referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Elections Policy. The Election Commissioner shall have responsibility for the management and supervision of all voting station volunteers.
  - 3. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to issue sanctions to candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Election Commissioner cannot disqualify candidates.
  - 4. All rulings of the Election Commissioner shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
  - 5. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding Executive candidate debate(s) in the week preceding the week of Spring Elections.
  - ~~6. The Election Commissioner shall not serve as a member of the Board of Elections.~~
  - 7. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
- E. The Election Commissioner shall only be removed during an election through resignation, the Supreme Court, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
- F. The Election Commissioner shall be ineligible to run in any general election or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
- G. The Election Commissioner shall have final say on all election proceedings unless a decision is overridden by a majority vote of the Board of Elections or the SGA Supreme Court.

### Section 43

#### Board of Elections (BOE)

- A. To serve on the Board of Elections, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or be the defendant in any civil or criminal procedures with the University is also a party. The student must also have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 during their tenure in office or be in the first semester at the University. There is no credit hour requirement for members of the Board of Elections.
- B. Board of Elections members shall receive a stipend, except for the Election Commissioner. A person who already holds an hourly rate paid position within the Student Government Association is eligible to receive a stipend. No person shall hold more than one Student Government Association stipend position at one time. It shall be up to the discretion of the Election Commissioner to decide on the dollar amount of the stipend each year, with consent from the Senate in the form of a vote. If the Election Commissioner is unable to set this stipend, the Senate shall be empowered to do so by a majority vote. No member of the current Board of Elections may vote on said stipend.
- ~~C. The Student Government Association Vice President shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Elections. The Vice President shall not be eligible to serve as the Chair of the Board of Elections.~~

~~The Vice President may resign their position as ex-officio non-voting member prior to the first Board of Elections meeting and become eligible for the Spring election.~~

- D. When the Senate is in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedure:
1. All persons interested in becoming members of the Board of Elections ~~shall apply with the Office Manager of the Student Government Association or~~ shall be nominated at a Senate meeting by a member of the Senate. ~~Nominees need not be members of the SGA.~~
  2. Those who shall qualify to hold a position on the Board of Elections shall appear at the same Senate meeting. The Senators shall vote on all candidates for membership on the Board of Elections at the same time. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote. Senators who are being considered for positions on the Board may not vote in the determination of Board members. ~~The vote shall not commence until there are at least five (5) nominees.~~
  3. The five (5) people receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board. If a tie vote occurs, then the Senate shall vote again only to break the tie and decide between those who are tied.
  4. The Senate meeting at which members of the Board of Elections are appointed shall be selected at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate with the approval of the Senate ~~and in coordination with the Vice President.~~
  5. ~~After the five (5) members of the Board of Elections are decided, the Senate will then select two alternate members to serve on the Board of Elections~~ The two (2) people receiving the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) and seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) highest number of votes shall be designated as alternate members of the Board of Elections, to become full members if other members are removed or resign during the election process.
  6. ~~If there is not an Election Commissioner appointed, the~~ Senate shall vote a second time to choose one of the members of the Board and shall designate that person as Chairperson of the Board of Elections. The Senate shall vote, with each Senator having one vote. The person with the most votes shall become ~~Chair~~ Election Commissioner.
  7. ~~The two individuals the Senate decides to be the alternates for the Board of Elections must be listed in the order in which they will assume the seats if a vacancy occurs. This order should be that the person receiving the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) highest vote should be given first preference, the person receiving the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) highest vote should be given second preference. In the event that there are no alternates, the Senate must appoint and approve the first and second alternates to the Board of Elections in order.~~
- E. When the Senate is not in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedures:
1. The members of the Board of Elections shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate with approval of the President and the Vice President.
  2. ~~The Board shall designate one of its members to serve as the Chair of the Board of Elections.~~
- F. Authority and duties of the Board of Elections are as follows:
1. The Board of Elections, composed of five (5) members ~~and the Election Commissioner,~~ will ~~assist the Election Commissioner in~~ oversee the proper administration of all Student Government Association student elections and referenda and perform other duties as set forth herein.
  2. The Board of Elections members shall have the authority to issue sanctions to any candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Board of Elections shall also have the sole authority to disqualify any candidate(s) for office or election. The Board shall do so with a majority vote.
  3. The Board of Elections shall have the sole authority to disqualify any candidate(s) for office or election. The Board shall do so with a majority vote.
  4. All rulings of the Board of Elections shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association Office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
  5. ~~At its first meeting, the Board of Elections shall nominate and confirm by majority vote a Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Minutes for Board of Elections meetings shall be recorded, but not~~

- released publicly until the conclusion of the election season.
6. Quorum for the Board shall consist of three (3) members. Board rulings can only be made when quorum is reached. If the Chair is not present at a meeting, the Vice Chairperson shall those present shall select one of their members to serve as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.
  7. Any member of the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
  8. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
  9. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
  10. In the absence of an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall be empowered with all the authority granted to the Election Commissioner.
- G. A member of the Board of Elections shall only be removed during an election, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elections, excluding the Board member in question, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
  - ~~H. The Chair of the Board of Elections shall only be removed during an election except by resignation, the Supreme Court, by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Election, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.~~
  - I. The members of the Board of Elections shall be ineligible to run in any general direction or special election for the term in which the elections occur.

#### Section 54

#### ~~ELECTION COMMISSION~~BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING TIMES

- A. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
- B. The ~~Chair of the Board~~ Election Commissioner will schedule a weekly meeting of the Board to discuss the matters concerning the election.
- C. The candidates' meeting shall be held jointly by ~~the Election Commissioner and~~ the Board of Elections for both Senate and Executive elections. The Board of Elections members shall attend the meetings. The Board shall schedule additional candidate meetings if deemed necessary.
- D. The ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections shall meet every business day of the week of the election.

### 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) seats.
  3. Students representing the College of Law shall occupy one (1) seat.
  4. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy four (4) seats.
  5. Underserved student communities shall occupy seven (7) seats and shall be defined as any group of students who are protected classes under federal, state, or university nondiscrimination policies, with one to be allocated to a Graduate student.
  6. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy eight (8) 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.
- B. During the spring elections, two (2) seats for students residing in university provided housing and three (3) seats for students representing the university at-large shall remain vacant for those not wishing to join Senate through the Spring election process as a fall at-large, including new students. A maximum of ~~twenty-five (25)~~ thirty (30) seats may be filled in the spring elections.
  - C. All candidates are required to provide proof of residence hall contracts, college affiliation, or resource center affiliation depending on the seat for which they are running. Regarding college seats, 'proof' shall be an official document or email received from the school; in the case of University-At-Large, an official document or email from the University. Proof for underrepresented seats shall be an email or letter from the resource center (If there is no resource center for an underrepresented group, then an official email or letter from a student organization representing the group will suffice.) University housing shall provide an official letter or email from the Housing Department/CA or official housing contract.
  - D. Each candidate for a legislative office must have the signatures of 25 fee-paying NIU students on their official petition. Each person who signs a petition shall give their printed name, signature, Z-ID number, and local phone number. The ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections shall check on the validity of signatures by randomly calling names listed on each candidate's petition until seven (7) or more have been validated. Signatures that have phone numbers that are disconnected or nonexistent shall be considered invalid and shall not count towards the required number of signatures on the petition nor the total amount of required verified signatures. Existing phone numbers that are called but not answered shall not be considered as invalid or validated and can only count towards the total number of signatures required on a petition. Members of the SGA Supreme Court ~~or the Board of Elections~~ may not sign petitions for candidacy.
  - E. Proxy signatures on petitions are invalid signatures and shall not be counted towards the total number of required signatures nor the verified signatures. Proxy signatures shall only be considered valid with a letter of exemption by the Disability Resource Center indicating physical incapacity to sign for oneself.
  - F. Legislative candidates may only form campaigning teams with other legislative candidates. Candidates are prohibited from forming teams with candidates running for executive offices.
  - G. If an elected or appointed Senator changes their major in a way that also changes their academic college, they shall have five business days to inform the Speaker of the Senate of this change, and shall provide a letter from both their academic advisor and the new academic college, and the following procedure shall be implemented:
    1. If there is an available seat within the Senator's new college, they will be allowed to switch their constituency to that college.
    2. If there is not a seat available in the Senator's new college, and the Senator can provide proof of affiliation with an underserved community, and there is an open Underserved Communities seat, the Senator will be allowed to switch their constituency to Underserved Communities.
    3. If there is not an available seat in the Senator's new college, nor an available "Underserved Communities" seat, but there is an open "University At-Large" seat, the Senator will be allowed to switch their constituency to University At-Large.
    4. If none of the above options are available, a temporary "University At-Large" seat shall be generated for the Senator to fill and the number of total Senate seats available shall be increased by one (1) for the remainder of the session.
    5. If the final step in this procedure is reached and a temporary At-Large seat is created, but a seat in the Senator's new academic college becomes available, the temporary At-Large seat shall be dissolved, the number of Senate seats reduced by one (1), and the Senator's constituency moved into their new Academic College seat as soon as possible.
    6. Other changes to Senate seat constituencies shall not be permitted.

## Section 2

## EXECUTIVE QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Each candidate for executive office must have the signatures of at least seventy-five (75) fee-paying NIU students on their official petition. Each person who signs a petition shall give their printed name, signature, Z-ID number, and local phone number. The ~~Election Commissioner~~ Board of Elections shall check on the validity of signatures by randomly calling the names listed on each candidate's petition until twenty (20) or more have been validated. Signatures that have phone numbers that are disconnected or nonexistent shall be considered invalid and shall not count towards the required number of signatures on the petition nor the total amount of required verified signatures. Existing phone numbers that are called but not answered shall not be considered as invalid or validated and can only count towards the total number of signatures required on a petition. Members of the SGA Supreme Court may not sign petitions for candidacy.
- B. Proxy signatures on petitions are invalid signatures and shall not be counted towards the total number of required signatures nor the verified signatures. Proxy signatures shall only be considered valid with a letter of exemption by the Disability Resource Center indicating physical incapacity to sign for oneself.
- C. Candidates may only form campaigning teams with other executive candidates running for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Trustee. Candidates are prohibited from forming teams with candidates running for legislative office.

### Section 3 Qualifications for All Candidates

Refer to the SGA Constitution for the most up-to-date qualifications.

- A. All candidates for a Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and any other pertinent information to the Student Government Association ~~Election Commissioner~~ Board of Elections, allowing the Commissioner to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
- B. Candidates for Student Government Association offices must do each of the following prior to campaigning or being placed on the ballot:
  - 1. Attend the candidates' meeting.
  - 2. Receive, complete, and return the registration packet with the petitions
  - 3. Provide proof of student status, hours enrolled, and residency upon request.
  - 4. Qualify for office.
  - 5. Receive notification from the ~~Elections Commissioner~~ Board of Elections of eligibility for office.
- C. All petitions and all sheets on which candidates for office seek signatures shall include the following:
  - 1. The name of the candidate on whose behalf the petition is being signed in compliance with the appropriate section of the SGA Bylaws.
  - 2. The office the candidate is applying for.
  - 3. All other wording as required/determined by the ~~Elections Commissioner~~ Board of Elections.
- D. The name candidates list on their registration and petition documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear on the petition preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.
- E. No door-to-door solicitation of signatures in residence halls may be done without proper permission from the residence hall director.
- F. Candidates shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with ethical standards that include, but are not limited to, the Northern Illinois University Code of Ethics, for the duration of the elections. Violations of these standards are subject to the sanction policy laid out in Article V Section II and III.
- G. Candidates for any SGA office are required to obey all applicable rules. Candidates who fail to qualify under all the rules described herein shall not be considered candidates. They shall not be allowed to campaign for themselves, nor shall they be placed upon the ballot.

### Section 4



## Write-In Candidates

- A. Spaces must be provided on the ballot for write-in candidates. These spaces must equal the number of available seats being contested. Write-in candidates must submit all requisite forms and documents forty-eight (48) hours prior to the opening of the polls.
- B. Write-in candidates shall register one version of their name, which must obey the same rules listed for candidates whose names appear on the ballot. Only this registered name shall be accepted as a vote for the candidate. To be valid, a vote for a write-in candidate must be cast in the correct manner, which will be as follows: 1) meaning that the name written on the ballot must be identical in form and spelling to the name the write-in candidate registered.
- C. If a write-in candidate has not properly registered two (2) calendar days prior to the election, the votes cast for the candidate will not be counted in the determination of winners for that office even though the ballot itself is still valid. The remaining votes will determine the winner. Any candidate who is not properly registered may not win an election and shall be considered disqualified.
- D. The name that is registered with the Student Government Association Office must appear identical to that written on the ballot with the appropriate spelling. Failure to do so will result in ballots with those inappropriate write-in names not being counted in the determination of winners for that office even though that ballot itself is still valid. The remaining votes will determine the winner. Misspelled, incomplete, and/or illegible names shall not count as votes or count in the determination of winners.
- E. All write-in votes cast for persons who have registered as write-in candidates will be counted and reported with the election results. A write-in vote cast for a person whose name already appears on the ballot will be counted as a vote for that candidate. Any write-in candidate may win an election if they comply with the registration requirements of the election procedures.

## ARTICLE IV CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS

### Section 1 Campaigning

Campaigning shall be defined as any public action on behalf of the candidate. This includes physical and written campaign materials, electronic campaigning, campaign personnel, and verbal campaigning.

### Section 2 Physical and Written Campaign Materials

- A. Physical and written campaign materials shall be defined as any written or tangible materials to be disseminated among voters that display support or opposition for a candidate or ticket.
- B. All physical and written campaign materials must be filed with the Election Commissioner Board of Elections and cannot be distributed without the prior approval of the Election Commissioner Board of Elections. Printed campaign materials must be visibly signed by the candidate, stamped by the Student Involvement office, and initialed approved by the Election Commissioner Board of Elections before any material is posted or distributed.
- C. In the case of yard signs or similar objects, the office of Student Involvement must approve of the content, and the University Grounds Department must approve the location of the posting when applicable. A color photograph of the sign to be posted may be filed with the Election Commissioner Board of Elections in lieu of a physical copy.
- D. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.
- E. No campaign material shall be allowed where it may physically deface or destroy property, such as posted

materials, stickers or any other form of self-adhesive materials, buttons, and any other material deemed potentially destructive by the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections. Adhesives must be approved by the ~~Election Commissioner~~Board of Elections prior to use. In questions of defacement or removability, a candidate or designee's successive demonstrations of removability in all instances shall be sufficient.

- F. Any damages sustained by property, University or otherwise, shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate(s). Damages may include excessive litter of campaign materials as determined by the ~~Election Commissioner~~Board of Elections, and the individuals in violation shall be held liable for any damages caused which require professional repair.
- G. Campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including, but not limited to, posting, or passing out campaign materials.
- H. No campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries, except for posting materials on public bulletin boards.

### **Section 3 Electronic Campaigning**

- A. Electronic campaigning shall be defined as any form of non-verbal campaigning accessible using electronic devices, such as social media platforms, emails, or instant messaging.
- B. Virtual campaign materials shall follow the same procedures of approval as the physical and written campaign materials.
- C. The ~~Election Commissioner~~Board of Elections shall decide questions of appropriate usage of electronic platforms. Inappropriate usage includes personal attacks or defamation of character.

### **Section 4 Verbal Campaigning**

- A. Verbal campaigning shall be defined as any unwritten and vocal solicitation in support of a campaign.
- B. No door-to-door solicitation of votes in residence halls may be done without proper permission from the residence hall director. Those in violation of this regulation may be forbidden from campaigning in that residence hall for a period of not less than 48 hours.
- C. Verbal campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including speeches. No verbal campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries.

### **Section 5 Campaign Personnel**

- A. Campaign personnel shall be defined as any individual or organization actively working to further the campaign with or without the express consent of the candidate(s).
- B. Candidates must disclose the involvement of active personnel in campaign efforts, such as a campaign manager or team, to the ~~Election Commissioner~~Board of Elections.
- C. Failure to submit updated Campaign personnel shall be subjected to sanctions by the ~~Election Commissioner~~Board of Elections.
- D. Candidates are responsible for the behavior and actions of personnel and are responsible for ensuring an appropriate and respectful campaign.

### **Section 6 Violations**

- A. All candidates in violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws may be subject to the sanctions and punishments contained therein. They may also be sanctioned or punished up to

and including disqualification from the election.

- B. All campaign regulations shall apply to all candidates, including write-in candidates. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the ~~Election Commissioner~~ Board of Elections shall be disqualified from election to office and from holding office.

## ARTICLE V SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION

### Section 1 Sanctions

- A. A sanction is defined as a statement of guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a penalty. All sanctions must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.
- B. Sanctions may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes person's campaigning on the candidate's behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such actions.
- C. The ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any sanction(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the sanction(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written sanction(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been sanctioned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections after notice of original sanction(s) was provided to the candidate, the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional sanctions as soon as possible.

### Section 2 Sanctions Prior to Election Day

- A. No sanction issued by the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than forty-eight (48) hours and/or cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.
- B. Whenever a sanction is issued, the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections shall notify the SGA Office Manager as soon as possible. The Office Manager shall notify by phone the candidate(s) sanctioned and post the sanction in the SGA Main Office within four (4) business hours. All rulings of the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association Office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
- C. All campaign material stamped by the Student Involvement and Leadership Development office and displayed in a manner that violates University Posting Policy may be removed by the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections, and the candidate(s) to whom the material belong(s) will be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of not less than twenty-four (24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours.
- D. Unstamped posted material will be confiscated by the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections and kept on file. In the event of an inordinate amount, as determined by the Board, of material in violation of these regulations is collected, the candidate(s) involved will be required to remove all of their posted material campus-wide for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but no more than forty-eight (48) hours. The candidate(s) involved will be granted four (4) hours after notification of the sanction in which to comply.
- E. Candidate(s) found to be acting in variance with campaign regulations as described in the Bylaws shall be subject to the following actions:
  - 1. For the first offense, the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections shall forbid the candidate(s) from

campaigning in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours. For each additional offense, the candidate may be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of twenty-four (24) hours but not more than seventy-two (72) hours.

- F. Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to sanction by the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections is required to issue sanctions.

### Section 3 Sanctions on Election Day

- A. On the day(s) of an election, no sanction issued by the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than four (4) hours and/or cover more than one (1) building or location. The penalty for multiple sanctions may accumulate a series of sanctions that may last beyond the time limits indicated in this paragraph or cover multiple locations.
- B. No campaigning will be allowed within one hundred (100) feet of any voting station on Election Day(s). This shall include any physical, written, or verbal campaigning. No electronic campaigning shall be allowed that allows a campaign to define a set area, including, but not limited to, a flyer that advocates for a candidate or their campaign within 100 feet of a voting station.
1. Candidates and/or their workers who violate this regulation may not be allowed to distribute literature in the vicinity of the building that contains the ~~particular~~ voting station where the violation occurred for the remainder of the election.
  2. For any further violation of this regulation after the first, the candidate and/or their workers shall not be allowed to distribute literature anywhere on campus for the remainder of the election.
  3. No candidate shall be sanctioned for a violation of this section unless it is shown by a substantial weight of the evidence that the candidate or someone working on behalf of the candidate was the violator. The candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this section simply because someone possessed their campaign material inside of a voting place.
- C. Campaigning is forbidden on any Huskie Bus Line, stationary or in motion during the elections. A violation of this may result in a sanction left up to the discretion of the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections. Bulletin boards on Huskie Line Buses may be used for posting campaign material.

### Section 4 Filing an Appeal to the Board

- A. Prior to Election Day: All appeals to the Board must be filed within twenty-four (24) hours of the notice of action or decision of the ~~Election Commission~~Board of Elections. Such time of action or decision must be written on the hard copy of the decision or action posted in the SGA office. All appeals will be in writing and will be directed to the ~~Chair of the Board of Elections~~ Election Commissioner who will, within four (4) hours of receipt of the appeal, notify the ~~Election Commissioner~~ Board of Elections members, and other persons who it may be reasonably assumed are relevant parties to the appeal, of both the filing of the appeal and the time at which a hearing will be held on the appeal. ~~The SGA Office Manager may receive appeals on behalf of the Chair but shall immediately notify the Chair of the filing appeal.~~
1. The Board of Elections will hear and rule on any appeal within three (3) days, except on election days.
- B. On Election Day: Appeals may be made in person at the meetings of the Board, and no written appeal is necessary. Each day of elections and prior to reviewing any election results, the Board shall meet at the end of each election period and hear all pending requests for appeals. No appeal may be made to the Board after two (2) hours after the close of the voting stations on the last day of the election, unless entirely new information has been discovered and the person making the appeal could not be properly expected to have

known about the information.

1. During an appeal, all elections will proceed as scheduled unless the Board concludes that the conduct of a fair election has been rendered impossible due to a violation(s) of the election procedures.
  2. In the event of an appeal, the Election Commissioner will impound all ballots and seal all election results pending the exhaustion of all appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court.
- C. The Board of Elections may uphold, reverse, or modify any action or decision of the Election Commissioner appealed to the Board.
- D. Submitting an appeal to the SGA Supreme Court: Submission of the appeal must be made pursuant to the procedures set forth by the Supreme Court's Code of Procedure or in its silence by the Chief Justice. Copies may be obtained from the SGA main office.

## **Section 5 Disqualifications**

- A. Each day of the election, the Board shall meet immediately following the closing of the voting stations and all actions necessary to secure the voting process. These meetings shall serve as the only point on each Election Day in which disqualification as a punishment shall be determined and issued. The Board shall hear all cases and issue in writing all sanctions and/or punishments it deems necessary prior to reporting tabulated votes.
- B. In addition to the sanctions stated herein, the Board of Elections shall disqualify a candidate at any time before, during or after an election upon commission by the candidate or person(s) acting on behalf of the candidate of one or more of the following: five (5) or more separate violations of the SGA election procedures before election day or three (3) or more separate violations of the SGA election procedures on election day(s); Any fraud relating to the election, including, but not limited to, altering or destroying voting machines, buying votes, intimidating other candidates or voters, or repeated interference with another candidate's campaign. If the candidate(s) or campaign personnel are caught interfering with another candidate's campaign, the applicable sanctions, or even disqualification from the race entirely, will be levied upon the interfering candidate(s). A note to disqualify a candidate from an election shall require three (3) of the five (5) members of the board to agree in writing.
- C. Should a candidate accrue expenditures exceeding a total of \$2500, they will be subject to disqualification.
- D. In the event a candidate is disqualified, the candidate will not be allowed to assume office and any votes cast for them will not be counted and will be reported as disqualified votes. A disqualified candidate will be disqualified for the entirety of the election for which they ran for office, including special or run-off elections. Sanctions and punishments, including disqualification of a candidate, will remain in effect pending the outcome of any appeals.

## **ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS PROCEDURE**

### **Section 1 Voter Eligibility**

- A. Voter eligibility for any student wishing to vote must have an official Z-ID number and password on file with Northern Illinois University and/or whatever else shall be determined by the **Election Commission Board of Elections** to prove student registration to have access to the online ballot. The stated criteria for valid ballots shall be clearly posted at all voting stations as well as the online ballot form. All disputes or questions concerning voter eligibility shall be directed to the **Election Commission Board of Elections**.
- B. Any eligible student wishing to vote must simply access a voting station or an internet capable device to access their ballot.

## Section 2 Voting Stations

- A. The Board of Elections may choose to set up voting stations on campus.
- B. ~~Permanent voting stations shall be located in the following buildings:~~
1. ~~Barsema Hall~~
  2. ~~DuSable Hall~~
  3. ~~Holmes Student Center~~
  4. ~~Founders Memorial Library~~
  5. ~~New Residence Hall Community Center~~
- C. On the morning of each Election Day, the Board shall travel to each voting station. The Board shall ensure that all campaign materials and persons are removed from the voting station. The Board shall also ensure that all proper procedures are followed for the duration of the day.
- D. Voting stations shall consist of a link to online voting so voters may use their own devices, and information about the election and candidates. The SGA shall also share this link on its website, social media, and/or any other applicable communication avenues.
- E. On the days of elections, banners identifying the buildings labeled as voting stations are to be clearly displayed on the outside of the location and nearest to the voting area. These banners must be neutral and only advocate that an SGA-sponsored election is taking place inside. The Student Government Association logo must appear on all banners or signs displayed at the voting stations. All banners and signs will remain visible and displayed during the duration of the Election Day and will be removed at the end of the final voting day.
- F. The voting stations shall be open for two consecutive days between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.
- G. ~~The Election Commission~~ Board of Elections shall provide the voting stations information at each voting station.
- H. The Election Commissioner will be charged with the responsibility of poll workers amongst voting stations. One (1) poll worker will be assigned to each voting station at all times during the election. Candidates running in the election may not serve as poll workers.
1. Voting stations are to remain open at all times during the hours designated herein unless closed for good and sufficient cause by authority of the Election Commissioner.
  2. In the event a voting station is closed, written notice will be provided of the time the said voting station will reopen, if known, and of the location(s) of other voting stations where students may cast their votes. If at any time the volunteer cannot be present at a voting station, it shall be temporarily closed.
  3. In the case of either of the above instances, the Commissioner is required to file an official written report stating the reasons for the temporary closure or impoundment within four (4) hours of its occurrence.
- I. A voting station may be impounded at any time by authority of the Election Commissioner for good and sufficient cause.
- J. Each voter shall be eligible to vote for up to, but not exceeding:
1. One (1) Executive candidate for each office.
  2. Two (2) Senate candidates running to represent students residing in university provided housing.
  3. ~~Four (4)~~ Five (5) Senate candidates running to represent the university at-large.
  4. Six (6) Senate candidates running to represent underserved student communities.
  5. One (1) graduate Senate candidate running to represent underserved student communities.
  6. Three (3) Senate candidates running to represent students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
  7. Two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Business.
  8. Two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.
  9. Two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Health and Human Sciences.

10. Two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Education.
  11. One (1) Senate candidate running to represent the College of Visual and Performing Arts.
  12. ~~One (1)~~ Three (3) Senate candidates running to represent graduate students.
  13. One (1) Senate candidate running to represent the College of Law.
- K. The name candidates list on their registration and petition documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear on the petition preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.

## ARTICLE VII TABULATION

### Section 1 Tabulation Procedure

- A. After the closing of the polls, the poll worker(s) shall wait for a member of the Board of Elections ~~Election Commissioner or their designated representative~~ to arrive, identify themselves, and secure all elections materials and voting stations before leaving.
- B. All ballots are to be counted at one location. Ballots are to be counted by the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections. Ballots may be counted by electronic means.
- C. Any Executive election candidate whose name appears on the ballot may designate one (1) person to observe any discussion of the validity of ballots. All candidates who shall campaign as a team may choose only one observer to represent the entire ticket. Candidates may not represent themselves during this process. ~~The observer may not be a candidate for any other elected position.~~ Any action by the candidate's designated observer that disrupts the counting of the ballots will be cause for the observer's removal and will constitute a campaign violation, which may subject the candidate to disqualification at any time. During the counting of ballots, those present shall be restricted to the Board ~~members, the Election Commissioner, and Vice President~~, except for designated observers.
- D. Copies of the voided, official ballot shall be given to the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections in the weeks prior to the first day of elections for the purpose of inputting the ballot online. If changes are made to the official ballot after this time, copies shall immediately be made available to the ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections.

### Section 2 Valid and Invalid Votes and Ballots

- A. Only the following votes shall count in the determination of winners and shall be considered valid votes for the office(s) so affected. All valid votes on the same ballot for other offices shall be counted.
  1. A vote for a registered non-disqualified write-in candidate, with the correct spelling of the candidate's name.
  2. A vote for a non-disqualified candidate listed on the ballot, even if written in.
- B. The following votes shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered invalid votes for the office(s) so affected.
  1. Votes for disqualified or unqualified candidate(s) shall not be considered valid.
  2. A vote for an unregistered, disqualified, or obscene write-in candidate shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered an invalid vote for all the offices listed on the ballot.
- C. Student Government Association elections ballots shall allow for the submission of an incomplete ballot. An incomplete ballot has at least one candidate selection or write-in, but not all vote choice options have been exhausted.

### Section 3



## Invalid Elections

- A. Other than votes and ballots for disqualified candidates who appeared on the ballot, if the total number of invalid ballots in any election is greater than ten (10) percent of the total ballots cast in that election, the entire election will be ruled invalid. Ballots cast for a disqualified candidate will be disregarded for purposes of this Section and will not count as either valid or invalid ballots.
- B. An invalidated election must be re-run as a special election within one week of the invalidation.
- C. Upon completion of the counting of the ballots, the ~~Commissioner or a designated member of the Board of Elections~~ shall make a reasonable attempt to contact all candidates, or their official representatives as is feasible to locate at that time and notify them of the results prior to releasing the total to the public.
- D. All returns shall immediately be made open to the public when the ballots have been completely tabulated.
- E. All ballots and petitions must be accounted for and saved by the ~~Election Commissioner~~ Board of Elections for sixty (60) days. Following that time, they shall be destroyed. The ~~Election Commissioner~~ Board of Elections shall issue a report of the results to the Senate and the President of the SGA.

## Section 4

### Determination of Winners

- A. The candidate receiving a majority of all legitimate and valid votes cast for the office in question shall be considered the winner for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. If no candidate shall receive a majority, then a run-off election for those candidates with the two highest vote totals shall be held.
- B. The two (2) Senate candidates residing in university provided housing with the most votes shall be the winners. The ~~four (4)~~ five (5) Senate candidates running to represent the university at-large with the most votes shall be the winners. The six (6) Senate candidates running to represent underserved student communities with the most votes shall be the winners. ~~The one (1) graduate Senate candidate running to represent underserved student communities with the most votes shall be the winner.~~ The three (3) Senate candidates running to represent students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with the most votes shall be the winners. The two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Business with the most votes shall be the winners. The two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology with the most votes shall be the winners. The two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Health and Human Sciences with the most votes shall be the winners. The two (2) Senate candidates running to represent the College of Education with the most votes shall be the winners. The one (1) Senate candidate running to represent the College of Visual and Performing Arts with the most votes shall be the winner. ~~The one (1) Senate candidate running to represent the College of Law with the most votes shall be the winner.~~ The ~~one (1)~~ three (3) Senate candidates running to represent graduate students with the most votes shall be the winner. If a tie occurs for any one seat in question, then a runoff election shall be held.
- C. Write-in candidates shall be considered legitimate candidates and shall be allowed to win elections provided the Board has not disqualified them.
- D. The ~~Election Commission~~ Board of Elections may release the election results to the public on the last day of the election following tabulation if there are no pending appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court.

## Section 5

### Runoff Election

- A. In the event the initial election results in a tie, a runoff election shall be held. The person with the most votes in a runoff election shall be considered the winner. If a tie occurs, then a new runoff election shall be held.



- B. The one-day runoff election shall be held a week following the start of the initial election.
- C. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

**Section 6**  
**Special Election**

- A. In the event the initial election did not produce a winner, or the number of Senators fail to meet quorum, which is one half **plus one** of the total number of seats in the Senate, a special election shall be held.
- B. The one-day special election shall be held a week following the start of the initial election.
- C. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**EXPENDITURE REPORTING**

**Section 1**  
**Requirement to Disclose**

- A. Candidates shall be required to disclose of any and all campaign expenditures/contributions that exceed a total of \$25 for candidates for Senate and a total of \$50 for candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. A ticket has the same campaign disclosure procedures and limits as a single candidate. All candidates who exceed the threshold shall be required to keep a record of all campaign expenditures and provide proof of those expenditures. This report can come from a ticket and/or a candidate and shall be turned in to the **Election Commissioner Board of Elections** before the start of the election.
- B. Financial disclosure reports must include at minimum the name of the contributing organization or individual and the amount contributed. This includes personal contributions.
- C. All candidates shall keep records of all donated goods and services along with the fair market value of those services that shall include as the minimum requirements, name of contributing organization or individual, type of donated goods and services, and value of donated goods and services.
- D. The spending limit for all campaign expenditures shall be no more than the amount of \$2,500.
- E. Failure to report expenditures shall be subjected to sanctions by the **Election Commissioner Board of Elections**.

**Section 2**  
**Financial Disclosures**

- A. The method and format of all financial disclosure shall be at the discretion of the **Election Commissioner Board of Elections** with the approval of the Student Government Association Treasurer. If the Treasurer is a candidate in the same election, then the Deputy Treasurer will be required to approve these disclosures. If the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer are both candidates themselves, then the **Election Commissioner Board of Elections** will be required to approve these disclosures.
- B. All candidates shall disclose each expense and/or donation to the **Election Commissioner Board of Elections** biweekly.
- C. A final financial report shall be submitted by the open of polls on the first date of polling, and it shall include a full account of all campaign expenses, a full disclosure of all donated funds, services and materials, and copies of all receipts and financial records associated with the campaign.
- D. Any candidate, or ticket, who is found to have falsified or omitted any information relating to this article shall be immediately disqualified for all offices in which the candidate, or ticket, are a candidate(s) for.

**Section 3**  
**Public Reporting**

- A. The Election Commissioner, with the guidance of the Student Government Association Treasurer, shall make the financial records of each campaign public before any election results are announced.
- B. The Election Commissioner shall create a final financial report of all campaigns that shall be documented by the Student Government Association Historian for public review. The report shall include the total amount of election expenses from the ticket and/or candidate, a financial report of each ticket and/or candidate, and a record of any financial violations.

***Changes to the organizational structure of the Board of Elections shall take effect on May 12<sup>th</sup>.***

***All other changes are ordered to take effect immediately.***

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

24 March 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54034**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to confirm director appointments

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “The Student Government Association Cabinet is created by the President and exists for the purpose of assisting the president in the performance of their duties and responsibilities”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.B states that “All Directors shall be appointed by the President or Vice President and confirmed by the Senate”; and

WHEREAS, President Raaif Majeed has appointed Montez Soliz to serve as Director of Governmental Affairs; and

WHEREAS, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of Montez Soliz as Director of Governmental Affairs.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:**

**Author:** Historian Babcock, Prism, GSRC

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

24 March 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 540035  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to affirm the Student Government Association's stance on the active genocide against transgender/gender-non-conforming people in America.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, sixteen (16) anti-trans legislation has been passed in multiple states in 2023; and

WHEREAS, these bills label transgender individuals as "other" and "dangerous", perpetuating hate instead of protecting the minoritized population; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the presented and passed legislation is to prevent transgender people from seeking things like medical care or the simple act of existing in public without facing harassment; and

WHEREAS, many studies have shown when transgender individuals are unable to receive care they are more at risk of suicide;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate formally rebuke all of the anti-trans legislation passed, presented, or anticipated.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:**

**Author:** Chairperson Hensley

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

24 March 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 53XXX  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Organization Oversight Committee has granted the below student organizations temporary recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has the Responsibility to approve of official recognition for student organizations.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby grant official Student Government Association to;

1. Makers Club
2. HABLA
3. BUSA
4. Idol Club

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