

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
2:00 p.m. – Friday, 02 September 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, September 1st, 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
- 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. SR54001: A resolution to approve the meeting schedule of the 54th Session
 - B. SR54002: A resolution to approve the Senate Operating Manual
 - C. SB54001: A bill to change the time limit requirement for the appointment of the Deputy Speaker from the second meeting of the session to the first
 - D. SR54003: A resolution to confirm the Deputy Speaker of the Senate
 - E. SR54004: A resolution to confirm the Student Government Association Historian
 - F. SB54002: A bill to amend the descriptions of all Senate seats, define "underserved student communities", and better describe "proof" needed for Senate candidates
 - G. SB54003: A bill to remove the authorization of non-students in recognized organizations
 - H. SR54005: A resolution to amend the Constitution to allow spelling, formatting, and grammatical corrections to the governing documents without the need for legislation
- 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: Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

2 September 2022

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

Summary: A resolution to approve the meeting schedule of the 54th Session

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Senate shall meet on a weekly basis on Fridays at 2:00 PM in various rooms of the Holmes Student Center for the 2022-2023 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the meeting schedule must be agreed upon and approved by the members represented in this Senate;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate approve of the 2022-2023 Senate meeting schedule as listed below:

SGA SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE 2022 - 2023

All meetings shall be at 2 p.m. in the Holmes Student Center unless otherwise noted. Rooms will be announced via agendas each week.

Fall 2022

Friday, September 2nd

Friday, September 9th

Friday, September 16th

Friday, September 23rd

Friday, September 30th

Friday, October 7th

Friday, October 14th

Friday, October 21st

Friday, October 28th

Friday, November 4th

Friday, November 11th

Friday, November 18th

NO MEETING Friday, November 25th (Thanksgiving Break)

Friday, December 2nd

Spring 2023

Friday, January 20th

Friday, January 27th

Friday, February 3rd

Friday, February 10th

Friday, February 17th

Friday, February 24th

Friday, March 3rd

NO MEETING Friday, March 10th (Spring Recess)

NO MEETING Friday, March 17th (Spring Recess)

Friday, March 24th

Friday, March 31st

Friday, April 7th

Friday, April 21st

Friday, April 28th

Friday, May 5th (Final Meeting and Banquet)

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

02 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54002
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to approve the Senate Operating Manual

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.I of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “The Senate shall adopt a set of Senate Operating Rules. The rules shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert’s Rules of Order”; and

WHEREAS, The Senate Operating Manual is written by the Speaker each year and must be approved by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the Operating Manual may be amended at any point during the current session; and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 Senate Operating Manual was distributed to Senators by email and in print, and has not been edited since;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate approve the 2022-2023 Senate Operating Manual for the 54th session.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business
Agenda Item: C
Author: Senator DeMeuse
Sponsor:

First Reading
2 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54001
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to change the time limit requirement for the appointment of the Deputy Speaker from the second meeting of the session to the first.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the functions of the Senate heavily rely on the Deputy Speaker position within the Office of the Speaker being filled; and

WHEREAS, no other position in the Office of the Speaker has a similar requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Senate should be fully functioning as fast as possible;

THEREFORE, The Students of Northern Illinois University represented in the Senate enact that the Student Government Association Senate make the following changes to the Bylaws:

ARTICLE II
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1
Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate

P. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:

1. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
2. Be confirmed by the Senate no earlier than the ~~second~~ first scheduled meeting of the academic year.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

02 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54003
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm the Deputy Speaker of the Senate

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.P of the Student Government Association Bylaws, "The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ethan DeMeuse has served in various positions in SGA and been a leader for the organization; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker has elected to appoint Ethan DeMeuse to serve as Deputy Speaker;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby confirm Senator Ethan DeMeuse as Deputy Speaker for the 54th session of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association Senate.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

02 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54004
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm the Student Government Association Historian

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.5 of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Student Government Association Historian”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Atlas Babcock has served as the Senate Clerk and worked on issues related to SGA’s history in the past; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker has elected to appoint Atlas Babcock to serve as Historian;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby confirm Senator Atlas Babcock as Student Government Association Historian for the 54th session of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association Senate.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: F

Author: Senator Babcock, Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

02 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54002
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to amend the descriptions of all Senate seats, define “underserved student communities”, and better describe “proof” needed for Senate candidates.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Part I, Article 2, §5.C of the Student Government Association Bylaws describes the Senate Seat Replacement Criteria and procedures; and

WHEREAS, it does not describe the distribution of Senate seats, or the proof needed to apply for them; and

WHEREAS, Part II, Article 3, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws do not currently define what an underrepresented community is, and instead contain a non-exhaustive list of resource centers, including some which do not serve underrepresented students directly; and

WHEREAS, Part II, Article 3, §1.C of the Student Government Association Bylaws describes the proof needed to run as a Senate candidate; and

WHEREAS, there is no statement regarding what “proof” is acceptable and who can accept it as proof of appointment;

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

ARTICLE II
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 5
Senate Vacancies

- C. The Senate Seat Replacement Criteria and procedures are as follows:
 - 1. Candidates for all Student Government Association offices shall be NIU students in good academic standing.
 - 2. All candidates for the Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and student identification number, allowing them to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.

3. Re-entering students shall be eligible for candidacy for Student Government Association posts.
4. All candidates for Senate seat replacement positions must have attended at least one full Student Government Association Senate meeting prior to candidacy for Senate. (To ascertain attendance, potential candidates must check in with the Senate Clerk within five minutes of roll being called and be present when their name is called at the final roll call at the adjournment of the meeting.)
5. Applicants must give their presentation to the Senate within four (4) Senate meetings of their attendance as a member of the public. This time limit may be waived at the Speaker's discretion should any extenuating circumstances apply.
6. All candidates must obtain 50 signatures from their constituents prior to submitting the application to the Speaker. The signatures must include the students' full name, signature, Z-ID number, and a local phone number.
7. Candidates must have turned in an application for the Senate seat replacement position to the SGA Senate Speaker at least 48 hours prior to the Senate meeting in which applications are first presented. If the candidate is applying for a seat for the next session of the Senate, the candidate must indicate that they are applying for the next session.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. At the meeting in which they are presented, the applicants will be given the opportunity to give a speech, no longer than five minutes, to address the Senate on their reasons for becoming a Senator.
11. The order in which applicants will be allowed to speak will be the same order in which the applications were turned into the Senate Speaker. However, each applicant will be considered separately for each open seat. No applicant can be considered before an applicant who is qualified and turned in a completed application first.
12. After the candidate's speech, the Senate floor will be open for the Senate to ask the candidate questions. Each Senator will have five (5) minutes to ask questions and receive answers. Following all candidates' speeches, the candidates will wait outside the Senate chambers as the Senate discusses the candidates.
13. After the Senate closes discussion, each candidate will be voted on individually in the order in which they spoke. Any candidate who has completed the process outlined above but not selected to join the Senate will be required to attend an entire additional meeting before being considered again.
14. 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 group(s) or organization(s) with which they are affiliated.
15. The applicants must be approved by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.
16. The newly approved Senators will take office after the voting has taken place on all candidates at that meeting.
17. If a Senator is removed from the Senate for any reason other than resignation, military service, or medical emergency, the Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate. They may, however, be elected into the Senate in the fall election. No person who has been removed from office in the Student Government Association by the Senate under the Constitution shall be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate.

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 one (1) seat. This includes students in the College of Law.
 3. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy four (4) seats.
 4. Underserved student communities shall be defined as any group of students who are protected classes under federal, state, or university nondiscrimination policies. Students wishing to represent underserved student communities shall occupy six (6) seats. This is defined as students affiliated and engaged with the following: Asian American Resource Center, Center for Black Studies, Disability Resource Center, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, Military and Veteran Services, Undocumented Student Support, Center for Burma Studies, Center for Latino & Latin American Studies, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and International Student and Scholar Services. This list is not exhaustive and could include other offices or centers who work with underserved student communities, as determined by the Election Commissioner.
 5. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy seven (7) seats as University At-Large representatives. Students who are undecided on their major may also occupy these seats.
 6. 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) 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. Proof shall be clearly outlined by the Election Commissioner and approved by the Board of Elections. 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 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 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.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business
Agenda Item: G
Author: Senator DeMeuse
Sponsor:

First Reading
2 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54003
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to remove the authorization of non-students in recognized organizations

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the purpose of recognized organizations is to provide the best experience for students while adhering to the mission of the university; and

WHEREAS, non-students are not incentivized to adhere to this mission; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of non-students in recognized organizations leads to various contradictions within the Bylaws of the Student Government Association;

THEREFORE, The Students of Northern Illinois University represented in the Senate enact that the Student Government Association Senate make the following changes to the Bylaws:

Part III, Article I Section 2.E

E. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the currently registered NIU students, except for sports clubs, whose membership must consist of 100 percent currently registered NIU students. Student organizations are not required to be open to non-NIU students, but they must be consistent and cannot discriminate. Membership requirements must be outlined in the governing documents for each student organization, exclusively of currently registered students of Northern Illinois University.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business
Agenda Item: H
Author: Senator DeMeuse
Sponsor:

First Reading
2 September 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54007
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to amend the Constitution to allow spelling, formatting, and grammatical corrections to the governing documents without the need for legislation

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 5 describes bills and resolutions as they relate to the Student Government Association Senate; and

WHEREAS, there is a buildup of spelling, formatting, grammatical, punctuation, and redundancy errors in the Bylaws and Constitution of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, corrections of these errors result in no change to the functions of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, it is unnecessarily tedious to pass a bill every time an error is discovered;

THEREFORE, The Students of Northern Illinois University represented in the Senate enact that the Student Government Association Senate amend the Constitution to the following:

Article IV Section 5.B

- A. Any request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees regarding removing a person from office, a proposed Constitutional Amendment, amendments to the Senate Operating Rules, punishment or expulsion of senators, and appointments shall be considered a proposed resolution. Any request submitted to the Senate or any of its committees to make a declaration of its will or opinion which is non-binding, does not appropriate any funds, and does not require any non-Legislative Branch official to act shall be considered a proposed resolution. All requests for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees that only affects the internal procedures of the Legislative Branch shall be considered a proposed resolution. Upon approval by the Senate the proposed resolution shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All proposed changes to the Senate Operating Rules shall be considered proposed resolutions and, if passed, shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Constitution may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a resolution.
- B. All requests for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees not mentioned in the paragraph immediately above, shall be considered a bill. When a bill is passed by the

Senate and signed by the President it shall become a statute of the SGA. Except for spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes, All proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be considered bills and, if passed, shall be considered a statute of the SGA. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Bylaws may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a bill.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.