

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
2:00 p.m. – Friday, 07 April 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, April 6th, 2023.

- I. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
 - a. Jacob Burg
- 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. SB54032: A bill to require the Student Trustee to give a report to the Senate twice per semester concerning the Board of Trustees.
 - b. SB54033: A bill to update Part I, Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws.
 - c. SB54034: A bill to update the Bylaws for consistency in the number of signatures required for Senate candidates.
 - d. SB54035: A bill to update the scoring system for Senator of the Year to include grammar errors identified to the Speaker or Vice President.
- 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.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Chairperson Olson

Sponsor:

First Reading

07 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54032
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to require the Student Trustee to give a report to the Senate twice per semester concerning the Board of Trustees.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee is the main link between the Board of Trustees and the student body;
and

WHEREAS, it is important that the student body remains up to date and informed with the activities and decisions of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee is knowledgeable of the activities and decisions of the Board of Trustees;
and

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee should give a report concerning the activities and decisions of the Board of Trustees twice per semester;

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

ARTICLE I
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 5. The Student Trustee

- A. The Student Trustee shall be elected with the executive officers in the spring semester.
- B. Subject to the terms and conditions of applicable law, the Student Trustee shall function as a full voting member of the NIU Board of Trustees and fulfill all duties as specified in the Northern Illinois University Law, NIU Board of Trustees governing rules, and the Student Government Association governing rules.
- C. The Student Trustee shall be a Student Government Association officer and a member of the Student Government Association Executive Branch.
- D. The term of office and conditions of the Student Trustee shall be as specified in the Northern Illinois University Law, or in its silence by the NIU Board of Trustees governing rules and by the Student Government Association governing rules.
- E. If the Office of Student Trustee should become vacant, the President of the Student Government Association, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

- F. In addition to the requirements listed in the Northern Illinois University Law, the Student Trustee shall be required to be a full time NIU student and shall not concurrently serve as an elected or stipend official within the Student Government Association.
- G. Meet with the Senate twice per semester to give a report concerning the Board of Trustees.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Clerk English, Historian Babcock

Sponsor:

First Reading

07 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54033
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to update Part I, Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws

Legislation:

WHEREAS, there has not been an Executive Assistant nor a strong need for one for a long time; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws should reflect the realities of the SGA; and

WHEREAS, the Senate follows a document called the Operating Manual, not the Operating Rules; and

WHEREAS, subsection K is a duplicate of subsection A but with more words; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws should be flexible to be able to cover future changes; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker, Clerk and Historian have had changes of their duties and payment should be reflected in the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, "The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws";

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the following sections be removed from the Bylaws:

Part I, Article II, §1.V and W.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the following sections in the Bylaws be amended as shown below:

Part I Article II, §1

The Student Government Association Senate shall have the following duties and responsibilities as a body acting in accord with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules:

- A. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.

- B. Legislate all matters of student interest.
- C. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
- D. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
 - 1. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
 - 2. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
- E. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
- F. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
- G. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
- H. Insofar as it is consistent with these Bylaws and the Senate Operating Manual, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the consideration of all business and debate in meetings of the Senate or its committees.
- I. The Senate shall adopt a ~~set of Senate Operating Rules~~ SGA Operating Manual. The ~~rules~~ SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert's Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating ~~Rules~~ Manual up-to date.
- J. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- K. ~~In conjunction with Student Involvement (the employing department), only the Senate shall have the ability to authorize a person to be paid from Student Activity Fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by Student Involvement (based on Human Resources guidelines) each year in SGA's annual budget: SGA Accountant and the SGA Office Support Associate. The pay of all Student Government Association employees will be determined by the employing department (Student Involvement) based on HR guidelines and approved by the Senate and the President. The pay of any student employed by the SGA shall not be decreased during their one-year term of office.~~
- L. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.
- M. The Senate shall consist of thirty (30) senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws – Elections Policy.
- N. It shall be the responsibility of the ~~Speaker~~ all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website.
- O. The Senate shall have ~~four (4)~~ a number of paid officers, and each shall have duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Senate Operating Rules.
 - 1. The Speaker of the Senate shall manage all affairs of the body.
 - 2. The Deputy Speaker shall manage all the Senators of the Senate.
 - 3. The Senate Clerk shall be responsible for all recordings and documents of the Senate as directed by the Speaker of the Senate.
 - 4. The Historian shall be responsible for accurate records of the SGA.
- 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 first scheduled meeting of the academic year.

3. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by coordinating overall activities of the chairs, ~~collecting weekly committee meeting reports~~, and meeting with individual chairs one on one once every month, and Senators once every two months.
 4. Shall create and administer leadership quizzes to ensure all elected legislative positions are equipped with sufficient comprehension of Robert's Rules of Order and other knowledge deemed by the Deputy Speaker important to hold the role.
 5. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
 6. Shall temporarily carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker of the Senate when directed by the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker.
 7. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
 8. Maintain chair office hour records to ensure proper conduct of Senate committee chairs.
 9. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
 - ~~10. Shall plan and execute an annual Spring training retreat for all Senators.~~
 11. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
 12. Shall be a paid position.
 13. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
- Q. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. The Sergeant-at-Arms
1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 2. Shall preserve order and decorum as directed by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Senate and shall, at the direction of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, have the authority to remove a disorderly individual or group from the Senate chambers.
 3. Shall escort all nominees seeking appointment or confirmation to and from the Senate chambers before and after deliberations on their confirmation, respectively. The Senate shall refer to the most up-to-date manual of Robert's Rules and consider this procedure a closed session.
 4. Shall be sensitive to individuals who require special seating for reasons of sight, hearing, etc.
 5. Shall enjoy the full rights and privileges extended to all other Senators, including, but not limited to, the right to vote in any and all matters before the Senate.
 6. Shall be knowledgeable regarding the SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and Roberts Rules of Order and shall assist the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in their duties upon request.
 7. Shall serve as a member on the Committee on Rules and Procedures.
 8. This shall not be a paid position.
- R. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Legislative Director. The Legislative Director:
1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 2. Shall monitor all state and federal legislation pertaining to higher education and maintain relationships with appropriate legislators and executive officers.
 3. Shall monitor all local policy that pertains to the students of Northern Illinois University. The director shall maintain relations with local elected and appointed officials.
 4. Shall work with the DeKalb registrar to host at least one voting registration drive in coordination with the Director of Governmental Affairs.
 5. Shall act as a liaison between the Executive and Legislation branches with the Director of Governmental Affairs on legislative and policy matters.
 6. Shall prepare and send a weekly Senate legislative update to the Chief of Staff on the legislation passed within 48 hours of the previous Senate meeting.
 7. Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures committee.
 8. Shall not be a paid position.
- S. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Student Government Association Historian. The Student Government Association Historian:

1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via simple majority vote.
 2. Shall oversee archiving all past Student Government Association business in the Senate office, the Executive office, and Founders Memorial Library.
 3. Shall be in charge of creating and maintaining an archive at the Regional History Center in conjunction with the Center's Local Government Records collection as part of the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system administered by the Illinois State Archives.
 4. Shall be in charge of collecting all current and previous press releases by all media outlets regarding Student Government Association business, objectives, and achievements.
 5. Shall be in charge of recording all student campaign materials during Senate and Executive elections in the archives at Founders Memorial Library.
 6. Shall create a master list of past and current voter turnout election results that will be filed in the archive at Founders Memorial Library.
 7. Shall create a printed/digital archive of Student Government Association Senate legislation to be saved both in the archive at Founders Memorial Library and in the Senate office.
 - ~~8. Shall not be a paid position.~~
 9. This position may be considered as an internship in collaboration with the NIU Department of History if so desired by the Senator. All internship materials must be agreed upon by both the Student Government Association and the supervising faculty member from the Department of History.
 10. Shall be a paid position.
- T. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Director of Community Service. The Director of Community Service:
1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 2. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.
 3. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senators at the direction of the Speaker.
 4. Shall collect, record, and verify all public relations forms turned in by Senators at the direction of the Speaker.
 5. Shall attend Rules and Procedures committee during considerations of removal of Senators for failure to comply with community service requirements.
 6. Shall not be a paid position.
- U. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:
1. Shall be responsible for the public transparency, upkeep, and maintenance of all Senate Records, including all official correspondence and online live-stream recordings of all meetings, discussions, and votes on all legislation and candidates alike.
 2. Shall work directly with the Speaker and all other members of the Office of the Speaker to maintain order and function among the three branches of the Student Government Association.
 3. Shall report only to the Speaker.
 4. Shall be the custodian of the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, working directly with the Vice President to ensure the governing documents are up to date and in good order.
 5. Shall have other tasks assigned by the Speaker.
 6. Shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 7. If the Senate is not in session, the Speaker reserves the right to appoint the Clerk without a vote by the Senate.
 8. Shall see to upholding Robert's Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.
 9. Shall be a paid position.

V. ~~The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Executive Assistant to the Speaker. The Executive Assistant to the Speaker:~~

- ~~1. Shall be responsible for assisting the Speaker in maintaining the efficacy of the Senate.~~
- ~~2. Shall be responsible for tasks delegated to them by the Speaker.~~
- ~~3. May attend meetings in the place of the Speaker if the Speaker is unavailable to attend and report back to the Speaker following the meeting.~~
- ~~4. May carry out these responsibilities for the Deputy Speaker in the same capacity.~~
- ~~5. Shall report only to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.~~
- ~~6. Shall prioritize tasks and meetings delegated by the Speaker over those delegated by the Deputy Speaker.~~
- ~~7. Shall be a paid position.~~

W. ~~The President shall have the authority to appoint an Executive Assistant to the President. The Executive Assistant to the President:~~

- ~~1. Shall be responsible for tasks delegated to them by the President.~~
- ~~2. Shall attend meetings in the place of the President if the President is unable to attend and report back to the President upon the meeting.~~
- ~~3. Shall carry out these responsibilities for the Chief of Staff and Vice President in the same capacity.~~
- ~~4. Shall only report to the President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff.~~
- ~~5. Shall prioritize tasks and meetings delegated by the President over those delegated by the Vice President or Chief of Staff.~~
- ~~6. Shall be a paid position.~~

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business
Agenda Item: C
Author: Clerk English
Sponsor:

First Reading
07 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54034
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to update the Bylaws for consistency in the number of signatures required for Senate candidates.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the SGA should be consistent; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the SGA currently have two different amounts of signatures needed in different spots of the bylaws (Part I Article II, §5.C.6); and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”;

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

Part II Article III, §1.D

Each candidate for a legislative office must have the signatures of ~~25~~ fifty (50) 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)~~ fourteen (14) 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.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business
Agenda Item: D
Author: Clerk English
Sponsor:

First Reading
07 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54035
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to update the scoring system for Senator of the Year to include grammar errors identified to the Speaker or Vice President

Legislation:

WHEREAS, this change would give Senator of the Year points to those who review the governing documents thoroughly; and

WHEREAS, those Senators would have previously received 5+3 points for authoring and then passing this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the sole power to create and amend the Senate Operating Rules”;

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

ACTIVITY	POINT PER EVENT	NOTE
Perfect Attendance at Senate Meetings (per semester)	10	Must be true perfect attendance. No absence excusals will count.
Perfect Attendance at all Committee Meetings (per semester)	10	Must be true perfect attendance. No absence excusals will count.
Perfect Attendance at SGA Events	10	Must be true perfect attendance. No absence excusals will count.
Perfect Attendance at all Senate Workshops	5	Does not extend to events requiring attendance by virtue of holding a position.
Authoring Legislation	5	Legislation must at least advance to a vote.

Attendance at University Events	4	Does not extend to events requiring attendance by virtue of holding a position.
Authored Legislation passes	3	Authored Legislation must pass.
Attendance at SGA-Recognized Organization Events	3	Does not extend to events that are held by an organization in which one is a member.
A spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, or redundancy change brought to the Speaker or Vice President's attention	2	Suggested change must be a confirmed issue which is resolved by either the Speaker or the Vice President.
Community Service Hours	1	Each hour results in one point per hour.
Community Outreach	1	Points will be awarded for advancing the name of the SGA
Knowledge of Constitution and Bylaws	95%+=5 90-94%=4 80-89%=3 70-79%=2 67%-69%=1	Points will be awarded based upon scores on the voluntary Constitution, Bylaws, and Robert's Rules quiz.
Above and Beyond	Given at Speaker's Discretion	Awarded at will with justification from Speaker

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.