

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
2:00 p.m. – Friday, 21 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 20th, 2023.

- I. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement, 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
 - a. SR54037: A resolution to reference the Bylaws in the Constitution so that updates to the number of Senate seats no longer require two (2) pieces of legislation.
 - b. SR54038: A resolution for an amendment that fixes general issues with the SGA Constitution.
 - c. SR54039: A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations.
 - d. SR54040: A resolution to confirm members of the 55th Session Cabinet.
 - e. SB54037: A bill to update the Bylaws to update seat reassignment process to clarify the procedure for updating the number of seats.
 - f. SR54041: A resolution to clarify and define selection criteria for Supreme Court Justices
- XIII. New Business
 - a. SR54042: A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations
 - b. SR54043: A resolution to nominate candidates for the 2023 Senate Speaker Election
 - c. SR54044: A resolution to confirm members of the 55th Session Cabinet.
- 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: Clerk English
Sponsor:

First Reading
07 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54037
Fifty-Fourth Session**

Summary: A resolution to reference the Bylaws in the Constitution so that updates to the number of Senate seats no longer require two (2) pieces of legislation

Legislation:

WHEREAS, currently updates to the Senate seats often miss where they are referenced, creating contradiction between the Bylaws and the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the NIU SGA should be clear and without contradictions; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, "To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein";

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

Article VI
Section 2. Spring Term Elections

The Spring Election shall consist of election of the President, the Vice President, and the Treasurer, the Trustee and **Senate candidates running to represent their chosen constituencies but not to exceed the Senate seats as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B-25 of the 30 Senate seats.** The inauguration ceremony for the President-Elect, the Vice President-Elect, and the Treasurer-Elect shall take place on the Friday preceding final exams, however the newly elected officers shall not take office until the fifteenth (15th) day of May. The Inauguration ceremony for the Senate shall take place at the close of the final regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the academic year. Newly elected Senators shall take office upon inauguration. The newly elected officers shall serve a one (1) year term of office. Vacancies among the newly elected officers shall not be considered a bar to other newly elected officers taking office. If a newly elected official cannot take office, then the position will be filled by the other newly elected officials according to the order of succession.

Section 3. Fall Term at Larges

Five (5) seats, one (1), as outlined by the Bylaws **Part II Article III, §1.B** shall remain vacant from the Spring Election for those wishing to join Senate not through the Spring Election Process. The process for filling a Senate seat vacancy shall be prescribed in the Bylaws under "Senate Vacancies."

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business
Agenda Item: B
Author: Clerk English
Sponsor:

First Reading
07 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54038
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution for an amendment that fixes general issues with the SGA Constitution

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA should reflect a reasonable extension of abilities; and

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

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA is not consistent in how it lists the duties of various positions;
and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA should be fully specific when it is setting limits to times; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA should reflect the realities of how the Senate operates; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “To solely
amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein”;

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

Article III, §1.D

Assist the Vice President or the Treasurer in any matter relating to the SGA.

Article III, §3

“Section 3. **Duties of t**The Treasurer of the Student Government Association

Duties of tThe Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall be empowered to:“

Article III, §4

Section 5. **Duties of tThe Student Trustee**

A.—The Student Trustee shall be elected with the Executive officers in the spring semester. “

Article IV, §3.B

At the written request of seven (7) Senators or the President, a Senate special meeting must be called within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the request, at a time, date and place to be decided upon by those calling the meeting. A special meeting request must be turned into the Speaker and President. These shall constitute special meetings. All special meetings must be held on the main campus of NIU. Whoever calls the special meeting must give notice to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and all senators by mail and telephone at least three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting. No special meeting shall commence before noon, nor shall a special meeting commence after eight o'clock, post meridian (8:00 p.m. CST).

Article IV, §3.C

All regular and special Senate meetings must be attended by all senators and missing any regular Senate meeting shall count as an absence. Any senator having three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office from regular Senate meetings or from regular Senate committee meetings shall be considered removed from office and shall be so notified. Absences from committee meetings by senators may be counted towards the total number of absences listed above. The Bylaws shall list which committee meetings shall count as required. The Speaker shall notify the Senators of their absences at each meeting of the entire attendance record of all senators, including committee absences. SGA Senators missing a regular, special, or committee meeting may file a petition with the appropriate Senate committee Speaker for the absence to be excused. The committee Speaker may excuse an absence for the reasons including, but not limited to, illness, official University business, or academic commitments. For an absence to be excused, a majority of committee members present, and voting must vote in favor of the petition. Excused absences shall not count towards a Senators absence tally as described in Article IV, Section 3. Paragraph C, of this Constitution.

Article IV, §4.B

It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to enforce all SGA rules within the Legislative Branch. The Speaker shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of the minutes of all Senate meetings, which shall include a record of the attendance of the members of the Senate, within five (5) calendar days of each meeting. The minutes and the record of attendance shall be presented to the Senate at the next regular meeting. The Speaker shall attend meetings and deliver statements on behalf of the Senate and perform all other duties delegated to the Speaker by the Senate.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Chairperson Hensley

Sponsor:

First Reading

14 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54039
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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. Ballet Folklórico Aztlán (BFA)
2. Anthropology Graduate Student Council (AGSC)
3. Mortar Board

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

14 April 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54040
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm members of the 55th Session Cabinet

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “The Student 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, the President-elect will be transitioning into the Student Government Association over the next several weeks; and

WHEREAS, President-elect Olivia Newman has appointed the following to serve in the 55th Session Cabinet:

1. Director of Public Affairs: Aidan O’Brien

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 confirm the following members of the 55th Session Student Government Association Cabinet:

1. Aidan O’Brien

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Clerk English, Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

14 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54037
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A bill to update the Bylaws to update seat reassignment process to clarify the procedure for updating the number of seats.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, there is no set process to redefine how many seats there are; and

WHEREAS, there should be an official way to determine the Senate seats; and

WHEREAS, the Senate voted on April 7th to pass legislation that references the following section of the Bylaws with the intention of amending the procedure for calculating the number of seats; 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 be amended to the following:

Part II Article II, §4.F.10/11 in the Bylaws

The Board of Elections shall, prior to the beginning of the election, be required to update the seats of the Senate for the next session as described in Part II Article III Section 1 A.

Part II Article III, §1.A-B in the Bylaws

A. Senate voting seats shall be composed of the following constituents:

1. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not exceed seventy-five (75) seats.
2. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not be less than twenty (21) seats.
3. Every Senate session should fill the following seats at minimum.
 - a. Each of the NIU Colleges shall be represented by one student who occupies one (1) seat per college.
 - b. Graduate students representing the Graduate School shall occupy one (1) seat.
 - c. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy two (2) seats.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy four (4) seats as University At-Large representatives. Students who are undecided on their major may also occupy these seats.

4. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing underserved communities.
 5. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing the university at large.
 6. The rest of the seats shall be filled based on enrollment and housing data, gathered from the division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications, such that there is one seat for every one thousand (1000) students rounded to the nearest whole number seat.
 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)~~ fifty percent (50%), rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the seats for students residing in university provided housing and ~~three (3)~~ fifty percent (50%), rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the 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)~~ The rest of the seats may be filled in the spring elections.

The above changes are ordered to take effect at the start of the 55th Senate session.

Old Business

Agenda Item: F

Author: Chris English, Chief Justice Jarvis

Sponsor:

First Reading

14 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54041
Fifty-Fourth Session**

Summary: A resolution to clarify and define selection criteria for Supreme Court Justices

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Senate should not create the opportunity for the Supreme Court not to be able to meet;
and

WHEREAS, Article 5 Section 3 of the Constitution is currently vague and unclear; and

WHEREAS, Article 5 Section 2 of the Constitution is a more fitting place for quorum rules then selection
and removal of Justices; and

WHEREAS, Part 5 Article II Section 1 of the Bylaws is a more fitting place for Justice bias protections than
selection and removal of Justices; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, "To solely
amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein";

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

Section 2. Code of Procedure

The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.

The rules of the Supreme Court shall be outlined in the Code of Procedure of the Supreme Court. All
judicial action must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Procedure. All amendments to the Code
of Procedure shall be approved by the Senate and the Supreme Court before going into effect.

Section 3. Selection and Removal of Justices

A. All justices shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Senate, as vacancies arise. After
their appointment they shall not be removed, except by the Senate in accord with the removal from office
procedure described in this Constitution. The Supreme Court shall be composed of five justices. Legislative
Branch and Executive officers and staff shall not be eligible to serve on the Supreme Court. Members shall
serve so long as they remain students in good standing at NIU.

i. The President may not appoint a Supreme Court Justice who, if accepted to the Supreme Court
would cause the Supreme Court to have a majority of its justices be in the same organization,
excluding SGA.

ii. The Senate may not approve a Supreme Court Justice who, if accepted to the Supreme Court would cause the Supreme Court to have a majority of its justices be in the same organization, excluding SGA.

C. The five (5) Justices of the court shall elect one of their number to serve as Chief Justice. The Court shall have one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.

Section 4. The Chief Justice

A. The Chief Justice shall be a voting member. The Chief Justice shall officiate at all court sessions, call the various people who will testify, count the votes and announce decisions to all concerned. The Chief Justice will be responsible for conducting all court sessions according to the Code of Procedure. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall serve as the Judicial Branch's administrative officer and shall be responsible for requesting such funds as are deemed necessary for all court proceedings.

B. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to notify all students of charges brought against them, to inform them of their rights according to this Constitution and to ensure that the proper procedure is used in making such a charge.

C. The Chief Justice shall be responsible for determining the current membership status of student organizations for all Supreme Court Justices. The Chief Justice shall maintain an up-to-date list of the membership status of student organizations for all Supreme Court Justices. The Chief Justice shall share the list of student organization membership status for all Supreme Court Justices with the President and the Speaker of the Student Government Association (SGA). The Chief Justice shall ensure that the list is updated and shared with the President and the Speaker of the SGA on bi-semester basis.

II. Procedure of the Hearing

1. Members of the Court

A. At least three members of the Court must be present to conduct business.

B. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case.

i. An individual(s) Justice's objectivity may be questioned with regards to a particular case. All arguments shall be presented in writing prior to or at the beginning of the hearing. A vote of confidence of at least two of the remaining Justices is required before the Justice in question may participate in the hearing and vote on the case unless there are fewer than two remaining Justices in which case the remaining Justice must vote confidence.

C. The Chief Justice shall run all proceedings of the Court.

D. If the Chief Justice and Acting Chief Justice have recused themselves from hearing a case or if their objectivity has been questioned and they are unable to hear a case, then the associate Justice with the most seniority shall assume the duties of Acting Chief Justice.

E. In the absence of the Clerk of the Court or the Clerk's inability to serve the Chief Justice shall appoint an acting Clerk of the Court.

i. The acting Clerk of the Court shall fulfill the duties of the Clerk of the Court and the term shall last until the court is adjourned.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Chairperson Hensley

Sponsor:

First Reading

21 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54042
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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. Indie Game Developer's Organization
2. Phi Sigma Beta Epsilon

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Emeritus Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

21 April 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54043
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to nominate candidates for the 2023 Senate Speaker Election

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to the Student Government Association Constitution, "The Speaker shall be chosen by the Senate and serve a one-year term of office"; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Allen's term of office is set to expire on May 5th; and

WHEREAS, the Senate must elect a Speaker, and only those properly nominated may take part in the elections process; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate nominate:

1.

as candidates in the upcoming election on Friday, April 28th, 2023, for Speaker of the Student Government Association 55th Session Senate. No nominations may be put forth after nominations have been officially closed.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

14 April 2022

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54044
Fifty-Fourth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm members of the 55th Session Cabinet

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “The Student 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, the President-elect will be transitioning into the Student Government Association over the next several weeks; and

WHEREAS, President-elect Olivia Newman has appointed the following to serve in the 55th Session Cabinet:

2. Director of Student Life: Anthony Heavens
3. Chief of Staff: Duane Meighan

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 confirm the following members of the 55th Session Student Government Association Cabinet:

2. Anthony Heavens
3. Duane Meighan

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.