

**Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 28 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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
  - a. Treasurer Morgan
- 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. SR54045: A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations.
  - b. SR54046: A resolution to establish a student-led task force on campus safety at Northern Illinois University.
  - c. SR54047: A resolution to revitalize Senate Parking Committee.
  - d. 54048: A resolution to install speed bumps across North Lincoln Drive, North Stevenson Drive, Grant Drive, and Gilbert Way.
  - e. SR54049: A resolution to support the addition of organizing a meeting with representatives from as many of the underrepresented student groups on campus as possible to the roles and duties of the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the SGA.
  - f. SR54050: A resolution to support the changes of a row of parking spaces in the DuSable parking lot on campus from blue to yellow permits.
  - g.SB54038: A bill to update the Bylaws to better reflect our present-day Senate.
  - h.SR54051: A resolution to support the addition of battery and electronic recycling dividers to campus.
  - i.SR54052: A resolution that expresses the 54<sup>th</sup> senate's support of future collaborations between the NIUPD and the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center on an informational program that focuses on the safety options and resources available to students that belong to the LGBTQ+ community.
  - j.SB54039: A bill to update the responsibilities of the Clerk and Chairpersons and change how the Senate posts its minutes.
  - k.SR54053: A Resolution to support more staffing for Northern Illinois University Student Government Association accountancy department in the Holmes Student Center.

l.SB54040: A bill to update the finance committees policy for financing student organization to better serve the student body.

m.SR54054: A resolution to confirm members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session Cabinet.

n.SR54055: A resolution to endorse the recent policy review and increase in stipend rate for graduate assistants at NIU.

o.SR54056: A resolution to raise awareness for the need of better accessibility.

p.SB54041: A bill to give a formal Verbal warning to members of elected and appointed SGA positions that are not completing staff reports.

q. SB54042: A bill to make the Corrective Action levels fall in line with legal expectations.

r. SR54057: A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their constitution.

s. SR54058: A resolution to vote for candidates for the 2023 Senate Speaker Election.

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 Hensley

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54045**

**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. Divine Soul Riders
2. Aspiring Women in Health
3. Lambda Pi Eta
4. International City/County Management Association

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

New Business  
Agenda Item: B  
Author: Senator O'Brien  
Sponsor:

First Reading  
28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54046**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to establish a student-led task force on campus safety at Northern Illinois University.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff on campus is a top priority for the university and;

WHEREAS, campus safety is a complex issue that requires input from multiple stakeholders, including students and;

WHEREAS, students have unique perspectives and experiences related to campus safety that can inform and improve safety policies and procedures and;

WHEREAS, establishing a student-led task force on campus safety can provide a platform for student voices to be heard and can promote collaboration between students and university officials;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the university shall establish a student-led task force on campus safety. The task force shall be established by the start of the next academic year and will be composed of students from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines. The task force shall be responsible for reviewing existing campus safety policies and procedures, soliciting feedback from students, and making recommendations for improvements. The task force shall also have the authority to propose new safety initiatives and programs, subject to approval by the university administration.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author:** Senator Woodward, Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54047**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to revitalize Senate Parking Committee.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the senate has a committee dedicated to parking and;

WHEREAS, this committee has not been utilized for the entire academic year and;

WHEREAS, this committee can help students with parking discrepancies.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the senate work to get members onto the university parking committee into the upcoming year.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: D**

**Author:** Senator Emmanuel Corpuz, RHA

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54048  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to install speed bumps across North Lincoln Drive, North Stevenson Drive, Grant Drive, and Gilbert Way.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Speeding has been a constant problem across the previously mentioned streets and;

WHEREAS, students are at-risk of endangerment of being injured by a speeding car and;

WHEREAS, speed bumps are a deterrent towards potentially dangerous accidents due to speeding; and

WHEREAS, speed-related accidents and traffic violations can be reduced around Northern Illinois University Residence areas.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that speed bumps to be implemented near residence halls around North Lincoln Drive, North Stevenson Drive, Grant Drive, and Gilbert Way.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: E**

**Author:** Chairperson Ramos, Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54049**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to support the addition of organizing a meeting with representatives from as many of the underrepresented student groups on campus as possible to the roles and duties of the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the SGA.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University is committed to achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion on and around campus and;

WHEREAS, the Director of DEI has not utilized a committee of student organization representatives and;

WHEREAS, the need for representation of underrepresented students persists and;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that

N. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for promoting a diverse campus culture by encouraging cultural programming, ensuring support services are provided to underrepresented individuals, and monitoring policies that affect minorities. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall be responsible for the coordination of environmental service projects each semester in office.

1. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all cultural student organizations.
2. Promote cultural programming and encourage joint programming across cultural organizations.
3. Act as the Student Government Association's liaison to campus support services for underrepresented students including, but not limited to, the Center for Black Studies, Latino Resource Center, Asian American Resource Center, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, the Disability Resource Center, Military and Veteran Services, Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, International Student and Scholar Services, and the Undocumented Student Support Office.
4. Monitor and provide recommendations regarding university policies affecting minority members of the university community including the recruitment and retention of minority students, staff, and faculty.
5. Organize and chair a committee consisting of representatives from one representative from campus support services for underrepresented students including, but not limited to, the Center for Black Studies, Latino Resource Center, Asian American Resource Center, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, the Disability Resource Center, Military and Veteran Services,

Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, International Student and Scholar Services, and the Undocumented Student Support Office ~~all recognized cultural student organizations~~ to facilitate proposals to improve the quality of life for minorities on campus.

- a. Representatives will be nominated by each campus support service for underrepresented students.
  - b. Representatives from all cultural student organizations may serve on the committee.
6. Serve on the Unity in Diversity Steering Committee as the Student Government Association representative.
7. Coordinate Student Government Association representation on the Presidential Commissions on the status of minorities.
8. Research and recommend major culture-related policy changes to the University via the Student Government Association Senate.
9. Serve on the Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources Committee.
10. Attend and complete all CODE, Title IX, Ally, and POWER trainings, including but not limited to LGBTQ and Undocumented Student Ally training. Encourage all SGA staff to attend and complete all CODE, Title IX, Ally, and POWER trainings, including but not limited to LGBTQ and Undocumented Student Ally training.

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



**New Business**

**Agenda Item: F**

**Author:** Senator Althoff, Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54050**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to support the changes of a row of parking spaces in the DuSable parking lot on campus from blue to yellow permits.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Dusable parking lot offers yellow and blue parking and;

WHEREAS, the blue permits serve faculty to which there is only 1 For every 16 student and;

WHEREAS, the parking lot does not have enough spaces for students with yellow parking permits and;

WHEREAS, the ratio of blue to yellow permits in the DuSable parking lot are a 1-1 ratio and;

WHEREAS, 69% of students live in off campus housing and;

WHEREAS, if a student is late they will be unable to park close to campus central and will be made further late in the action of seeking out parking and finding a new parking space and;

WHEREAS, lack of attendance has been a focus of the school this year as outlined in by the Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that one blue row in the Dusable parking lot be changed to yellow to create more parking spaces for students with yellow permits.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: G**

**Author:** Senator Colvin

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54038**

**Fifty-Fourth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the Bylaws to better reflect our present-day Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, currently the bylaws have not been fully updated with the technology and terms that are used by the SGA

WHEREAS, the constitution should be clear and concise, with updates that reflect how the SGA currently runs

WHEREAS, student organizations must read the bylaws to create their constitutions and fully prepare themselves as an SGA recognized organization

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 III Article II S2.C in the Bylaws

Student organizations that cannot maintain at least five (5) members registered in ~~HuskieLink~~ **Huskie Hub** must ~~work with~~ **work with** staff in the areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life or Student Organization Development to develop a recruitment plan.

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

*The most present copy of the bylaws does have this change made.*

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: H**

**Author:** Senator Gibbons, GO GREEN GO CLEAN

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54051  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to support the addition of battery and electronic recycling dividers to campus.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, electronic devices and batteries contain hazardous materials that can harm the environment and human health if not properly disposed.

WHEREAS, electronic devices and batteries are commonly used by residents in on-campus housing.

WHEREAS, many students are unaware of the proper methods for disposing of electronic devices and batteries.

WHEREAS, providing electronic and battery recycling options in residence halls of on campus can increase awareness of and participation in proper disposal methods.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the University shall provide battery and electronic recycling bins in all residence halls on campus by the beginning of the next academic year.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: I**

**Author:** Princess Rogers, The Northern Illinois Police department, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54052**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** This is a resolution that expresses the 54<sup>th</sup> senate's support of future collaborations between the NIUPD and the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center on an informational program that focuses on the safety options and resources available to students that belong to the LGBTQ+ community.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS There has not been a major collaboration between the NIU (Northern Illinois University) Police Department and the Gender and Sexuality resource center since before the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS The safety of all students regardless of Race, Ethnicity, Class, Gender, Citizenship Status, or sexuality is important; and

WHEREAS The NIUPD and GSRC both offer presentation programming at request; and

WHEREAS this collaborative program would offer up a space for students to establish more of a connection with the NIUPD and work together to ensure that students know what safety options they have.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that We, the 54<sup>th</sup> senate, are in full support of any future collaborative action between the Northern Illinois Police Department and the GSRC. We hope that these collaborative efforts will open the doors for future safety supports for all students with students belonging to the LGBTQ+ Community in mind.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: J**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker Allen, Speaker Douglass, Historian Babcock

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

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

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**Summary:** A bill to update the responsibilities of the Clerk and Chairpersons and change how the Senate posts its minutes.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, due to covid and technological updates senate and SGA now can match how other departments of NIU administration are uploading their minutes; and

WHEREAS, faculty senate currently follows the rules and procedures of recording and uploading the transcripts; and

WHEREAS, this would make it easier on members of the SGA leadership to produce the info from meetings without having to produce minutes on a weekly basis; and

WHEREAS, minutes will still be uploaded in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, complete with attendance records, vote counts, and a summary of agenda items rather than a full transcription;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that

**XII**

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**SENATE LEADERSHIP**

The Speaker shall appoint Senators to the position of Chairperson to lead the various standing committees. The individual committees will elect their Vice Chairperson and other officers. Chairpersons shall be given authority and autonomy within their committees. Each Chairperson shall be responsible for ensuring that the minutes of each committee meeting including records of the discussion and decisions made are taken by the secretary and published to NIU Student Organization Platform submitted to the Clerk for publishing in a timely manner, as well as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for accountability purposes. The Speaker shall also appoint Senators to the positions of Sergeant-at-Arms, Legislative Director, Historian, and Community Service Director and Clerk. The position of the Clerk is to be responsible for public

transparency by uploading senate minutes and the recordings and transcripts of meetings to NIU's Student Organization Platform as well as the NIU website by contacting Webcommunications@niu.edu.

## ARTICLE II LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

### Section 1

#### Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate

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:

- 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 via shortened minutes\* that log votes cast and the recording and public transcripts to NIU's Student Organization Platform as well as contacting the office of Web and Internal Communications to put them on the NIU Website.
    - a. \* Shortened Minutes will still be uploaded in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, complete with attendance records, vote counts, and a brief summary of agenda items rather than a full transcription.
  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 uphold Robert's Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: K**

**Author:** Chairperson Ashton, Treasurer Morgan, Deputy Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54053**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to support more staffing for Northern Illinois University Student Government Association accountancy department in the Holmes Student Center.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, we do not have staff available 5 days a week for handling issues with the Finance Committee budget; and

WHEREAS, Student orgs receiving funding need to be able to get help every day during the week; and

WHEREAS, this office also handles the delivery of packages to all student orgs who use this funding; and

WHEREAS, current employee Marzena Schmydt is the only available contact for all student orgs regarding using annual and supplemental funding awarded to them by the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, this causes elevated levels of stress for the employee in charge of these financial transactions as it is a very demanding position to meet the 250+ organizations needs in a timely manner.

THEREFORE, the students at Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that additional staff be hired to assist in the duties of the accountancy department.

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

**New Business**

**First Reading**

**Agenda Item: L**

28 April 2023

**Author:** Speaker Allen, Treasurer Morgan, Chairperson Hensley, Deputy Treasurer Larkin, Historian Babcock

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54040  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to update the finance committees policy for financing student organization to better serve the student body.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the current operations of the finance committee overload the accounting services for Student Government Association and other communities on campus and;

WHEREAS, members of the finance committee and staff have faced negative interactions due to scheduling issues and lack of information shared and;

WHEREAS, discussions have been attempted with all affected parties of this policy shift and overwhelmingly positive reviews of this information have been the response and;

WHEREAS, this will primarily affect how requests for financial aid will be received by the finance committee

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that these changes be made to the bylaws to reflect the change in policy:

**ARTICLE II  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Section 6  
Presentation of Budgets**

A. Organizations and departments requesting Annual Funding must present their budget request before the Finance Committee according to their assigned SGA Finance Subcategory. The SGA Finance Committee will begin ~~hearing~~ **receiving** budget presentations on **HuskieHub** no later than the second Finance Committee meeting of the Spring semester.

B. Each organization is required to present its budget ~~on~~ **by** the assigned date and time. Organizations must contact the SGA Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to schedule a meeting at least one (1) week in advance. At least one member of the organization who helped to prepare the budget request should attend this meeting.



C. If the organization has no members able to attend the assigned meeting and does not contact the SGA in advance, then the SGA Finance Committee may proceed to act on the budget request without the organization being represented.

D. Any organization in the under a council or department should submit their budget requests together through their council or department this includes sports clubs organized under the Recreation Center, fraternities and sororities under Greek councils, and any other organization that falls under this preview.

## **Section 9**

### **Notification and Distribution of Budget Allocation**

The SGA Treasurer must notify the President, Treasurer, and NIU Advisor of each student organization requesting SGA Annual Funding within two (2) weeks of the final approval of the annual budget by the Senate; how much, if any, of their budget was approved by the SGA Senate; as well as the breakdown of which line-items are funded for the next fiscal year. All notifications to Student organizations will be done via the SGA email. However, it is important to note that allocations are based on the Student Activity Fee and budgets may be changed if collected fees are significantly different than projections indicate. Final budget notification will come from the SGA Office in August. All allocations will be placed in the organization's university cost center in two distributions, the first being in the fall semester and the second being in the spring semester.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES**

#### **Section 1**

##### **Supplemental Funding**

A. Supplemental Funding is defined as funding made available to SGA recognized organizations or departments that is supplemental to what is already in their budget, regardless of the funding source.

B. The total Supplemental Funding budget each year will be divided evenly between each semester, with the funds remaining from the fall semester rolling over to the spring semester. Any remaining money in the Supplemental Funding budget at the end of the Fiscal Year shall remain in the General Reserve.

C. Organizations requesting Supplemental Funding must adhere to the following process:

1. An application form, including reasoning for funding request and breakdown of anticipated budget, must be submitted via HuskieLink. HuskieHub which if they are organized under a council or department shall be submitted through that council or department, this includes but is not limited to sports clubs under the Recreation Center and fraternities or sororities under Greek council and all similar situations.

2. The application form will be forwarded to the SGA Treasurer, who will then review the form and schedule a date with the organization to present the request to the SGA Finance Committee for full approval, partial approval, or rejection. This meeting must take place within two (2) weeks of the submission of the application.

3. The organization shall receive notification of their funding only through the Student Government Association email and shall only respond with questions or concerns to the SGA email or the accounting departments chosen form of contact. Continuously contacting individuals associated with the finance committee, accounting department, or SGA as a whole privately via social media, private email, or in person without scheduling a meeting in regards to the decision made by the finance committee may be viewed as harassment can result in loss of funding at the discretion of the finance committee.

D. Organizations receiving Supplemental Funding shall use such funding only for the purposes approved by the SGA Finance Committee. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that requests contain provisions for how the money is to be spent. The regular expenditure process is to be followed to ensure that such funding is being used in accordance with the specific request as well as all other SGA and university guidelines.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **FUNDING OVERSIGHT**

Section 1  
General Oversight

All organizations using SGA allocated funds must adhere to all SGA Treasurer rulings, SGA Supreme Court rulings, SGA policies, NIU policies, the Student Organization Handbook, and related laws. Failure to do so will result in the organization being placed on suspended status and/or loss of SGA recognition. Departments are also subject to this oversight as it relates to receiving SGA allocated funds.

Some of these rules include but are not limited to:

- 1 Reusable Items shall be returned to be stored by the SGA for future student use.
2. Funding shall not recover spent money by applicants.
3. No physical cash will be delivered to applicants.
4. Funding for food shall only feed students.
5. SGA will not purchase gift cards for applicants.
6. Any purchases for merchandise must only be for the members of an organization.
7. No funding will go directly to a philanthropic cause.
8. All funding requests for organizations under Councils, Centers, or Departments should go through those bodies first and sent by them to the Finance Committee of the SGA.
9. Funding may not be spent on interstate travel if applicants do not respond to requests for information within two business days.
10. All communication should only go through the SGA email and accountancy department unless in-person meetings have been scheduled.
11. Use of SGA funding shall be accompanied by using the SGA logo and tagging @niusgaofficial in all promotional materials and posts.
12. The SGA may reduce the amount guaranteed in funding if the preliminary budget does not meet the final cost.
13. All events requesting supplemental funding must be opened to the student body of NIU.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: M**

**Author:** Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54054**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to confirm members of the 55<sup>th</sup> 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 55<sup>th</sup> Session Cabinet:

1. Director of Organizational Development James Innis
2. Director of Athletic Vincent Becker

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 55<sup>th</sup> Session Student Government Association Cabinet:

1. James Innis
2. Vincent Becker

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: N**

**Author:** Senator Kolawole David Somade

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54055**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to endorse the recent policy review and increase in stipend rate for graduate assistants at NIU.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the cost of living for many graduate students is affected by their off-campus housing situation.

WHEREAS, there are graduate assistants who have spouses and dependents for whom they have direct responsibility for their well-being;

WHEREAS, it is common knowledge that compared to last year, there has been an increase in both inflation and rental costs for apartments in Dekalb;

WHEREAS, various stakeholders of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee have filed complaints about the present GA stipend rate, citing that the pay for NIU GAs is lower than that of their counterparts in other universities in Illinois;

WHEREAS, a memorandum was issued on March 23, 2023, which reviewed and increased the minimum stipend for graduate students employed in various departments at NIU. This policy change will come into effect starting from the academic year of 2023-2024;

WHEREAS, likewise, the policy on the duration of employment contracts has been reviewed and revised. Under the new policy, a standard contract for the fall semester will span from August 16 to December 31, while that for the spring semester will be from January 1 to May 15. However, exceptions to this rule may be granted by the college dean or vice president in consultation with the Dean of the Graduate School;

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

We are fully in support of the recent policy modifications that concern the well-being of graduate students who are employed by NIU in different roles. It is our desire that these discussions persist in the future, not only concerning compensation but also in other aspects that affect the quality of experiences for both domestic and international graduate students at NIU.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: O**

**Authors:** Chair Jacob Jovanovich, Senator Kolawole David Somade

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54056**

**Fifty-Fourth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to raise awareness for the need of better accessibility.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, all students have a right to education and equal access to educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, disabled students often face numerous challenges and barriers on campus that hinder their academic success;

WHEREAS, accessibility should be viewed not as a privilege but as a fundamental right;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the following actions be taken to improve accessibility for disabled students on campus:

Improve physical accessibility: Ensure that all buildings, classrooms, labs, and other facilities are accessible for students with physical disabilities. This includes providing ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, and other accommodations as needed.

Provide assistive technology: Ensure that students with disabilities have access to assistive technology such as screen readers, text-to-speech software, and other devices that can aid in their learning process.

Increase funding for accessibility: Allocate additional resources and funding to improve accessibility on campus and ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities.

Therefore, let it be resolved that this resolution be shared with the appropriate university administrators and governing bodies, urging them to take swift action to improve accessibility for disabled students on campus.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: P**

2023

**Author:** Clerk English

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

28 April,

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

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**Summary:** A bill to give a formal Verbal warning to members of elected and appointed SGA positions that are not completing staff reports.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Article IV, §3.C.5 of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, "The Senate, as a representative body of the student population, shall supervise every elected and appointed position in SGA. Rather than written summary letters, Senators wishing to issue corrective action shall draft legislation in the form of a verbal or written warning, suspension, or termination (removal from office). This action shall be reserved for situations in which the Senate feels that supervisors have failed to correct themselves or their branches. Verbal or written warnings shall pass with a simple majority." and;

WHEREAS, there is currently a trend in SGA to fail to do staff reports, and;

WHEREAS, SGA should follow the rules it creates for itself, and;

WHEREAS, this behavior has been happening for most of the semester and in some cases all year;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the following positions receive verbal warnings attached below for not submitting staff reports

Director of Athletics Becker

Director of Student Life Heavens

Director of Academic Affairs Smith

Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs Crawford

President Majeed

Vice-President Lee

Director of Organizational Development Blalock

Treasurer Morgan

Chief of Staff Innis

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Newman

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

**New Business**  
**Agenda Item: Q**  
**Author: Clerk English**  
**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**  
28 April, 2023

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

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**Summary:** <sup>[OBJ]</sup>A bill to make the Corrective Action levels fall in line with legal expectations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, currently it is only a verbal warning for late agendas or minutes; and

WHEREAS, failure to send these out in a timely manner could cause a session to have to be unable to vote on legislation; 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 in Article IV section 3.B.1 and 2 is changed

1. Verbal warnings shall be issued verbally upon confirmation of a minor violation of SGA policies. Minor violations are those that do not significantly interfere with the function of the SGA, and might consist of missing staff reports, failure to report to the Senate, **missing or late agendas or minutes**, failure to attend required meetings, or any number of other infractions. The issuing supervisor shall collect a signature at the time of the warning. Refusal to sign shall automatically escalate the verbal warning to a written warning.
2. Written warnings shall be issued in writing upon confirmation of a more serious violation, or if the SGA officer fails to modify their behavior after a verbal warning and violates the same policy again after a minimum of 5 business days. Serious violations might include, but are not limited to, improper office conduct, **missing or late agendas or minutes**, irresponsible or unethical use of SGA position, or violation of the NIU Student Code of Conduct. The officer shall return a signed copy of the warning to the supervisor within two (2) weeks of receipt. Refusal to sign a written warning shall result in a second written warning.

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

**New Business**  
**Agenda Item: R**  
**Author: Clerk English**

**First Reading**  
28 April 2023

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54057**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** ~~(b)(7)~~A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their constitution.

**Legislation:**

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

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA currently does not reflect the realities of how SGA 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

**ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1. Proposing Amendments**

A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be delivered to the Senate in writing at any regular meeting. When the Senate meets next it shall consider the proposed amendment. The meeting at which the vote shall take place must be at least two (2) calendar weeks from the date of the delivery of the proposal to the Senate.

**Section 2. Approval of Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all senators, regardless of whether they are present, abstain, or vote.

**Section 3. Preserving the Constitution and Amendments**

~~No portion of this original Constitution shall be altered or destroyed. Instead, each Amendment shall be attached to this Constitution along with its ratification date and signatures. Each Amendment shall state the articles, sections and paragraphs that are amended.~~The historian shall maintain a copy of each new constitution in the SGA's digital files.

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

**New Business**  
**Agenda Item: S**

**First Reading**  
**28 April 2022**



**Author:** Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54058**

**Fifty-Fourth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to vote for 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 5<sup>th</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Senate must elect a Speaker, and only those who receive a majority vote may be elected to this position; and

THEREFORE, the students at Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate elect that:

1. Speaker Allen
2. Chairperson Hensley
3. Senator Corpuz
4. Senator Musgraves

shall be the Speaker following the election on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for Speaker of the Student Government Association 55<sup>th</sup> Session Senate where they received a majority vote.

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