

**Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 09 September 2022**  
**Holmes Student Center Illinois 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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
  - A. SR54005: A resolution to amend the Constitution to allow spelling, formatting, and grammatical corrections to the governing documents without the need for legislation
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SR54006: A resolution to confirm director appointments
  - B. SR54010: A resolution to confirm the Clerk of the Senate
  - C. SB54004: A bill to amend the Bylaws to limit when students are allowed to fill vacant SGA positions
  - D. SR54007: A resolution to formally condemn NIU administration and housing for overbooking on-campus housing
  - E. SR54008: A resolution to approve of Senate committee placements
  - F. SR54009: A resolution to temporarily excuse recurring absences from Senate meetings
  - G. SB54005: A bill to clarify the process for appropriation of funds by governing councils to student organizations
  - H. SB54006: A bill to amend the duties of the Directors of Advertising and Public Affairs as outlined in the SGA bylaws
- 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.

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: A**

**Author: Deputy Speaker DeMeuse**

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

**2 September 2022**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54005**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**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.***

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:** A

**Author:** Speaker Douglass

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

9 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54006  
Fifty-Fourth Session**

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

**Legislation:**

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

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

WHEREAS, President Raaif Majeed has appointed Olivia Newman to serve as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of Olivia Newman as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author: Speaker Douglass**

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

09 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54010**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Clerk of the Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article 1, Section 1.U.6 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the Clerk shall “be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Douglass has appointed Senator Debbie Allen as the Clerk of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allen has displayed leadership qualities and taken initiative in her short time with SGA;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby confirm Senator Debbie Allen as Clerk of the Senate.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker DeMeuse, Historian Babcock

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

9 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54004**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to amend the Bylaws to limit when students are allowed to fill vacant SGA positions

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the goal of The Student Government Association is to make a positive impact upon the experience of the students at NIU; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no limit set for the last meeting that students are eligible apply to fill vacant Executive positions; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no limit set for the last meeting that students are eligible apply to fill these vacant Senate seats; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the student body that its representatives are well educated in their positions;

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 I**  
**ARTICLE II**  
**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 5**  
**Senate Vacancies**

- A. Until all thirty (30) Senate seats have been filled, the Speaker shall accept applications for all vacancies on the Senate, including vacancies for the next session that were not filled during the Spring Election. Vacancies shall include all seats in which a Senator has resigned or been removed, or the seat was not originally filled during the election. As each vacancy is announced, the Speaker shall present the name of the first applicant who has registered with a completed application for consideration for an open seat. Applications will not be taken from graduating students when less than six (6) meetings remain in the session or from returning students when less than four (4) meetings remain in the session. No person who is on the applicant list may be skipped, except for the following:
1. The applicant asks to be skipped.

2. The applicant cannot attend the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
3. The applicant's packet of information is not complete; such applicants will be moved to the bottom of the applicant list for later consideration.
4. The applicant has not attended at least one Senate meeting in its entirety.

**PART I**  
**ARTICLE III**  
**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4**  
**Student Government Association Cabinet**

- B. All Directors shall be appointed by the President or Vice President and confirmed by the Senate. No SGA official, besides officers elected through the spring elections, shall be paid without being confirmed by the Senate. Upon election in the spring, the President-elect shall have the ability to appoint members of the cabinet for the following session. The Senate in session at the time of a cabinet appointment shall conduct a confirmation hearing and vote. The President shall make every effort to fill cabinet vacancies as they arise. If a position remains vacant for more than eight (8) weeks while the Senate is in session, the President shall submit a written rationale to the Senate that addresses their plan to find a qualified applicant for the position. **Directorship applications will close when there are six (6) Senate meetings remaining in the Senate session and no more applicants will be heard by the Senate.**

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:** D

**Author:** Historian Babcock, Senator Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

02 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54007**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to formally condemn NIU administration and housing for overbooking on-campus housing.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, NIU administration severely overbooked residence halls and consequently disadvantaged students seeking on-campus housing; and

WHEREAS, students are currently living in spaces that were not designed as student housing; and

WHEREAS, students are being negatively affected by the overbooking and are suffering as a result; and

WHEREAS, students were prevented from seeking private rooms to accommodate their disabilities;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate declare that NIU administration has a responsibility to formally apologize to students who were affected by their prioritization of capital over student comfort and safety, and to create an action plan to prevent this or similar issues from occurring in the future.

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



**New Business****Agenda Item: E****Author: Speaker Douglass****Sponsor:****First Reading**

09 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54008**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to approve of Senate committee placements**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §3.A.1 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the “Speaker of the Senate will appoint the members of all Senate committees”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §3.A.3 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the “Speaker shall appoint and remove the chair when deemed necessary”; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker may add, or subtract, from committees throughout the year as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker hereby appoints the following members to the committees listed below;

**Public Affairs**

- **Arianna Ramos (Chair)**
- Jack Woodward
- David Kolawole
- Connor Myhre

**Rules and Procedures**

- **Dallas Douglass (Chair)**
- Ethan DeMeuse
- Atlas Babcock
- Jacob Jovanovich

**University Services Oversight**

- Bryar Colvin
- Chris English
- Zach Althoff
- Albino Rosales

**Campus Life and Greek Affairs**

- **Katie Ashton (Chair)**
- Aidan O’Brien
- Erik Gibbons
- James Innis

**Environmental Affairs**

- Jacob Jovanovich
- Atlas Babcock
- Debbie Allen
- Connor Myhre

**Finance**

- **Ciara Myhre (Chair)**
- Dallas Douglass
- Cole Hensley
- James Innis
- Ethan DeMeuse

**Organization Oversight**

- Cole Hensley
- Chris English
- Bryar Colvin
- Quinn Olson

**Student Art Collection**

- **Atlas Babcock (Chair)**
- Ethan DeMeuse
- Debbie Allen

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of its committees as listed above.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:** F

**Author:** Speaker Douglass

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

09 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54009**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to temporarily excuse recurring absences from Senate meetings

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Senate's weekly meeting time was changed following the Spring 2022 elections; and

WHEREAS, students who ran for Senate seats during that election were under the impression that meetings would still be on Sundays at 5 pm; and

WHEREAS, many courses, especially for students in STEM fields and underclassmen, conflict with the current meeting time; and

WHEREAS, this is unfair to Senators who intended to be fully engaged members of the organization;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that Senators who have scheduled conflicts with the current Senate meeting time be afforded the following accommodations for the Fall 2022 semester:

- Senate meeting absences due to conflicts scheduled before the inception of the Fall 2022 semester will be excused.
- Comments on Senate agenda items may be submitted to the Senate Clerk up to 24 hours before the beginning of the Senate meeting to be read aloud to the Senate.
- Voting on matters for which they are present. Voting on matters for which they are not present will not be permitted.

Senators will still be expected to perform all other duties of office, including (but not limited to):

Participating in committees, completing volunteer hours, and communicating with constituents.

Senators whose course schedules interfere with Senate meetings in the Spring 2023 semester shall be asked to resign, as has been the case historically, unless the course was scheduled prior to the inception of the Fall 2022 semester.

***This act is ordered to take immediate effect and will expire at the close of the 54<sup>th</sup> Session.***

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: G**

**Author: Speaker Douglass**

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

9 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54005**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to clarify the process for appropriation of funds by governing councils to student organizations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part IV, Article III, §2.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws illustrates the student organization requirements for eligibility for annual SGA funding; and

WHEREAS, the section currently only applies to Greek organizations, but not other departments with governing councils to manage groups of student organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear whether funding disbursed from governing councils may be considered annual funding, or which organizations may be eligible for this funding given the exceptions for restrictive organizations; and

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

**ARTICLE III**  
**ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS**

**Section 2**  
**Eligibility for Funding**

**A. General Eligibility for SGA-Recognized Organizations**

Any organization that has been officially recognized by the SGA Senate for at least one (1) calendar year as of the date budget requests are due will be eligible to request Annual Funding. Organizations with restrictive membership shall be ineligible for annual funding except for governing council organizations. Organizations cannot be denied funding due to the nature or classification of their organization. Greek chapters or other organizations belonging to a governing council who are recognized by SGA and meet the one-year recognition requirements for annual funding may request annual funding from their Greek umbrella council (Interfraternity Council, College Panhellenic Council, National Panhellenic Council, and/or United Multicultural Greek Council, Sports Club Council, etc.). Governing councils are not

subject to the one-year residency requirement, but organizations under their purview are. Organizations with competitive teams are also eligible to request Annual Funding for conference expenses from the Student Government Association.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:** H

**Author:** Deputy Speaker DeMeuse, Historian Babcock

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

9 September 2022

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54006**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to amend the duties of the Directors of Advertising and Public Affairs as outlined in the SGA bylaws.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Director of Public affairs has two very important and time-consuming aspects to their role and one aspect is usually prioritized over the other; and

WHEREAS, the roles specified in the bylaws for the Director of Advertising are obsolete; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the student body that both roles are utilized to their full potential;

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

**PART I**  
**ARTICLE III**  
**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4**  
**Student Government Association Cabinet**

F. The Director of Advertising, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for coordinating the overall marketing and advertisement priorities of the Student Government Association. The Director of Advertising shall:

1. ~~Be responsible for coordinating advertising on the Huskie Bus Line, including working with potential vendors and consulting with any related parties as appropriate.~~
1. Direct communications for the Student Government Association by conducting social media promotion of the fellow Director's events, cabinet initiatives, Senate business, and University initiatives.
2. Submit a monthly report of advertisement figures, profits, and assessments to the SGA President.
3. Be responsible for listing all SGA events on the NIU calendar.
4. Create marketing strategies and plans for the SGA.
5. Coordinate Student Government Association advertising in the Northern Star and in other outlets by securing advertising space and assisting in the billing process.

6. ~~Assist in coordinating~~ Coordinate all promotional materials for all SGA initiatives with the Director of Public Affairs, the President, and the Vice President.
7. Work with the President to order and disseminate SGA promotional material to enhance and bring awareness to the SGA.
8. Draft a weekly email to the student body to disseminate the minutes, agendas, and intent to speak form from Senate meetings along with information on SGA's initiatives, messages from the President to the student body, etc.
9. Work with the Election Commissioner and the Director of Public Affairs to inform the student body on election related events and information.
10. Be a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Rules and Procedures Committee.

K. The Director of Public Affairs shall work under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff and shall be responsible for communicating, on behalf of the Student Government Association, to the students of Northern Illinois University and ascertaining the concerns of the campus community. The Director of Public Affairs shall:

1. ~~Direct communications for the Student Government Association by conducting social media promotion of the fellow Director's events, cabinet initiatives, and University initiatives.~~
2. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all media, including but not limited to the Northern Star, Daily Chronicle, and Midweek. representative responsible for establishing a relationship with all media, recourses centers, student organizations, and student involvement.
3. Monitor relevant news sources and report to the Chief of Staff any items that are of interest.
4. ~~Coordinate promotional materials for all SGA initiatives with the President and Vice President.~~
5. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President in facilitating an organizational fair.
6. Serve as the Student Government Association's special events officer and organize any relevant events, as well as working with EPS and various campus offices to promote events.
7. Work with the election commissioner to set up the annual SGA Executive debate.
8. ~~Work with the President to order and disseminate SGA promotional material to enhance and bring awareness to the SGA.~~
9. Work with the Election Commissioner and the Director of Advertising to inform the student body on election related events and information.
10. Draft and disseminate press releases on behalf of the Executive Cabinet.
11. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Public Affairs Committee

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