

**Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 17 February 2023**  
**Holmes Student Center Capitol 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, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.***

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
  - A. Hasina Jefferson
  - B. India Richardson
  - C. Verae Fields
  - D. Quade Evans
- 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)
  - A. Chief of Staff Innis
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
  - A. Director Becker
  - B. Director Smith (written)
- XII. Old Business
  - A. SP54001: A petition to NIU administration for improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SR54029: A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations
  - B. SR54030: A resolution to enact the reading of a land acknowledgment
- 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:** Historian Babcock, Director Newman

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

3 February 2023

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

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**Summary:** A petition to NIU administration for improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus

**Legislation:**

February 3, 2023

Office of the President

Altgeld Hall 300

595 College Avenue

Dekalb, IL 60115

To the Office of Dr. Lisa Freeman:

Through working with Black student organizations and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, by the authority vested in this Senate by the Constitution of Northern Illinois University Student Government Association to submit a petition on behalf of the students of NIU we, the undersigned Senators of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association Senate, hereby petition for the improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus regarding the treatment of Black students and offer the following charges and specifications:

*Charge:* A lack of diversity and representation in campus staff and administration.

*Specification 1:* There is a lack of Black representation in NIU's administration and staff. Black students would feel more comfortable and better supported in a predominantly white institution if there were more professors, advisors, and staff that reflected students from all backgrounds.

*Specification 2:* It is hard for non-Black staff to relate to Black student issues when they do not share the same life experience.

*Charge: Performative Activism.*

*Specification 1:* Two years ago, NIU painted 'Black Lives Matter' on Castle Drive in response to the anti-Black hate crime at the Center for Black Studies. That mural has not been repainted and has drastically faded. The vandalism culprit was never caught. This only shows students that there is no accountability or continued support for the Black community both on and off campus.

*Specification 2:* NIU has advertised campus as "a community of diverse people, ideas, services, and scholarly endeavors of respect for the intrinsic dignity of each individual." To many students, it appears that NIU lacks the self-reflection or systems to address how injustices are perpetuated on campus.

*Charge: Lack of long-term community support.*

*Specification 1:* Black events both on and off campus are over-policed and shut down at a disproportionate rate. This translates to Black students feeling like they don't belong and robs them of community and support.

*Specification 2:* Events have been shut down because NIU has done a poor job at communicating rules and event policies to students.

*Specification 3:* This creates a cycle that many student organizations face. In response to a lack of community on campus, students try to create their own via clubs and group activities. This is a short-term solution for student communities because they do not have long term support from the university to thrive.

We, the undersigned Senators of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association demand that the Northern Illinois University administration address our concerns and proceed with an improved plan to better diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus. This new plan needs to work faster than current efforts, involve the creation of regularly scheduled meetings with university leadership, SGA Leadership, and Black and/or African American organizational leadership represented at these meetings, to further involve students as much as possible, and be better communicated to students overall. We demand this plan regarding the remediated treatment of Black students (and students of color as whole), taking into consideration the charges listed above, to be put in effect as soon as possible.

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:** A

**Author:** Chairperson Hensley

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

17 February 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54029**  
**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. Taiwanese Student Association (TSA)

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Senator Woodward, Deputy Speaker Allen

**Sponsor:**

**First Reading**

17 February 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 54030**  
**Fifty-Fourth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to enact the reading of a land acknowledgment

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, a land acknowledgment is given during other Northern Illinois University official meetings;  
and

WHEREAS, The Senate does not currently read a land acknowledgment before every meeting; and

WHEREAS, the University's land acknowledgement reads: "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."

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the land acknowledgment is read aloud after every Senate meeting is called to order.

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