

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
2:00 p.m. – Friday, 14 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 13th, 2023.

- I. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
 - a. Sid Kincaid
- 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)
- 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.
- XIII. New Business
 - a. SR54039: A resolution to grant official recognition to student organizations.
 - b. SR54040: A resolution to confirm members of the 55th Session Cabinet.
 - c. SR54041: A bill to update the Bylaws to update seat reassignment process to clarify the procedure for updating the number of seats.
- 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: Chris 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: Chris 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.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

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.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

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.

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Clerk English, Speaker Douglass

Sponsor:

First Reading

14 April 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 54041
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 AtLarge 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.